



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

November 1, 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 November Theme is called **Practice Joy** - We usually think of joy as a feeling, a response to something we experience. We might feel joy when we witness a bright sunrise, laugh with a dear friend, or hold a sweet baby. But Scripture invites us to experience joy as more than a passive response. We are urged to practice joy as a faithful choice. The practice of joy is ancient, as witnessed by the Psalter, which urges joy's expression in countless circumstances. Joy does not depend on our present circumstances; rather, joy trusts in God's current presence and future promises fulfilled. Indeed, Jesus reminds us that faithfulness can be costly; yet even that does not preclude joy. We are able to come to the fullest expression of joy when we see joy that does not depend on our circumstances but that celebrates God's presence everywhere and always. This month we will explore four practices of joy, attested to in the Psalms and manifested throughout Scripture:

- See Joy in God's Creation
- Rejoice in God's Mercy
- Share Others' Joy
- Practice Joy in All Times

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- Jeff Southard will complete his class "Islam in a Nutshell". All are welcome in the Fireside Room.
- Next Sunday, November 8, we will meet to get an update about the Solar Panels at FPC.

Youth Activities and Opportunities –

- **Please keep our Youth Director Kelly Grube** and family in your prayers as she continues with Chemo.
- **Coming up next is our Fall BINGO Fest!** Everyone is welcome to this Youth hosted event on Sunday, November 8th for snacks – feel free to bring one – and Bingo! There are prizes in the closet for the lucky winners and fun to be had by everyone. Please RSVP to Kelly at 785-979-2713 or the church office.
- **The Shoe collection** is complete with 186 pairs of shoes finding a new home. Thank you!
- **Our next collection** –The Homeless Resource Center is seeking donations of **Stocking caps, bandages and cough drops**. Please begin rounding up, cleaning out and preparing for our next donation drive. Supplies can be delivered to the church office or to Kelly Grube.

Worship for October and November

Every Gift Tells a Story

This past year has been one with wars in the international setting, battles in our political spheres, and people struggling to keep up with expenses. As we move into October and November our sermon series will be focused on ordinary people doing extraordinary things. There are many examples in Scripture and many examples in our church and community. This is our Stewardship Theme reminding all of us that we make a difference. When I get discouraged I look to two quotes that inspire me:

- “It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it,” from Rabbi Tarfon (Pirkei Avot 2:16)
- “I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do something that I can do.” Helen Keller

As we seek to acknowledge there are amazing things happening in a crazy world, we acknowledge God is working and engaged, and we offer ourselves trusting that with God we make a difference.

Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things



Every Gift Tells a Story

Make sure your gift is part of our story. Turn in your pledge today!

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will continue a study called **Christianities: the first 4 centuries C.E.** at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We will be looking at different theological understandings in the early church movement, This week we will be looking at Marcion. Everyone is welcome.

Show Your Colors on Social Justice Sunday November 1st

We all put in time, money and effort to support causes that focus on social justice issues in our community. This Sunday November 1st, the Matthew 25 Committee invites you to “show your colors” by wearing your blue FPC shirt or one from an organization or cause you support. Let's fill the sanctuary with a rainbow of colors as we gather for worship and communion.



Left Over Trick or Treat Candy?

Bring the leftovers to the church on Sunday, November 1st! We will share with the voters who come in to cast their ballots for the mid-term elections. We are expecting a large turn-out of people and having a little sweet treat for them is always nice. Thank you!





Help us serve tacos at LINK!

We will be providing the meal at LINK on Saturday, November 7th.

You can help by bringing some of the ingredients, cooking the food, or serving to the guests that day.

If you are providing food please bring all items to the church kitchen on Friday, November 6 between 9 am and 3 pm or directly to LINK on November 7 by 11:30 am.

If you are volunteering to serve, please arrive by 11:30 am at LINK.

Sign up in the Narthex on Sunday or contact Claire Boyette at claire@firstpreslawrence.org.

Answering the Question: But What Can We Do? Join Us for a Visit to the Haskell Cultural Center and Museum Wednesday, November 04 at 1:00 PM

Join your First Presbyterian friends for an enriching visit to the Haskell Cultural Center and Museum. We will enjoy a special tour led by its Director, Travis Campbell, MSLIS. As a steward of living tribal materials, traditions, and cultural arts, the Center and Museum conveys the rich history of Haskell Indian Nation's

University from its founding as a government boarding school to today's fully accredited University. Its collections include archives, art, artifacts, historic photographs, and documents from Haskell's student newspaper, *The Indian Leader*, the oldest continually published Native American student newspaper in the world. Our visit is set for Wednesday, November 04, at 1 PM. Meet at the First Presbyterian Church parking lot by 12:30, so we can carpool—or you can meet us at the Center (2411 Barker Ave., on the campus of Haskell Indian Nations University) by 1 PM. Our group size is limited to 20 people. Please sign up at the Matthew 25 table by November 1st. Contact Linda Watts at lindajoywatts@gmail.com with any questions. Learn more before our visit at <https://www.haskellhistory.com/>.

Justice Matters - We listened to our community. Now it's time to decide together, lift the abundance among us, and build the power to act! Three important issues are headed to the ballot at our Community Problems Assembly (CPA) this Thursday:

1. Safe and Affordable Housing and Rentals
2. Childcare
3. Homelessness and Services for Unhoused Neighbors

After weeks of listening and discernment, it's time for our members to decide together which issue we will take forward!

- When: 6:30–8:00 p.m., Thursday, November 5
- Where: First Presbyterian Church: 2415 Clinton Pkwy.
- Childcare: Available!

We Are Member-Driven! Our network members and our assemblies - the CPA and Solutions Briefing - are the highest governing bodies of Justice Matters. Our network members determine our priorities and shape our direction. Only network members can vote at the CPA. Anyone who missed a listening session will have an opportunity to join as a network member at the event. Voting will happen in caucuses. This is our first real test of network power. Your presence and vote matter!

Organizing from Abundance, Not Scarcity - The CPA is our first test of that power. Our turnout directly impacts the strength of our mandate and what we can ask for at the Nehemiah Assembly. The stronger our network, the greater our ability to demand meaningful change from decision-makers as well as the respect we will receive from them. We will also have information about ordering Justice Matters merchandise including t-shirts and sweatshirts at the event!



Thank you Saturday Work Day Volunteers!

All the sanctuary pews were dusted.
 Outside windows were cleaned.
 The library carpet was cleaned with a wet-vac.
 Bushes were trimmed.
 The kitchen was cleaned, including the refrigerator.
 The Scouts cleared the weeds out front.

THANK YOU

Joy Trollman, Betty Kline, Carol and Dave
 Kyner, Djifa and Kass Soklou, Mary Kay Stephens, Larrottman, Wayne Hathaway, and Linda Maxey!



The holidays are coming!

Save some dates as we plan ahead!

Christmas Dinner for everyone will be December 13th
 Special Music Sunday will be on December 20th with Lessons and Carols.
 Christmas Eve Worship will be December 24th at 7:00 pm



Adopt-a-Family
Nov. 15 - Dec. 6

