



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Second Sunday After Christmas

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist

January 4, 2026

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

There's a Star in the East
FOLLOW

Glory to God #135

Call to Worship

One: In the dark of morning,
All: The stars still shine.
One: In the depth of winter,
All: The birds still climb.
One: At the start of the year,
All: Tender and new,
One: God is here.
All: God is near.
One: Do not rest in your fear.
All: God is here.
One: So like the stars and the birds,
All: Let us worship holy God.

• Hymn of Praise

On This Day Earth Shall Ring
PERSONENT HODIE

Glory to God #141

* Call To Confession

Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist

One: Friends, on this Epiphany Sunday we stand at the start of a new year, and there is nothing better about a new year than the chance to begin again. That is exactly what we do in the Prayer of Confession. We speak honestly with God and God surrounds us with grace. We are able to begin again. So may we start this new year, this new season, this new week with God's grace. Let us pray. Let us begin again.

* Prayer of Confession

Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist

Ever-loving God, we long for Christmas to usher in a season of peace and joy. However, we know that is not how the world works. Even just days after Christmas, we find ourselves face to face with fear once again. So today we pray—forgive us when we allow fear to stop us in our tracks. Forgive us when our own fear prevents us from following your call. Forgive us when fear is louder than love. Show us how to turn our fear into action. Show us how to live like the magi who searched for you in a fearful world. With hope we pray, amen.

* Silent Prayers of Confession

* Pouring the Water

* Words of Forgiveness	Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist	
One: Family of Faith, whether you are brave and courageous or fearful and timid, God's love for you knows no end. So join me in these words of forgiveness:		
All: Whether fear inspires us to action, or stops us dead in our tracks, God's love for us is boundless. We are seen. We are surrounded with grace. We are sent to serve. Thanks be to God! Amen.		
* Passing the Peace	Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, 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	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i> GLORIA PATRI	
	<i>Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;</i>	
	<i>As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i>	
	<i>As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.</i>	
	<i>Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.</i>	
Prayer of Illumination	Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist	
God of the Stars, like the magi, we come to this place searching for you. So today, just like every day, we ask that you would remove any barricades that keep us from your Spirit. Clear out the distractions. Wipe away the doubt. Open up our hearts, and speak to us through these ancient words. And as you do, we will keep walking. As you do, we will move toward you. With hope we pray, amen.		
Hebrew Bible Reading	Isaiah 60:1-6	Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, liturgist
Gospel Reading	Matthew 2:1-12	
Sermon	"Fear Doesn't Stop Us"	Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison
Hymn	<i>What Child Is This</i> GREENSLEEVES	Glory to God #145
Call to Offertory		
Offering	<i>He Shall Feed His Flock</i> GEORGE FREDERIC HANDEL, from Messiah	Audrey Nolte, soloist
* Offertory Response	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 4)</i>	Glory to God #144
	<i>What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part, Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.</i>	
* Prayer of Dedication		
Sacrament of Holy Communion		
Invitation to the Lord's Table		
Words of institution		
Communion of the People and Star Words		
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 then take a star word for the year 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		
	<i>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.</i>	

* **Affirmation of Faith**

We have seen the valley. We have seen a sky without stars. We have seen the longest night, and still we believe.

We believe in a with-us God. We believe in the hope of tomorrow. We believe that good news is louder than fear. We believe this good news is for all people.

So even when our knees shake, even when our voice trembles, even when fear is all around us, we will hold onto that good news. We will reach for each other. We will look for God in our midst. We will sing songs of joy. We will proclaim: Unto us, love is born. We have seen the longest night, and we have seen unimaginable love. So still, we believe. Amen.

* **Closing Hymn**

We Three Kings of Orient Are
KINGS OF ORIENT

Glory to God #151
Andrew Morris, organist

* **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 firstpreslawrence@gmail.com](mailto: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, please talk to Pastor Helen.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- Kathryn Roblee could use our prayers as she receives some rehab for strength.
- Please keep Ruthanne Stucky, Mother of Alisa Stucky, in your prayers as she undergoes treatment for cancer.
- Sammie Locke has entered hospice care at Bridge Haven where she lives. Please keep her and Carl, who has moved to Brandon Woods, in your prayers.
- Angela Randall's sister has a cancer diagnosis. Angela teaches for First 5 Years.
- Please keep Cyndy Glogau and her family (of First 5 Years) in your prayers as they work on health issues.
- Joan Snodgrass is in rehab in Overland Park after a fall at her home.
- Prayers for Myron Shipley as he receives treatment for cancer.
- Susan and Pat - dealing with health concerns.
- George Crump is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- Kristi McAlister, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, is facing serious health challenges.

- Nancy Brink, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnoses.
- Allison Clunn-McPlin and family, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- Prayers for our pastor and church leaders, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.

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

January 5	January 9
Jeri Herman	Lois Dutcher
January 6	Heather Soper
Mary Corman	Erin Derby
Sam Emert	
January 7	January 11
Eva Alley	Carl Locke

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Jim Rumsey, Larry Flottman, Charles Tuttle
Greeters: Carol Smith, Linda Burton
South Door Greeter: Judy Wilson
Offering: Marilyn Heikes and Jim Rumsey
Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson
Bag Brigade Volunteer: Margie Dyck
Communion Servers: Jeff Southard, Marilyn Heikes, Chris Heider, Melinda Roblee Fischer, Larry Schlosser

Calendar			
January 4			
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School	7:00 pm	Troop 59 Boy Scout Meeting
9:15 am	Indigenous People, Past and Present	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
10:30 am	Worship	January 8	
11:30 am	Winter Youth Retreat	9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
January 5		January 9	
1:15 pm	FPC Staff Meeting	9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen Study – the Lord's Prayer	10:00 am	Men's Group
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal	January 10	
January 6		10:00 am	Justice Matters Research Meeting
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes	January 11	
January 7		9:00 am	Meals for 7 or 8 Sign Up
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes	9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
11:00 am	Matthew 25 Cohort Meeting	9:15 am	Indigenous People, Past and Present
12:30 pm	First 5 Years Staff Meeting	10:30 am	Worship
		1:30 pm	Girl Scout Day Camp Meeting

Youth Activities

- **January 4, 2026 – FPC Winter Break Youth Retreat** – 11:30 to 6 pm – will include art, cooking, lunch, games, service opportunities, fellowship time, and lots more! Other area church youth will be invited.

Children Sunday School

- **Sunday School Classes for Children**
 - On January 11 We begin a new study for the Spring Semester. Join us in Room 14 at 9:15 am

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- **Beginning January 4** – Jeff Southard will lead the Adult and Youth Sunday School at 9:15 am in the Fireside Room. He will be talking about Indigenous people in Kansas both historically and in the present.
- **Earth Care Forum for 2026** begins on January 18. Watch for details soon!

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will meet on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 2 pm in the Fireside Room and start a study on the Lord's Prayer. Everyone is welcome!

Meals for 7 or 8 will have their sign-up session next Sunday at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall. If you are wanting to join a group or would like more information, please come by and find out! There are several options available. One will be perfect for you!

Coffee group – pastries or breakfast in restaurants
 Lunches at Perkins
 Lunches at other restaurants
 Dinners in restaurants
 Dinners in members homes

Officer Ordination and Installation will be a part of our worship on Sunday, January 11. We welcome Elders: Kelly Jones Grube, Linda Maxey, Suzanne Galle, Larry Flottman, Paul Laird, and Deacons Dorothy Devlin, Charles Tuttle, Linda Longino, Nikki Barcomb, Mary Parkinson, and Melinda Roblee Fischer.

Epiphany Stars will be available for you to get your Star Word for 2026. This is a great time to reflect on how your Star Word for 2025 was significant in the year and how you see 2026 shaping up! If you miss picking one up on Sunday, they will be available in the Church Office until they run out.

