



First Presbyterian Church

First Press

Weekly Newsletter

March 9, 2025

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.

Welcome!

We encourage everyone to come as you are, be who you are, and be in community with us! 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 anytime! If you are new to First Presbyterian Church, please let us know you are here by signing the **Friendship Pad**. If you are worshipping with us online either live or recorded please **email us at firstpreslawrence@gmail.com** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in membership at FPC please talk with Pastor Helen.

Prayers

Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations

- **Frances Lintecum** died March 1st at Presbyterian Manor. Services will be held at a later date.
- **Prayers for Myron Shipley** as he receives treatment for cancer.
- **Prayers for Eloise Sloan** who has been experiencing issues with her heart. Stan Sloan is her husband and caregiver.
- **First 5 Years teacher, Lisa Marie Benke**, asks for prayers for her husband, Russell, who was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **Bruce Humphreys, step-father of Robert Mugridge**, is home now and asks for our continuing prayers.
- **Linda Wilson, Carol Fleeger's sister-in-law**, asks for prayers while dealing with her continuing her fight against cancer.

- **Ray Borden, Linda Bridges' dad**, died March 3rd at KC Hospice House. Services will be on Friday, March 14 at 2 pm, Johnson County Memorial Gardens. We are so grateful for all your prayers and support!
- **Kelly Grube** is traveling to New Jersey to consult with MD Anderson. Prayers for more information.
- **Alisa Stucky** is asking for prayers in support of her Mother's health. Her mother is **Ruthanne Stucky**.
- **Jenny Skridulis Vellon, a former member of FPC**, had breast cancer surgery recently. She will rest for a few weeks before starting radiation.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Prayer for our local community organizations struggling with loss of funding including LINK, Bert Nash, and Haskell**, and we expect to hear about more in the coming days. Lord, hear our prayer.
- **Prayer for our pastor and church leaders**, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing serious health challenges.
- **Liz Cloutman** is receiving treatment for breast cancer.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers:

Greeters:

Offering: Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, Cherie Elo

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Dede Dresser

Deacon Family Groups - 2025

A-Ca Deborah Norwood N-Q Sandy Groene

Ce-Do Joyce Carroll Mc-Mz Becky May

Dr-F Diana Schoneweis R-Si Linda Longino

G-Ha Lucille Eggenberger SI-T Russ Heikes

He-Ko Mary Warren U-Z Allen Macfarlane

Kr-Ma Lois Dutcher

Birthdays in the Congregation

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| March 11 | March 13 |
| Susie Emert | Sarah Freese |
| March 12 | Claire Lindemyer |
| Debby Ziegler | March 16 |
| Conner Morrison | Stephen Bradley |

Calendar

March 9

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| 9:15 am | Names for the Messiah |
| 9:15 am | Sunday School for Children |
| 10:30 am | Worship |
| 11:30 am | Lunch, Chocolate Extravaganza, & Auction |

March 10

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| 9:00 am | First 5 Years Classes |
| 1:15 pm | Staff Meeting |
| 2:00 pm | Pastor Helen's Class |
| 3:00 pm | Finance Meeting |
| 6:00 pm | Cub Scout Den - Schwaller |

6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

March 11

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| 9:00 am | First 5 Years Classes |
| 1:00 pm | Small World Classes |
| 6:30 pm | Session Meeting |
| 7:00 pm | Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting |

March 12

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| 9:00 am | First 5 Years Classes |
| 7:00 pm | Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting |
| 7:00 pm | Chancel Choir Rehearsal |

March 13

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| 6:30 pm | PW Ruth Circle Meeting |
| 7:00 pm | Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting |

March 14

10:00 am Men's Group

March 16

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| 9:15 am | Names of the Messiah Class |
| 10:15 am | Worship |

Children and Youth – classes resume January 12th

• Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – Room 9 – Joan Golden and Nancy Hodges
- 1st and 2nd Grades – Room 12 – Anne Emert and Nikki Barcomb
- 3rd – 5th Grades – Room 14 - Chris Heider and Linda Longino
- The Youth are invited to attend Helen's class, names for the Messiah. On 3/16m there will not be a separate youth class.

Youth Activities

• March

- MISSION - On Saturday, March 22, First Pres will be serving an Italian dinner at LINK between 11:30 AM-2:30 PM. We are looking for volunteers to give their time and donate food. You can sign up in the Narthex starting this week and reach out to Claire Boyette for more information. It is always good to be with our neighbors, so we're looking forward to being together on Saturday, March 22.
- FUN, FAMILY: Bowling with FPC Youth – Everyone is invited to Royal Crest Lanes on Sunday, March 23rd at 3:00 pm. RSVP to Kelly at 785-979-2713

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **On March 9th** Helen will begin a class called "Names for the Messiah." For this Lenten season we will look at some of the many names for Jesus and spend time thinking about the ways Jesus lives into those names.

Adult Offerings during the week

- **The Men's Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the Library. Contact Charles Tuttle for more information at cftuttle@gmail.com.
- **Pastor Helen's Monday Class** – On March 10th we will look at King Solomon in our class on the Kings and Prophets of ancient Israel and Judea. The class meets at 2 pm in the Fireside Room.

The Salad luncheon and Chocolate Extravaganza hosted by Presbyterian Women and the Fellowship Committee will be following worship today - March 9th. There will be a silent auction and music by the Presby Pickers who are welcoming new members; Marilyn Heikes, on vocals, Michael Fox, harmonica and Diane Balankoff, production support. A green salad luncheon provided by the Fellowship Committee along with your help with condiments and other types of salads. Chocolate treats will be \$1 each and will go toward the PW project coming soon! PW is still accepting donations for the auction. The Silent Auction will begin at 9:00 am (a "buy it now" option will be offered) and run through 2:00 pm. will help fund projects sponsored by PW.

Our Little Free Library Needs Adult Books! If you are cleaning out books, please consider donating some to the FPC Little Free Library. We currently have a good supply of children's books, but are in need of adult books to re-stock the shelves in the library located on the east side of the parking lot. You can bring your donation to the church office. Thank you!

Pastor Helen's Lenten Sermon Series begins March 9th

When I was in seminary, I was a youth director for Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Denver. We had scheduled a movie night and from the youth responses it seemed like mostly it would be the middle high girls who were coming, so I picked up a movie from Blockbuster (yes, I know our young people will not even know what that is). Because I thought it was mostly the girls I got a romantic comedy. The girls did not show up but we had 5 middle school boys. No surprise, they did not enjoy the movie. After the movie was complete, they looked at me and said, "Helen, you owe us!" Not sure what was coming, I asked them what they were thinking. They said "You owe us a Star Wars Marathan and we mean all three" (yes this was when there were only 3 Star Wars movies, the original movies are the best). I agreed and we did have a movie marathon and all the boys plus some of their friends came. What was wonderful is that we had a deep theological discussion after those movies. The young men debated big questions about the force (i.e the force is not evil or good it just is and it is the way people use the force that makes something good or bad.....) **That is the inspiration for our Lenten sermon series entitled**

The Prophets Story

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| March 9 th | First Sunday of Lent | Episode 1: The King Must Die |
| March 16 th | Second Sunday of Lent | Episode 2: A New Hope |
| March 23 rd | Third Sunday of Lent | Episode 3: Willing to be Surprised |
| March 30 th | Fourth Sunday of Lent | Episode 4: Finding Life |
| April 6 th | Fifth Sunday of Lent | Episode 5: God Speaks; The Word |
| April 13 th | Psalm Sunday | Episode 6; God's Weltanschauung; The Universe |

Lenten Devotionals – Adult Ministry is providing devotionals for Lent from Presbyterian Outlook titled, "*Grieving Change and Loss: The unpredictable, non-linear, faith-filled journey toward resurrection.*" One of the writers, Teri Ott shares, "Whether we take leave of a dying person, a community that has influenced and shaped us or a child going off to kindergarten or the first year of college, grief is in the emotional mix. We all have issues to grieve and Lent is an appropriate time to ponder this somber mix of emotions. Our human condition is awash in grief because we are mortal. Yet we are a resurrection people. There is life to be lived both within the grief and beyond it – a horizon of hope toward which we cast our eyes." You can pick up a copy of the devotional in the Narthex today.

Deacon Love Fund – In February the Love Fund assisted six families with rent and utility help. As the distribution of funds supporting many of our local agencies by the federal government becomes less reliable, we are asked to step up to assist our neighbors. Your gifts allow us to help those in need. Thank you for your generous support of the Deacon Love Fund.

First 5 Years Playground Fundraiser - First Presbyterian Church's First 5 Years Preschool will be installing a new playground this summer! The plans involve removing the two current structures and replacing them with one larger structure, installing pour in place surfacing (solid, rubber-like material) in the toddler area, and installing a climbing structure if budget allows. Fundraising will be the main source of funds for this project. We do have a matching donor for up to \$10,000, so every dollar up to that amount is doubled! Donations can be made by cash or check to the church office (please specify that your donation is for the preschool playground), online on the Church's online giving section (in the Designated Fund section with the note "Preschool Playground")

Mission

Matthew 25

Because the world is seldom fair, we go with justice.

The Matthew 25 table won't return to the Narthex until Sunday March 23. At this time, our priority is to provide financial support to Haskell as they cope with the terminations. There are two ways to provide the support: Contribute to Haskell Foundation- 100% of their contributions will go directly to support laid-off staff and help the students finish their spring semester. Go to www.haskellfoundation.com to make your contribution. So far, \$128,000 has been raised of the estimated \$235,000 needed to rehire terminated staff. The second way to provide support is to donate funds/items to Just Food to help them support their Haskell Light Food Bank/Pantry. Many of the students are parents of small children and donations of diapers, baby wipes, cleaning products and other items are needed in addition to food staples and nonperishable items.

Bread for the World: [Nourishing Our Future](#)

Bread for the World's "Nourish Our Future" campaign includes efforts to end college hunger in the United States. Called the "SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Gap", students are often eligible for benefits but are not aware of eligibility requirements or how to apply for assistance. Research indicates that college students who are food insecure are less likely to complete their education. Studies show that one in five college students who are eligible for benefits, do not even apply. For further information on eligibility and the application in Kansas go to: dcf.ks.gov.



As an example: **KU Campus Cupboard** - According to a study during spring 2018 by the School of Public Affairs and Administration at KU, one in three students are food insecure. KU Student Affairs and the Center for Community Outreach operate a food resource for all students, faculty and staff. Just Food supplies the non-perishable items and KU Dining Services provides prepackaged meals.

Haskell Indian Nations University – Many members of First Presbyterian Church have been asking, "What can we do to support the students, faculty, and staff at Haskell?" Through the ongoing contributions to Just Food, assistance is already being given to the food pantry at Haskell Light, a campus ministry program. It is located at 137 Pawnee Ave. Next time you bring food donations, you might add a little extra for Just Food's effort to support Haskell.

Words from Mother Teresa:

*People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;
forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
succeed anyway.*

*If you are honest, and frank, people may cheat you;
be honest and frank anyway.*

*What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
build anyway.*

*If you find eternity and happiness, they may be jealous;
be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
do good anyway.*

*Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
give the world the best you've got anyway.*

*You see, in the final analysis, it was never between you and them;
it has always been between you and God anyway.*