



First Presbyterian Church

First Press

Weekly Newsletter

April 13, 2025

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 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

- Prayers for Myron Shipley as he receives treatment for cancer.
- **First 5 Years student Ellenee**, fell at the park and broke both her tibia and fibula. Prayers for healing!
- **First 5 Years teacher, Lisa Marie Benke**, asks for prayers for her husband, Russell, who was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **Bruce Humphreys, step-father of Robert Mugridge**, is home now and asks for our continuing prayers.
- **Kelly Grube** is traveling between Lawrence and the Mayo Clinic and has completed her first round of radiation in preparation for surgery the end of April. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.
- **Alisa Stucky** is asking for prayers in support of her Mother's health. Her mother is **Ruthanne Stucky**.

- **Jenny Skridulis Vellon**, a former member of FPC, had breast cancer surgery recently. She will rest for a few weeks before starting radiation.
- **Liz Cloutman** is receiving treatment for breast cancer.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Prayer for our local community organizations struggling with loss of funding including LINK, Bert Nash, and Haskell**, and we expect to hear about more in the coming days. Lord, hear our prayer.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing serious health challenges.

April is National Parkinson's Awareness Month. The flowers this morning are a "Thank You" from the Lawrence Parkinson Support Group to the FPC congregation and staff in recognition of your continued generosity to our group. You have allowed us the opportunity to call First Presbyterian Church our meeting place for over 20 years. We truly cannot thank you enough. Blessings on this Palm Sunday.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Myron Shipley, Mark Shiflett, Larry Schlosser, Larry Maxey

Greeters: Eva Alley, Linda Watts

South Door Greeter: Jan Poulsen

Offering: Marilyn Heikes, Ed Manda

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Margie Dyck

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

April 15	Michael Grose	April 17	Bill Seidel
April 17	Lois Leatherman	April 19	Cooper Grube
	Ted Upstill		Debbie McDonald

Calendar

April 13	
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School Classes
9:15 am	Youth Sunday School Class
9:15 am	Names of the Messiah Class
10:30 am	Worship
2:00 pm	Easter Egg Hunt
April 14	
9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm	Staff meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen's Class
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den Schwaller

April 15	9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
	12:30 pm	Perkins Lunch Group
	1:00 pm	Small World Classes
	6:00 pm	Deacon Meeting
April 16	9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
April 17	9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
	1:00 pm	Small World Classes
	5:30pm	Maundy Thursday Worship & Potluck
April 18	10:00 am	Men's Group
April 20		Easter
	9:15 am	Easter Breakfast
	9:30 am	Children's Sunday School Classes
	10:30 am	Worship

Children and Youth – classes resume January 12th

- **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
 - Today the Youth are invited to meet in room 11 to hear Margie Dyck discuss Justice Matters.

Youth Activities

- **April**
 - FUN, SERVICE: Today you can help prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt. Meet in the Library after Children's Time.
 - FELLOWSHIP – Join us for Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:15-10:45, Sunday, April 20th. Youth and friends at FPC invite you to join us for our annual Easter biscuits and gravy breakfast fundraiser. Donations are appreciated. If you would like to volunteer supplies or to help see the signup genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084CAAEE2DAAFD0-56042829-fpcyouth>
- **May**
 - CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Youth interested in learning about church membership come and have dinner and discussion with Pastor Helen on May 4

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **Names for the Messiah** led by Pastor Helen will meet in the Fireside Room at 9:15 am. For this Lenten season we will look at some of the names for Jesus and spend time thinking about the ways Jesus lives into those names.

Adult Offerings during the week

- **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.
- **Pastor Helen's Monday Class** – On April 14th in our class on the Kings and Prophets of ancient Israel and Judea, we will look at the prophet Amos please read chapters 3-9. The class meets at 2 pm in the Fireside Room.

Beginning May 4 – “Income Inequality and the Bible” An Adult Sunday School Class led by Paul Romine

Income inequality has reached record levels in the United States and influences how working people vote. We will explore how the Hebrew Law, Prophets, and Writings addressed the gap between the rich and the poor in biblical times. The class will reflect on how economics have changed in our own lifetimes. We will look for ways that the Hebrew Bible connects with our experience and see if it offers guidance for how we might work for a more equitable society today. Class meets through May 18 in the Fireside Room.

Youth Membership Opportunity – On Sunday, May 4th Pastor Helen is inviting youth interested in joining the church to a dinner from 5 to 7 pm. There is no requirement to join, just a desire to learn more. If you do choose to join the church you will then meet with members of Session at a dinner on Thursday, May 8th. The congregation will then welcome you into membership on Sunday, May 18th. If you would like to join this group or would like more information, please contact the church office at 785-843-4171. We do need you to RSVP so we know how many we are feeding!

FPC Prayer Shawl Ministry – In February 2011, FPC began our prayer shawls and lap quilts ministry. Since that time, I have delivered shawls and quilts to 100 people at FPC! I have kept a list of those people who knitted or crocheted these beautiful shawls and quilts and those who received these gifts. It has been a wonderful project which brought lots of joy and comfort to the recipients. I would like to thank the following people who have participate in this heart-warming project: bobbie frances mcdonald, Peggy Southard, Deb Pentecost, Vernis Flottman, Sandra Neese, Chris Heider, Gaye Groene, Joyce Rankin, Dorothy Devlin, Mary Kay Stephens, Rachel Lindbloom, Caroll Tucker, Sharon Rankin, Lois Dutcher, and Susan Palmer. Keep up the good work everyone!

One Great Hour of Sharing is our special offering collected on Easter Sunday. The funds raised through this offering will support the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. *“If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!”*

First 5 Years Playground Fundraiser - First Presbyterian Church's First 5 Years Preschool will be installing a new playground this summer! The plans involve removing the two current structures and replacing them with one larger structure, installing pour in place surfacing (solid, rubber-like material) in the toddler area, and installing a climbing structure if budget allows. Fundraising will be the main source of funds for this project. We do have a matching donor for up to \$10,000, so every dollar up to that amount is doubled! Donations can be made by cash or check to the church office (please specify that your donation is for the preschool playground), online on the Church's online giving section (in the Designated Fund section with the note "Preschool Playground")



Family Promise of Lawrence - This week of April 6-12 is FPC's next host week with Connect Church. We are providing dinner and hosts to the 4-6 families at Hope House on Friday, April 11th and Saturday, April 12th. The FPC youth have made Lasagna, garlic bread, salad, and chocolate chip cookies for dinner on Friday, April 11th and other volunteers are providing pulled meat varieties and buns, salad, and veggies with sugar free ice pops and fruit for dessert for Saturday, April 12th. We have 3 hosts signed up to help!! (Still need a few more!!). Thank you to all and if you would like to help out by giving some money for other weekly needs; please contact me , Lois Dutcher at grammydutcher@yahoo.com or see me at worship. Blessings to all FPC members, Lois Dutcher

Easter Lily Order forms are available now in the Narthex. You can contribute to the beauty of our Easter Sanctuary by donating a lily (\$15 – 20 is suggested) in honor of or in memory of a loved one or group. Donations in excess of the cost will go to funding for the care of church plants, flowers for Sunday, and summer plantings around the building. Thank you.

Presbytery of Northern Kansas announces an Adult Volunteer Work Trip to Burnsville, NC to help rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Helene. The group leaves from Salina on June 14 and will return on June 21. To register go to their website at www.pnks.org and click on "Upcoming Events"

Mission

Matthew 25

Because the world is filled with fear, we go with courage.

Save the Date! The annual Pride Parade will be held on **June 7th**. We will once again don our *Presbyterians for Pride* t-shirts and join the joyous parade down Mass Street to show our love and support for our LGBTQ+ members, family, friends and neighbors. Mark your calendar to join us if you can. More information to come as we get closer to the date.

Community Garden - It is spring in the garden. We transplanted radishes, lettuce, spinach and snap peas last week. We trimmed the chives plants and took the harvest to Just Food. That was an aromatic drive. Please let Margie Dyck know if you would like to help plant or water the garden or sign up in the Narthex.

Because the world is seldom fair, we go with justice.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters – As a hunger congregation as designated by the PCUSA, FPC participates in the advocacy efforts of Bread for the World. Thanks to all who participated in writing postcards to our legislators in D.C. Rep. Mann will receive 24 postcards, Sen. Moran – 23, and Sen. Roger Marshall – 21. Several participants took cards with them and will mail them on their own.

Keep your self informed about decisions being made by Congress in proposing a budget. There is talk of cutting from the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) allocation. Last week the US Department of Agriculture cancelled a program that gave food banks federal money to buy food from local farmers. In addition, Just Food reported that it will be receiving 30% less food from Harvesters through an emergency food assistance program. Our legislators need to keep hearing from us during these very difficult times by calling our legislators in D.C. Office phone numbers can be found on their website. Of course, donations to Just Food are always encouraged.



HOLY WEEK

Everyone is welcome to join us for any or all of these opportunities to celebrate Holy Week at FPC



**Sun
April 13**

Palm Sunday

Worship at 10:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt in the afternoon.



**Thur
April 17**

Maundy Thursday

Worship and Potluck at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall



**Fri
April 18**

Good Friday

Worship at 5:30 pm
In the Sanctuary



**Sun
April 20**

Easter Sunday

Breakfast at 9:15 am
Worship at 10:30 am

For more information check on our website www.firstpreslawrence.org or contact the church office at 785-843-4171