



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Julie Simon, liturgist

September 6, 2026

Andrew Morris, organ

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please let us know the best way to communicate with you. Be sure to greet folks new to you at the end of worship!

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate and we will send them out in the mail.

Congregational Introit

We Are Standing on Holy Ground
HOLY GROUND

Glory to God #406

Call To Worship

One: Come to us, O Lord — you who created the mountains, silent and immovable.

All: Ease the pounding of our hearts, as we recall those things in life we most fear.

One: Quiet our anxious minds. Steady our frenetic, hurried pace with a calming vision of the eternal reach of time.

All: Give to us, amidst the confusion and clamor of the day, the calmness of the everlasting hills.

One: Teach us the art of seeing the world as you see it: as a place of beauty and wonder.

All: Most of all, teach us to trust you in all things: knowing that, truly, you are our keeper.

* Hymn of Praise

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
ST. DENIO

Glory to God #12

* Call To Confession

Julie Simon, liturgist

One: It is in our confession where we realize our desire for God and our hope for God's mercy. It is in admitting the truth of our lives that we take the first step toward wholeness and healing. So let us make our confession:

* Prayer of Confession

Julie Simon, liturgist

Merciful and Loving Creator God, we do want to be like Abel. Accepted. Remembered as the "good guy," the one who pleased you. We desperately want you to like us, to accept what we offer to you out of our bounty. And yet, in moments of deep introspection, we must confess that we have more in common with our brother Cain. Angry, defiant, often out of harmony with you and with others.

Sometimes it seems that our best is never good enough. It doesn't seem fair. No matter how hard we try, what we offer you and what we offer others seems to fall short. And so we lash out with angry words. Our sullen looks, stooped shoulders and heavy sighs announce to the world that we are displeased with the world and all of its creatures. In these times we feel alienated from our sisters and brothers and consequently from you.

We acknowledge that we have allowed anger to interfere with our acceptance of the healing reconciliation you have promised. And without that reconciliation, our love continues to die, molecule by molecule, cell by cell, second by second, minute by minute. Make us whole again. Help us to let go of our anger, our fear of not being as good as Abel. We joyfully claim the good news of your promise to never let go of us. Thank you for your unending gifts.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

- * **Words of Forgiveness** Julie Simon, liturgist
 One: On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves. By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God. Amen.
- * **Passing the Peace** Julie Simon, liturgist
 One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
 The peace of Christ be with you.
All: And also with you.
(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)
- * **Hymn** *Glory Be to the Father* GLORIA PATRI
Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.
- Prayer of Illumination** Julie Simon, liturgist
Holy One, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.
- Psalter Reading** Psalm 121 Julie Simon, liturgist
- Hebrew Bible Reading** Genesis 4:5-16
- Sermon** "God Protects" Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison
- Hymn** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* **Glory to God #834**
 PRECIOUS LORD
- The Offering** Andrew Morris, organist
- * **Doxology** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* **Glory to God #606**
Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
- * **Prayer of Dedication**
- Sacrament of Holy Communion**
Invitation to the Lord's Table
Words of institution
Communion of the People
 As the ushers direct your row, please come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and the cup.
 You will partake of communion at the front and return to your seats by the south aisle.
 Communion will be taken to those who wish to remain in their seats.
- Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer**
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.
- * **Affirmation of Faith** The Apostle's Creed (Traditional Version)
I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

* **Closing Hymn**

Standing on the Promises
PROMISES

Glory to God #838

* **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Andrew Morris, organist

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

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; 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 linda@firstpreslawrence.org** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you. If you are interested in membership, please talk to Pastor Helen.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Kelly Grube** is receiving a round of chemotherapy and is grateful for our prayer support.
- **Kristi McAlister** continues to receive cancer treatments. Kristi and Pat McAlister (her mother) are grateful for our continued prayers and support.
- **Betty Thomas, Joy Laird's mother**, is receiving hospice care at Presbyterian Manor. Prayers please.
- **Diana Schoneweis' great nephew, Luke (12)**, completed chemotherapy Prayers for healing.
- **George Crump** asks for our prayers as he navigates life issues.
- **Sammie Locke** is receiving care at Bridge Haven where she lives.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison has ALS and has entered a clinical trial which has proven helpful to her. They are encouraged. Thank you for your prayer support.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Jim Rumsey

Greeters: Joan Golden and Carol Smith

South Door Greeter: Jan Poulsen

Offering: Suzanne Galle and Cherie Elo

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Marilyn Heikes

Birthdays in the Congregation

September 10

Emmie Warren

September 11

Jan Poulsen

September 13

Netta George

James Montgomery

Deacon Family Groups - 2026

A-B	Dorothy Devlin	Lf-Me	Deborah Norwood
C-Di	Lois Dutcher	Mf-N	Becky May
Dj-F	Sandy Groene	O-R	Diana Schoneweis
G-Ha	Melinda Fischer	S-Si	Charles Tuttle
Hb-J	Lucille Eggenberger	Sj-To	Mary Parkinson
K-Le	Linda Longino	Tj-Z	Nikki Barcomb

Calendar

September 6

9:15 am

Children's Sunday School

9:15 am

Adult and Youth Sunday School

10:30 am

Worship

September 7

Closed for Labor Day Holiday

September 8

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

1:00 pm

Small World Enrollment

6:00 pm

Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting

6:30 pm

Session Meeting

September 9

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

6:00 pm

Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting

7:00 pm

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

September 10

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

1:00 pm

Small World Classes

7:00 pm

Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting

September 11

9:00 am

First 5 Years Classes

10:00 am

Men's Group

2:00 pm

PW Set up for the Gathering

September 12

11:30 am

Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

September 13

10:30 am Worship

9:15 am Children's Sunday School

9:15 am Adult and Youth Sunday School

Children Sunday School

- **Sunday School Classes for Children**

- Our next Study is called **Cross Borders**

Typically, borders are lines that separate two geographical areas: two countries, regions, cities, neighborhoods, and so on. For this study we are considering borders as points of separation, the lines imagined or real that separate us from them and you from me. God's creation is a full, rich, diverse place, a place where flourishing is inextricably entwined with that diversity. Our differences are cause for celebration and our unique voices compose a holy chorus. In Scripture, we see over and over again the stories of borders between people of different faiths, cultures, classes, genders, and ethnicities. Even communities that wandered had boundaries that they carried with them. The people of God are called over and over again to cross borders in order to live more faithfully, in relationship with one another and with God.

Here, we will focus on four aspects of the ways borders are crossed in Scripture and in the Christian life:

- Leave Your Comfort Zone
 - Embrace Relationships
 - Challenge Exclusion
 - Speak God's Language of Love

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- Jim Woelfel's class will resume on September 6 - *Varieties of Unbelief: Thomas Henry Huxley, George Eliot, Bertran Russell, Simone de Beauvoir*. The American philosopher William James entitled his classic study of religion *The Varieties of Religious Experience*. Over the centuries skepticism about and outright rejection of theistic beliefs have also been expressed in a variety of ways of thinking and sensibilities. In this series I will present four modern agnostic and atheistic thinkers and writers whose differences illustrate what I am calling the varieties of unbelief. Unbelief can range from brisk rejection and sharp criticism of Christianity and belief in God, at one end of the spectrum, to a deep sense of the mystery of human existence and a poignantly sympathetic appreciation of faith at the other.

Youth Activities and Opportunities –

- **We are canceling the event on Sunday, September 13** to make greeting cards, but be sure the CROP Walk is on your calendar for October 4th at 1:30. Sign up with Claire Boyette to walk for this great cause! Please keep Kelly and family in your prayers as they travel to Mayo's to get more information about her health.

Worship for August and September

We continue a sermon series on *Epic Meltdowns in the Bible and How God Responds*. It may help us in our own meltdown or meltdown arounds us to know that God Forgives, God Waits, God Humbles, God Protects, God Instructs and God Provides Help.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will continue meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We are studying the History of Religion in the United States. You are welcome to join us.

Handbell Ringers Needed!

The Westminster Ringers Handbell Choir is looking for new ringers for both treble and bass bells, beginning Monday, August 31. Rehearsals are held on Mondays, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The group regularly participates in the 10:30 am worship service on the third Sunday of each month, September through May, with occasional additional services throughout the year.

Westminster Ringers will celebrate 50 years of ringing in 2027! If you would like to be part of this dynamic and fun group of musicians, contact director Carol Fleeger at carolfleeger@yahoo.com or 225-235-9285. We are looking forward to having YOU join us!