



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

May 10, 2026

First Presbyterian Church

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 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 at FPC please talk with Pastor Helen.

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

Children Sunday School

- **Sunday School Classes for Children**

- Our Children gather for fun and adventure in Room 14 at 9:15 am. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the fun!

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- **The Church in the 16th Century: Luther, Reformation, and Protestantism.** This class will be led by Paul Laird. We will meet in the Fireside Room through May 10th.
- **On Sunday, May 17th all youth and adults are invited to the Fireside Room** to discuss some options for class moving forward. We are especially interested in what parts of the Bible are challenging for you or maybe even exciting. What would you like to know more about – perhaps the context of the scripture or just questions you have. Bring your ideas, questions, challenges, and favorites to share!

Youth Activities

- **Eco Team and Youth on an EcoTrek!** All FPC Youth and Friends are invited to join the EcoTeam on Sunday, May 17th. Meet at the church at 5:00 pm to carpool to the Rockefeller Trail. There are a couple of apps you might want to download to use on the hike – Seek and iNaturalist. You can use them to identify nature you discover along the way. What a great way to use technology! Call Kelly for more information at 785-979-2713.

- **Serving at LINK** – We are cooking and serving a meal at LINK on Saturday, May 23. Meet at LINK (First Christian Church at 10th and Kentucky) at 11:30 am to help. Youth age 13 and older can serve without an adult present. There is a sign up sheet to provide ingredients for Tacos in the Narthex now. Check it out or contact Claire Boyette at claire@firstpreslawrence.org.



- Thank you to everyone who helped us collect forks for LINK. 147 forks were gathered and will be delivered for use this week. Many thanks to all those who donated to our cause. Your donations make it possible for the guests at LINK to have the supplies they need.

- For our next project we will be looking for single serving snacks to share with the guests of the Homeless Resource Center AND new or gently used adult sized socks for the Lawrence Community Shelter. Questions? Call Kelly Grube at 785-979-2713.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class is meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We are currently studying the history of religion in the US. This is a class Helen taught at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M college. We will survey the history of religion in America and its impact on social reform, politics and intellectual life. It will offer an opportunity to study the religions of the world and the influence faith and religion have exercised in American history. Everyone is welcome!

Finances

	Budget	Actual
Membership Gifts – April	\$ 40,572.00	\$ 24,992.00
Membership Gifts – 2026 – YTD	\$ 224,446.00	\$ 214,725.00

Calling all Graduates! We want to celebrate with you. Please let us know where you are graduating from and what degree you have earned so that we can include it in our newsletter and acknowledge you in worship in May!



Congratulations to Joshua Vincent who will graduate from KU in May with his bachelor's degree in aerospace engineering. *"I wish I could say it was easy, but completing this program in four years is probably going to go down as the hardest thing I will ever achieve. After I graduate, I will take a break from school and go straight to the industry in the Washington DC area. I am so thankful for this church community that*

has introduced me to so many kind and interesting people, gave me spiritual guidance, and most importantly, fed me. Thank you all so much. Rock Chalk!" Joshua

Congratulations to Maggie Ziegler who will graduate from University of Kansas Medical School as a Medical Doctor. She will be doing her residency for the next three years at Harvard's Boston Children's Hospital to become a pediatrician. Maggie is a child and member of FPC, daughter of Brad and Debby Ziegler and granddaughter of Jan Roth.

We are looking for volunteers to help on a Sunday morning from time to time as **ushers and greeters**. Plan to arrive a bit early, help folks who might be unfamiliar with our building find their way around, greet everyone, hand out bulletins, help find nametags, assist with seating, take a "head count" for the office staff, and meet some wonderful folks! If you can help please **sign up on the sheets in the Narthex**. Thank you.

The Deacon Love Fund is the way FPC can reach out to our neighbors and help lighten their load during difficult times. In April your generous gifts helped five families pay their utility bills and their rent. With the price of gasoline going up we are all challenged to meet our needs at this time, but if you are able to provide some funds for others it would be much appreciated and received with gratitude by our friends in the community. Thank you so much!

The Presbytery of Northern Kansas met on April 25 at Sunrise Presbyterian Church in Salina, Kansas. The guest speakers were Rev. Ted Foote, Jr. and Rev. P. Alex Thronburg, III on their book, *"Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America"*. During the meeting they commissioned the Commissioners serving at the 227th General Assembly taking place June 22 through July 2, 2026 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Note especially that **our Young Adult Advisory Delegate is FPC member Thomas Lushington**. Thank you Thomas for representing us this year!



We are Planting the Pollinator Garden

It's that time of year again! Plants purchased from the Monarch Watch Sale are ready for planting. The EcoTeam invites you to join them this Saturday morning May 9 at 9:00 am and we will fill the empty spaces in the garden so we are ready for butterflies and other pollinators coming our way this summer. Questions? Contact Linda Watts, lindajoywatts@gmail.com



Just Food is hosting a Gala to celebrate the work that has been done to make sure everyone in Douglas County has nutritious food as well as raising critical funds to sustain and expand this work. If you agree that providing nutritious food for everyone – especially those who are unable to afford it – consider attending “A Night in the Caribbean” on June 11th at 6:00 pm at the Oread Hotel. Tickets are available at www.justfoods.org or call 785-856-7030.

Adult Volunteer Work Trip

The **PNKS Mission Ministry Team** is excited to announce the location and details for the **Summer 2026 Adult Volunteer Work Trip**. We will again be traveling with members of the Presbytery of Southern Kansas as well as working with Fuller Center for Housing/Disaster ReBuilders (a partner of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance). We only have 12 spots available this year. This year we will travel to Madisonville, KY to help with home rebuilding and repairs after F1 tornadoes struck the area in both 2021 and 2025. The trip cost is \$600, with a \$200 scholarship from PNKS. We ask that local churches consider also contributing 1/3 of the cost. More information can be found on the Presbytery of Northern Kansas website at www.pnks.org.

MADISONVILLE KY	ADULT VOLUNTEER WORK TRIP
JUNE 21-26 2026	DISASTER REBUILDERS
LIGHT CONSTRUCTION- REPAIR FROM 2021 & 2025 EF4 TORNADOES	PNKS & PSK

During spring move-out, tons of perfectly usable items end up in the trash. The Lawrence Habitat ReStore is partnering with KU Housing, Just Food, and the Lawrence Humane Society to collect items. This partnership helps us reduce waste and ultimately help members of the Lawrence community. We can't do this important event without volunteer support! Choose a shift and help us! Contact Lawrence Habitat for Humanity at 785-832-0777.



Tired of all of the T-shirts? Good News! Moving forward we will have one all-purpose T-shirt to wear whenever we attend community events. The shirt lets folks know who we are, what we stand for, and helps us spread the message about our vibrant congregation. VISIT the Matthew 25 table in the Narthex the next few Sundays to view the new shirt design and preorder your size. Adult and children's sizes are available. A suggested \$20 donation per shirt to replenish the Mission budget is appreciated.



Join the Parade on June 6th! The Lawrence Pride Parade is right around the corner. Join us as we gather at 11 am on Saturday, June 6 for a joyous walk down Mass Street. Wear your old pride shirt or purchase the new FPC T-shirt. We also have a few free shirts from previous pride events. Stop by the table in the Narthex to sign up today!

Did you know that FPC loans out durable medical equipment for short term (or long term) use? If you are having surgery and need a walker, a cane, a bath seat or transfer bench, a toilet riser, or ice machine....we probably have it! Give us a call to check out equipment as needed. We are glad we can help. If you are looking for a place to donate these items please check us out. We must be able to move things up and down the stairs, so we can't accept beds, recliners and things like that. We can allow folks to use their medical expenses and benefits wisely and provide



★ JOIN US TO SERVE ★

TACOS AT LINK

SATURDAY, MAY 23 @ 11:30 AM
221 W. 10TH ST.

★★★

IF VOLUNTEERING:

- Please arrive by 11:30 AM to help set up. The meal will be served at 1:00 PM.

IF PROVIDING FOOD:

- Bring all items to church kitchen on Friday, May 22 between 9:00 AM-3:00 PM OR bring directly to LINK on May 23 by 11:30 AM.

★★★

5K HOME RUN

MONDAY 5.25.26
@ SOUTH PARK IN LAWRENCE

HELP US RAISE FUNDS TO CONTINUE TO WALK ALONGSIDE AND EMPOWER FAMILIES EXPERIENCING A HOUSING CRISIS. ONE OF OUR BIGGER SPRING FUNDRAISING EFFORTS. HOPE TO SEE YOU!

\$30 per person

\$25 Team of 4+ (save \$5)

Family Promise News

Happy Spring to everyone! What great weather for walking or running before it gets too hot! The **Family Promise 5K Home Run** is scheduled for Monday, May 25th at 8:30am starting in South Park! Virtual participants can walk or run anytime from May 19-25!

How about joining our FPC team! I will be in the Narthex for the next few Sundays to register YOU for our team! If you are not able to join in the run, you can support the FPC Team by making a donation.

Hope you will join us!
Lois Dutcher, FP coordinator

RUN/WALK IN PERSON OR VIRTUAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES STROLLERS + LEASHED PETS ALLOWED