



# First Press

*Weekly Newsletter*

June 21, 2026

First Presbyterian Church

## Our Pastor

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Email: [helen@firstpreslawrence.org](mailto: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](mailto: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**
  - Kick-off for fall classes will be on August 9<sup>th</sup> so mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

## Adult and Youth Sunday School

- **Adult Classes will resume on August 16<sup>th</sup>.** In the meantime, check out the options available this summer during the week! See notes below.

## Youth Activities

- **For our next project** we will be looking for donations of 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. We are expanding our donation requests to include gently used card and board games for more options to share with our LINK guests.
- **Father's Day Bingo!** The Youth are hosting another opportunity to win some prizes from our newly re-stocked prize closet. We will have a potluck lunch and a lot of fun! Join us on Sunday, June 21 at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

**Summer Sermon Series** We are going to be spending the summer with the Psalter. The Psalms will guide our worship this summer as we look to the ways the psalms speak about our experiences and emotions.

**Pastor Helen's Monday Class** is meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room through June 22. We are currently studying the history of religion in the US. Everyone is welcome! The class will take a break for July and resume classes on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Summer Education Opportunity: Historical Perspectives on Indigenous Boarding Schools**

The Matthew 25 cohort has been looking over the surveys many of you submitted several months ago asking about your knowledge and interaction of Haskell Indian Nations University and your wishes to be allies to the Indigenous people in our community. We have come up with several plans, beginning with the request that we need to better educate ourselves about indigenous history and treatment by governmental policies. We are starting with a book study using the book Education for Extinction: American Indians and the Boarding School Experience, 1875–1928 May 29, 2020 by David Wallace Adams (Author) **For our class on June 24 in the Fireside Room, please read Chapter 3.** The class will take a break while Pastor Helen is on vacation. We will resume to discuss Section 2 on July 15. All are welcome.

**Our Summer Choir will sing again on July 12.** Everyone – youth and adults are welcome to come to the rehearsal beginning at 9:30 in the Sanctuary to learn the music for the morning and then sing together during worship. This is perfect for the singers out there who have conflicts with a weekly rehearsal time or who just want to share their voices for the summer. Questions to Adrian Hartsough on Sunday morning or to [Adrian@firstpreslawrence.org](mailto:Adrian@firstpreslawrence.org).

**Bingo is back for Father's Day on Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.** The prize cabinet is restocked and ready for some winners! Potluck lunch and snacks will be served.



**We will be serving pasta at LINK on June 27<sup>th</sup>.** Sign up in the Narthex! Meet at LINK at First Christian Church, 10<sup>th</sup> and Kentucky at 11:30 to help. Youth 13 and older can help without an adult. We will be serving pasta this time.



**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.

### Finance Committee reminders:

- **Have you paid your per capita yet?** One of the features of the PCUSA is the per capita (Latin for "per head") contribution. Currently at \$42, it's an annual amount that helps fund the General Assembly office in Louisville, the Synod of Mid-America in Kansas City, and the Presbytery of Northern Kansas in Salina. While the church's budget contains a line item to pay each member's per capita, when individuals make a separate donation, it frees up money for other purposes such as the Deacon's fund, mission donations or improvements to the church's building. Please consider paying yours today!
- **Summer Giving** – Summertime can get busy and routines interrupted, but the costs to run the church just keep coming! If you can we would appreciate everyone keeping up with their pledges over the summer and if you are able additional gifts are especially appreciated during this time of year.

**Rummage Sale** – The Presbyterian Women are getting ready for all of your donations to our Rummage Sale this year! The doors will open for donations on Monday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please use the South Fellowship Hall only as we are a polling place for the Primary Election on Tuesday on the North side of the Hall. We accept clothing, household items, holiday décor, home décor, books, music and more! We cannot accept electronics, large furniture or large appliances. The sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, August 7 and 8. Mark your calendar and start cleaning out now!



### Are You Prepared to Vote?

The August 4th primary includes an amendment that changes the selection of Supreme Court justices from the 70-year-old merit-based vetting system to an open general election. This amendment if passed, will fundamentally change the Supreme Court in Kansas. Beginning this Sunday, visit the Matthew 25 table to prepare to yourself to participate in this very important election. We will have information about the Amendment, different perspectives on how it could affect issues like abortion rights and public-school funding; how to register to vote, the three ways to vote in Kansas, and important election deadlines.

**The 227<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PC(USA) begins on June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Milwaukee, WI.** We are well represented by **Thomas Lushington** who is a member of our church and the Young Adult Advisory Delegate for the Presbytery of Northern Kansas. Thomas represented us at the last GA and was asked again this year when the delegate had to step down at the last minute. Thank you Thomas for your service at this important meeting of our denomination. We look forward to hearing from you at the end of the Assembly.

**The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is honoring Presbyterians for Earth Care at the 2026 General Assembly.** The Moderator for PPF stated, "Earth care and fossil fuel divestment are acts of peacemaking for the future." PPF also sees peacemaking merit in the overture Regenerative Farming, a concern the EcoTeam of FPC included in this year's Earth Care Forum series.

The General Assembly created opportunities for congregations to become Earth Care certified in 1995. First Presbyterian was first certified in 2010. Designated congregations were recognized as a way to support people of faith working toward "environmental wholeness with social justice". ( It is important to note that being certified is not a political statement. It is an opportunity to respond to a theological understanding of what it means to be a Christian.) Approximately 280 congregations are currently certified.



**Family Promise** – It takes a lot of courage to accept help when you need it and it takes many folks to make the families feel welcome and have all the things they need during their stay at Hope House. We want to help with that by making appreciation gifts, thank you cards and welcome items for incoming families.

Sign up in the Narthex to join us on Sunday, July 12 at 9:00 to make some creations for these families. It will make you feel good!



# family promise welcome gift project

Sunday, July 12 during the  
Sunday School hour  
(9:00-10:30 AM)

Join us during the Sunday School hour to  
create simple appreciation gifts, thank you  
cards, and welcome items for Family  
Promise families, volunteers, and donors.



**It was a wonderful day to celebrate Pride Day!** So many came out to walk with us in the Pride Parade last Saturday down Massachusetts Street. Thanks to those who joined us and thanks to those who cheered us on!



**Thank you to everyone at FPC for the surprise party** held to celebrate my 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of ministry with all of you! I loved the “stained glass” cake, the cards and notes, the flowers and all the good wishes. You are all the best! Someone asked if I had a picture of when I started work here. There does exist – somewhere – a picture of my first day. I was greeted by a giant balloon arch of red, orange and yellow balloons that had been used in worship the day before for Pentecost. They had been moved to my office and was quite a surprise when I opened the door! It was a very cheerful welcome for sure! If I find the picture I will share it with you! Thank you again for the party and for everyone who came to share as well as all who signed the card or sent one. This “I prefer to stay in the background” person was overwhelmed!

**Linda Bridges**

