



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

November 26, 2023

Our Pastor

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Email: helen@firstpreslawrence.org

Helen will be in the office Monday through Thursday.

Our Mission

We are a community of Christ's disciples who celebrate God's inclusive love by ministering to one another and the world.

Church Office Hours

9 am to 3 pm Monday through Friday

We will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday on November 23 and 24.

Welcome!

Welcome to everyone, whether you are joining us virtually or in-person, as a long-time member or a first-time guest, we are happy to have you with us.

Please be sure to sign the Friendship Pad if you are worshipping with us in person. If you join us on-line, live, or recorded - **please send us an email letting us know you joined us in worship.**

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns, Celebrations

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Tonja and Adam Rounds** ask for our prayers as they navigate a return of brain cancer for Tonja.
- **Jeanine Tiemann** is home following hospitalization and a cancer diagnosis. Prayers and cards are welcome, please no calls or visits at this time.
- **David Fitzcharles** is home with hospice care. Prayers for him and his wife, Alice and their family
- **Loren Dolezal** is home exploring next steps following his hospitalization and diagnosis.
- **Frances Lintecum** is now at Presbyterian Manor
- **Many thanks** to Janet Hart for filling in as our guest pianist this morning. She blesses us with her gifts.
- **Remember our Friends joining us on-line** so that they feel included.

- **Shannon Ruiz**, great-niece of Eva Alley, is struggling with health issues that cost her both feet. Prayers for spiritual strength are most appreciated.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

Jan Roth says - Thank you for all the prayers, blue cards, and help that you have given me during the time I'm recovering from wrist surgery and the healing of the two breaks in my right arm. Your support has been invaluable. My left hand can now do much more than my dominant, right hand can. However, I am making progress and can pick up a piece of paper with my injured hand. We are so grateful for the wonderful people at FPC.

Care

Deacon Family Groups - 2023

A-Bra	Grace Nganga	Mc-Mz	Nancy Rumsey
Bro-C	Janet Adams	N-Q	Sandy Groene
D-E	Diana Schoneweis	R-Sc	Linda Longino
F-Go	Jeanine Tiemann	Se-So	Russ Heikes
Gr-Hi	Larry Schlosser	St-T	Allen MacFarlane
Ho-K	Charles Tuttle	U-Z	Peggy Southard
L-Ma	Linda Upstill		

Birthdays in the Congregation

November 28

Karl Schorno
Nancy Bell

November 29

Lori Shiflett
Kristi McAlister

November 30

Janet Thellman
Stephani Boyd

December 1

Mason Harding

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Larry and Vernis Flottman and Pat McAlister

Greeters: Sandy Groene and Linda Burton

Securing the Offering: Jeff Southard and Jim Rumsey

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Linda Longino

Calendar

November 26

9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open
9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am Worship
5:30 pm Youth shopping for Family Promise

November 27

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm Staff Meeting
2:00 pm Pastor Helen's Class
5:00 pm Eve Circle Tree Trimming and Soup
6:00 pm Pack 3059 Den Meeting – Schwaller
6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
7:00 pm First 5 Years Board Meeting

November 28

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm Small World Classes
4:00 pm Welcome Committee Meeting

6:00 pm Worship Committee Meeting

November 29

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
6:16 pm Daisy Group Meeting
7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

November 30

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm Small World Classes

December 1

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am Men's Group

December 3

9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open
9:15 am Sunday School for All Ages
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Family Ministry Celebration
2:00 pm Girl Scout Cookie Workshop

Adult Sunday School Offerings

- **Adult Education Advent Series begins November 26 – *Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited*** This class will meet in the Fireside Room at 9:15 am. During these weeks the people of the Advent texts will guide us on our way to the coming of the Messiah. First, we meet with the Hebrew prophet Isaiah. Then we go to the Jordan to encounter the Jewish prophet John the Baptist. During the last two weeks we sit in the company of Mary, the mother of Jesus and Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist. These passages encourage us to slow down and attend to the wonders of the coming Messiah. Rod Nitz will be facilitating this series.

Adult Offerings during the week

- **Pastor Helen's Class meets on Mondays at a new time! 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room**
We continue our advent study on Joseph. We are using Adam Hamilton's book, *Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph*. No need to purchase the book unless you want to!
- **The Men's Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room for a time of fellowship (pun intended). Come join the discussion which can cover almost anything! Contact Charles Tuttle for more information at cftuttle@gmail.com

FPC's Special Christmas Giving Program 2023 continues through December 10th. Forms are available in the Narthex. Please consider a gift to one or more of the organizations to assist those in need around the world. Your gifts can support Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, Lawrence Community Shelter, Warm Hearts, Willow Domestic Violence Center, FPC's First 5 Years Scholarship Fund, Heifer International Just Food or Presbyterian Disaster Fund. Thank you!



Order your poinsettias today! We will decorate the Chancel with poinsettias and offer you the opportunity to provide one or two in memory or in honor of someone who is special to you. We suggest a donation of \$15, but any amount is gratefully received. There are forms in the Narthex for your convenience.

The Mitten Tree is a way we help keep our friends and neighbors warm during the cold months of winter. You can bring mittens, socks, gloves, hats, scarves, blankets – all the warm things - to share! Decorate the tree now through December 3. We will gather up all of your gifts and take them to organizations who provide them to families so they can use their money for other holiday needs and wants for their children. After we collect your warm gifts, we will convert the tree to the Star Tree for our First 5 Years classrooms. They will post their wish lists on the tree, and you can choose one or two stars to purchase for the children in our First 5 Years program.





The First 5 Years Art Calendar is on sale now! The calendar features artwork by each of the classes in the program. Calendars are \$10 each with all proceeds going to the scholarship fund. If you would like to order a calendar, please fill out the order forms available in the Narthex or in the church office. Include your payment and we will forward it to Jennifer Jones. Orders must be received by December 4th. Calendars will be ready for pickup the week of December 11th. Questions? Contact Jennifer Jones at jennifer@firstpreslawrence.org or 785-842-8291. Thank you for your support!

Family Promise - On Thursday, November 16th, Family Promise had a “Giving Meal” for those in the Life Skills Class and others in their various programs. FPC volunteered to provide the meal. Another person provided the meat and we in FPC provided the sides, desserts, drinks, and paper goods. They were expecting 40 people. Ten people from FPC provided 5 vegetables, 1 Mac and cheese, 4 salads, 2 fruit bowls, and 4 desserts while other volunteers provided funds to pay for the drinks and paper goods. I also had \$125 left over to give them for their use. I was told there was plenty to eat and enough to send home with some of the guests. Thank you so much for your generosity and caring for Family Promise families in Lawrence. You are a blessing to so many!! Lois Dutcher, coordinator

Advent Devotionals Available via email

This Advent you, like me, may be wondering how to live in such a time as this. What does Jesus say to us in a confusing and chaotic time? How can I adapt to this world and prepare for what is coming? There are no easy answers, but our Advent Devotional “*Apocalyptic Advent: Embracing Hope in the Second Coming of Christ*” offered by Adult Ministry and Presbyterian Outlook might help get us in a better frame of mind to sort through these turbulent times. Devotions will be sent out weekly. Sign up with Charles Tuttle at cftuttle@gmail.com.

CELEBRATE THE SOUNDS OF
CHRISTMAS

DEC 15	CHRISTMAS CONCERT <i>featuring Organ & Handbells</i> 7:30pm	
DEC 17	LESSONS & CAROLS 10:30am	
DEC 24	CHRISTMAS EVE <i>Candlelight Service</i> 7:00pm	

Calendar & Info for Sunday School

Children ages Pre-K through 5th grade & Youth SS Class

Dec
3

Winter Service Project

During SS time (9:15am)

Dec
17

Children's Choir Performance

During Worship (10:30am)

Dec
24 & 31

No Sunday School Classes

Happy Holidays!

Calendar & Info for Youth Group

Youth ages 6th grade - 12th grade

- **11/26/23:** Youth Group Time (5:30pm-7pm)
 - This week we will be going shopping for gifts for our holiday "Adopt-A-Family"! Meet at the church at 5:30pm then we'll load up to go shopping! We'll be back at the church by 7pm.
- **12/10/23:** Youth Group Time @ church (5:30pm-7pm)
 - Gingerbread House making and Cooking Decorating! Bring a friend!
- **1/07/24:** Youth Retreat @ FPC (10:30am-3:00pm)

**Info & Registration for 2024
Mission Trip with PNKS**

