



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

April 27, 2025

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 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

- **Dr. David Hutchison, Pastor Helen's father**, suffered a stroke on April 15. Following surgery to remove a blood clot he is recovering well. Gratitude to his wife, Judy, who recognized the signs and got help quickly. Prayers for Pastor Helen and her family as they navigate this new situation.
- **Prayers for Carl and Sammie Locke**. Sammie has moved to Bridgehaven and Carl is making plans to make a move as well. These are big changes! Prayers for strength.
- **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 will have surgery at Mayo on April 28 and April 30. 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.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Nancy Brink, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher**, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- **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.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Jim and Nancy Rumsey, Larry Flottman, Pat McAlister

Greeters: Sandy Groene, Carol Smith

South Door Greeter: Jan Poulsen

Offering: Erin Barcomb-Peterson, Eric Fischer

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 29	May 2
Allen Macfarlane	Adrian Hartsough
Catherine Norwood	May 4
Emma Norwood	Greg Peterson
Megan Derby	

Calendar

April 27

9:15 am	Youth Sunday School
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship
3:30 pm	Daisy Troop 5621

April 28

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm	Staff meeting
6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den - Schwaller
7:00 pm	First 5 years Board Meeting

April 29

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
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1:00 pm	Small World Classes
7:00 pm	Troop 59 Eagle Court of Review

April 30

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

May 1

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

May 2

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am	Men's Group
6:00 pm	First 5 Years Art Show and Book Fair

May 4

9:00 am	Presby Pickers Rehearsal
9:15 am	Income Inequality and the Bible
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School Classes
10:30 am	Worship
4:00 pm	Laura Hrivnak Studio Rehearsal

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
- Youth – Room 11

Youth Activities

• 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

- **No classes today.** You are welcome to gather in Fellowship Hall or the Library for time together and some coffee. Class will resume on May 4 with "Income Inequality and the Bible" See description below.

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** – We are taking a break for a couple of weeks and will meet again on May 5th and talk about the prophet Hosea. 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 18th 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!

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"

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")

The Rev. Tony Larson, Co-Moderator, 226th General Assembly, PCUSA, will be in the Presbytery of Northern Kansas May 3 – 6, 2025.

Saturday, May 3 – Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian church, Minneapolis, KS (102 E. 2nd St.)

Sunday, May 4 – Morning Worship at Emporia Presbyterian Church (802 Commercial) at 10:45 am

Sunday, May 4 – PNKS Youth Event at Memorial Presbyterian Church (200 N. 10th St., Maryville, KS 4 pm followed by dinner and vespers led by Rev. Larson. Registration required by April 21.

Monday, May 5 – Tour of PNKS

10:00 am – WaKeeney Presbyterian Church (332 N. 6th)

2:00 pm – Sunrise Presbyterian Church of Salina (825 Beloit)

5:30 pm – Westminster Presbyterian Church of Topeka (1275 SW Boswell Ave.)

Solar Panels at FPC

Progress is being made and we will begin to see the work begin in the middle of May! Good Energy Solutions has a plan that the city has approved so they are moving forward with our installation schedule. If you would like to make a donation toward this project, please be sure to note "Solar panels" on your check or other contribution. We are concerned that some of our federal funding might no longer be available, but we are moving forward in faith that we will be able to cover the expenses with donations, saved utility money, and with a low interest loan using our Endowment fund as collateral. Together we can make solar power our primary source of energy at FPC!

Lawrence Community Handbell Choir presents, "The Magic of Movies" The Choir is excited to share with you an enchanting concert of music that highlights the captivating sounds of handbells and music in the movies. There are two opportunities to hear the concert in Lawrence:

Friday, May 16th at 7:00 pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2104 Bob Billings Parkway or Sunday, May 18th at 3:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 946 Vermont St.

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.

Calling all FPC Families – the Butterflies need us!

FPC's pollinator garden continues to invite bees, butterflies and other insects to come and hang around and do their thing to thrive. Join The Eco team in planting this year on **Saturday, May 10, 9:30 am**. We will be buying new plants from Monarch Watch, and you can place an order from them with online order starting April 22. spring.monarchwatch.org



Monarch butterfly counts hit all-time lows in recent years. They are struggling to thrive in an environment that has been subjected to herbicides and pesticides. Pollinators need our help. These important insects need our help. By planting milkweeds (the host plants for monarch caterpillars) and nectar plants for adult monarchs and pollinators, you can help maintain monarch migration and sustain the insects whose pollination services maintain our ecosystems.

CBS 60 Minutes showed a segment on Monarchs this past Sunday and Monarch Watch retired director, Chip Taylor was included in the segment. Check it out on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnXOG7EB8mE>

Easter

THANK YOU S

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who provided music during our Lent and Easter season. The members of the Chancel Choir and Westminster Ringers dedicated a considerable amount of time. I cannot thank Carol Fleeger enough for all her work with the bells, and for providing support on several Sundays during hymns. Thank you to the choir section leaders and Paul and Joy Laird who provided special music. Thank you to Audrey Nolte and Andrew Morris for helping with the Children's Sunday school music. To everyone who joined the choir for the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus on Easter– thank you. (And yes, I made note of every single one of you and will be encouraging you to join us for summer choir!) Finally, to Andrew Morris – the music you shared with us this season has been exquisite, and we are very blessed to have you with us. Adrian Hartsough, Director of Music

Many thanks to all who joined us for Easter Breakfast! We served about 70 people and raised funds for the youth group to shop for our Family Promise adopted family in the winter. Your donations and contributions help to keep our programming and community thriving. Kelly Jones-Grube on behalf of the FPC Youth

