



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

September 29, 2024

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 create a 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

- **Congratulations to Tanja and Adam Rounds** who renewed their wedding vows this past week in our chapel with Pastor Helen.
- **Tim Dutcher**, son of Lois and David Dutcher, has found a kidney donor and we celebrate! The surgery will be November 15th at Methodist Hospital in Rochester, MN
- **Kelly Grube** is continuing with chemotherapy following her trip to the Mayo Clinic this week. More information will be forthcoming.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with a brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- **Tanja Rounds** has another tumor and is looking at treatment options. Prayers appreciated.

- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Nora Wallace** asks for prayers for her parents and sister who are dealing with the effects of long covid.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **Jane Golden**, a teacher in First 5 Years, is being treated for cancer.
- **Linda Wilson, Carol Fleeger's sister-in-law**, is coping with a complicated cancer diagnosis and surgery next week.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.
- **Prayers for our pastor and church leaders**, prayers for those leading our community, our state and our nation.
- **Prayers for those** quietly and privately in need. Those facing surgery or treatments, waiting for more information, living with addiction or mental health issues, and for the caregivers supporting them.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Myron Shipley, Mark Shifless, Larry Maxey
Greeters: Linda Watts, Mark and Diana Schoneweis
Securing the Offering: Jeff Southard, Melinda Fischer
Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson
Bag Brigade Volunteer: Julie Simon

Birthdays in the Congregation

September 30	October 5
Erin Tuttle	Web Golden
October 2	October 6
Pat Bates	Tanja Rounds
Alisa Stucky	

Deacon Family Groups - 2024

A-Ca	Charles Tuttle	N-Q	Peggy Southard
Ce-Do	Janet Adams	Mc-Mz	Becky May
Dr-F	Diana Schoneweis	R-Si	Linda Longino
G-Ha	Larry Schlosser	Sl-T	Russ Heikes
He-Ko	Mary Warren	U-Z	Allen Macfarlane
Kr-Ma	Lois Dutcher		

Calendar

September 29

- 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School
- 9:15 am Kerygma Class
- 9:45 am Presby Pickers Rehearsal
- 10:30 am Worship
- 2:00 pm Boy Scout Leadership Training
- 6:00 pm FPC at the Lake

September 30

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 1:15 pm Staff Meeting
- 2:00 pm Pastor Helen's Class
- 6:00 pm Cub Scout Den – Schwaller
- 6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

October 1

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 1:00 pm Small World Classes
- 4:00 pm Adult Ministry Meeting

October 2

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

October 3

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

October 4

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

October 5

- 8:30 am Boy Scout Leadership Training

October 6

- 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School
- 9:15 am Kerygma Class
- 10:30 am Worship
- 11:30 am Justice Matters Listening Meeting
- 5:00 pm Youth Group Art and Mission

Children and Youth

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
- 6th – 12th Grades – Room 11

Youth Activities

Friends, we have some wonderful plans for 6-12 grades. Please add to your calendars and invite your friends to join us.

- **September**
 - FUN on the 29th with Church at the Lake 6-8 – Join us this Sunday!
- **October**
 - MISSION AND ART on October 6th with Diana Schoneweis from 5-6:30
 - Trunk or Treat HALLOWEEN FUN on October 27th – Sign up in the Narthex to host a trunk or provide candy!
- **November**
 - MISSION on Saturday November 2nd we will serve lunch at LINKS
 - MISSION: the youth will be shopping to provide Christmas gifts for families in need on November 17th. More information coming soon.

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **Beginning September 29th, the Adult Sunday School class will be studying the Gospel of Mark** for 8 weeks. Pastor Helen's messages are using the book of Mark. The Kerygma study of Mark will be the text. The class will be facilitated by Rod Nitz. Thanks to Rod for being willing to lead the study. Purchase of the study guide is not required, although it does enhance the study. If you wish to purchase a guide, please email or call Rod Nitz, or Linda Bridges. Cost is \$27.00.
- **In case you were unable to attend Charles Olcese's presentation** last Sunday you may watch it on our YouTube channel thanks to Charles Tuttle. You can access it here. [Immigration and Refugees](#)

Adult Offerings during the week

- **Pastor Helen's Monday Class** - For September 30th we will watch the video about the First Murder, Cain and Able. The class meets at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room.
- **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.

Small World Update – As usual Small World enrollment started on the Tuesday after Labor Day. So far, we have enrolled 35 ladies from 17 countries. Our students are from China, South Korea, Japan, Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico, Kazakhstan, Colombia, Honduras, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Cuba, Venezuela, Panama, Peru, and Turkey. We are a real United Nations! We offer classes at five different levels from beginner (almost no English) to advanced (almost fluent). If you know anyone who could benefit from our services please share our information with them. You can check out our new website www.smallworldlawrence.com. We also have a Facebook page, or you can pick up one of our brochures in the church office. If you have any questions you can email us at swlawrence68@gmail.com Karin Barnett, director.



Presby Pickers are looking for a singer or two and would welcome other “pickers” to join them as well. Rehearsals are usually after worship. The next one is today at 11:30 in the Chapel. If you are interested in joining or getting more information check in with Julie Simon in the chapel.



CHURCH AT THE LAKE

-  **Fellowship**
We will have lots of fun being together!
-  **Potluck Dinner**
Bring something to share!
-  **Fun and Games**
Bring a game to share and we will too!



FPC at the Lake – Sunday, September 29th – We are going to try again and hope for cooler weather this time! We will be at Shelter #1 at Overlook Park at Clinton Lake. We will have dinner, games, fellowship, and a great time together. Mark your calendars for this event.



Save the Date for the Oktoberfest FPC style! We will have a lunch of brats and burgers and all the fixin’s you bring to share on Sunday, October 13th at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Sign up on the table in the Narthex!

News from the Mission Committee

Special Offerings – Peace and Global Witness – On Sunday, October 6th we will receive your gifts to this PCUSA offering enabling the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world. 25% of the offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our community. 25% of the offering goes to the Presbytery of Northern Kansas we join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region and 50% goes to support the work being done by Presbyterians around the world.

Because the world is in despair, we go with hope
Are You Prepared to Vote in the General Election?

Key Dates

You must register to vote **by October 15th**

- Even if you think you're already registered to vote, double check to be sure your status is updated. Go to [ksvotes.org](https://www.ksvotes.org/) or type in <https://www.ksvotes.org/>
- Remember: if you have moved or changed your name, you must update your registration before October 15th



Advanced Voting begins **October 16th**

Request an Advanced/Mail-in Ballot by **Tuesday October 29th**

- You must submit a **separate application** for **each election** unless you have **Permanent Advanced Voting Status**
- Request the ballot at [ksvotes.org](https://www.ksvotes.org/) link not active? type in <https://www.ksvotes.org/>
- Submit your application **early** to avoid mail delays
- Ballots will be mailed beginning 20 days before the election

In person advanced voting ends **NOON November 4th**

All advance ballots sent by mail **must be postmarked by Election Day** (November 5th) and received by Friday, November 8th.

General Election Candidate Forums – Sunday, October 6 at the Lawrence Public Library will include candidates running for Kansas State Board of Education (1:30 pm) and the Douglas County District Attorney (3:00 pm). The Forum is hosted by the NAACP and League of Women Voters Lawrence – Douglas County.

Because the world is seldom fair, we go with Justice

Justice Matters

You may ask "How can we make a difference? the injustices in our community are too big, and we are only a few."

In the 10 years we have come together through Justice Matters, we have had small gatherings to share our individual concerns.

Concerns were raised around:

- Affordable Housing in 2014
- Mental Health in 2014
- Racial Justice issues in 2016
- Those Experiencing Homelessness in 2019 and
- Elder Care in 2021

Collectively we chose to tackle these issues and after doing research narrowed the issues to proven solutions. They were:

- An affordable housing trust fund
- Treatment and Recovery Center in lieu of a jail expansion
- Restorative Practice In Schools
- Ending Chronic Homelessness and
- Elder Care Workforce

Here is what has been accomplished:

- Affordable Housing Trust Fund with over 700 units built to date
- No jail expansion and instead a
- Treatment and Recovery Center open and operational that has served over 1500 unique individuals last year
- Crisis Intervention Training for officers so they know how to respond to calls about individuals experiencing a mental health crisis
- Vera report outlining recommendations for the Douglas County jail

Our last justice small gathering is Sunday, October 6, after church in the Library. We welcome you to come and share.