



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

May 5, 2024

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.

Prayers

Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations

- **Sally Ann Corrier**, daughter of **Bob and Pat Bates** died April 25 in Topeka. Services will be held at a later date. Prayers for Bob and Pat as they grieve.
- **Jean Givens** is home following hospitalization for life threatening high fever and infection.
- **Loren Dolezal** is now at Select Specialty Hospital KC. He will be there for about three weeks and then plans are to move to a rehabilitation hospital.
- **Tom Groene** has been discharged from LMH and is now living at Bridgehaven.
- **Stan Roth** recently learned that a broken elbow likely will not heal. He is learning to manage the pain.
- **Steve Rauch**, father of **Holly Oertel**, is home and recovering from a heart attack while the family was in Tulsa, OK. We are grateful!

- We celebrate with **Djifa Gavi and Joel** that their husband and father, **Kassenge Soklou** has been cleared to travel to the United States. Update: Kassenge is scheduled to arrive in mid-May! Prayers for safe travel.
- **Tonja and Adam Rounds** ask for our prayers as Tonja recovers from brain surgery.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

Birthdays in the Congregation

May 2

Adrian Hartsough

May 9

John Bell

May 9

Laney Boyd

May 12

Edna Galle

Pam Mitchell

Care

Deacon Family Groups - 2024

A-Ca	Charles Tuttle	N-Q	Peggy Southard
Ce-Do	Janet Adams	Mc-Mz	Becky May
Dr-F	Diana Schoneweis	R-Si	Linda Longino
G-Ha	Larry Schlosser	SI-T	Russ Heikes
He-Ko	Mary Warren	U-Z	Allen Macfarlane
Kr-Ma	Lois Dutcher		

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Vic & Dianne Sisk, Heather Soper, Cherie Elo

Greeters: Dorothy Devlin

Securing the Offering: Jim Rumsey and Eric Fischer

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Linda Longino

Communion Servers: Jim Rumsey, Henry Johns, Ed Manda, Marilyn Heikes, Jeff Southard, and bobbie frances mcdonald

Flowers: Are provided by Jeff and Peggy Southard in celebration of their 20th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Calendar

May 5

- 9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open
- 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School
- 9:15 am Judeo-Christian Themes in Musical Theater
- 10:30 am Worship

May 6

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 1:15 pm Staff Meeting
- 2:00 pm Lemon Tree Class
- 6:00 pm Pack 3059 Den – Schwaller
- 6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

May 7

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 4:00 pm Adult Ministry Meeting
- 6:00 pm Property Committee Meeting

May 8

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 3:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting
- 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

May 9

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 10:30 am Matthew 25 Cohort
- 11:00 am Family Ministry Meeting

May 10

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Carnival
- 10:00 am Men's Group

May 11

- 9:30 am Justice Matters Research Committee

May 12

- 9:00 am Sunday Nursery Open
- 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School
- 9:15 am Coffee House with Presby Pickers
- 10:30 am Worship

Children and Youth

- We are excited to welcome all children to our Sunday School classes and all events. On Sunday mornings all the children will meet first in the Chapel for music and stories. Then they move to their classrooms for lessons and more. Check at the Welcome Center or come to the Chapel for more information. All children are welcome to join anytime!

Adult Sunday School Classes

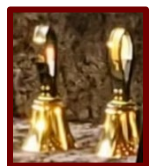
- Paul Laird is leading a Sunday School class entitled "Judeo-Christian Themes in Musical Theater".** Meeting through May 5 in Fellowship Hall.
- On May 12th we present the Presby Pickers!** Make your way to the Chapel around 9:30 am and listen to some music by a group of FPC family and friends sharing their musical talent. It is a new kind of fellowship time!

Adult Offerings coming up soon

- Pastor Helen's Class meets on Mondays at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room**
She is using the book, "Lemon Tree" by Sandy Tolan. This story provides a good foundation of the centuries long conflict between the Israelis and Palestinians and shows how understanding can bring hope and transformation in the Middle East. This week read the Introduction and Chapters 3 and 4 for class.
- The Men's Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room for a time of fellowship (pun intended). Come join the discussion which can cover almost anything! Contact Charles Tuttle for more information at cftuttle@gmail.com

Synod School of Lakes and Prairies – July 21-26 at Buena Vista University, Storm Lake, IA. 78 classes to choose from and there is something for everyone – all ages. Check out this website for lots of information! <https://www.lakesandprairies.org/engaging-leaders/synod-school>. If you need more information from someone who has attended, contact Kathryn Roblee at kathrynroblee@gmail.com

Lawrence Community Handbell Choir presents Music from the Pale Blue Dot – Concerts will be held on Friday, May 17, 7 pm, at Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church in Topeka; Saturday, May 18, 7 pm, at Lawrence First Church of the Nazarene; and Sunday, May 19, 3 pm, at First United Methodist Church of Lawrence.



Save the Date for the PW Rummage Sale in August! Presbyterian Women will hold their Rummage Sale on August 16 and 17. They will be collecting your items August 12 – 15 in Fellowship Hall. Funds from the sale will be used for updating Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!



The First Presbyterian Church

Dear First Presbyterian Church members and friends,

The best-known passage from the book of Ecclesiastes is verse 1 of chapter 3 “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...” The verse continues with all the different ways that our lives go through times of ups and downs, and times of challenges and comfort. It seems at First Presbyterian church we are now in a time of change. We have several staff who have decided it is time for them to move to different settings and we give thanks for their work, dedication and friendship and wish them the best in their new adventures.

Jennifer Jones, First 5 Years Director, has been with the program for 14 years. Her daughter graduated college recently and her son is graduating high school this month. It is a perfect time for her to decide a new step and focus for her life. She has done a wonderful job and we celebrate that First 5 Years is a well-respected program in the community.

We will have a luncheon for Jennifer at the church on May 14th and would like to celebrate her amazing work with this program. Please put that on your calendar and sign up on the Friendship Pad or with the church office. We will order pizza and you are welcome to bring something to share if you like.

We have a search committee in place and will begin the process of looking for our next preschool director. The preschool is almost full for the fall (only two spots open) and so we look forward to continuing with this ministry for children and families in Lawrence.

Angela and David Pérez will be moving to Wichita in July and will finish their work with First Presbyterian Church at the end of June. We have loved the music they have brought and shared with the church and Angela’s leadership with the youth and children. Angela has accepted a position as the choral director in a Wichita high school, and David has accepted a position at a Methodist church in Wichita. David has one more class at KU that he can complete online and has two more recitals to complete his PhD program. They are looking forward to being near to Angela’s parents. We will be looking to get search committees together to fill these positions. We will celebrate their time here on Sunday, June 30, after worship. Please mark your calendar and look for more information at a later date.

No doubt that change is hard. Jennifer, David, and Angela will be missed. They all brought a tremendous amount of energy and creativity to their positions and to our church family. We thank them for their service and wish them only the best in their new ventures.

Grace and Peace,

Helen

PS As you may have seen in the newsletter, our choir section leader and Sunday Sexton, Taylor Zickefoose, was awarded the Bob Marley Center Songwriter Fellowship in Tulsa, OK. She will be leaving the end of May. We thank her for sharing her musical talent with us as well as serving as our Sunday Sexton. We are please to share that Adrian Hartsough will serve in that position for the summer as we search for someone new.

News from the Mission Committee

Matthew 25

Because the world would die without it, we go with God's love.

Save the Date!

Lawrence Pride Parade June 1, 2024

Noon ** Downtown Lawrence

Again, this year we will don our *Presbyterians for Pride* t-shirts and join the joyous parade down Mass Street to show love and support for our LGBTQ+ members and neighbors. We invite you to mark your calendars and join us! We will have a table in the narthex on Sundays June 19th and 26th Stop by to sign up to walk and pick up a custom designed Presbyterian for Pride t-shirt for just \$10.



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

An Opportunity to Express Gratitude for Medicaid Expansion Efforts

Last week the KS Senate voted to move the Medicaid expansion bill (SB355) out of the Public Health and Safety Committee. The motion failed by just 6 votes signaling the end of this year's push for Medicaid Expansion. But we have reasons to be optimistic. More than 900 pieces of written testimony were submitted in support of Medicaid expansion and thousands of supportive emails and postcards were delivered to lawmakers. The pressure we placed on legislators resulted in hearings in both the House and Senate and our combined voice was loud enough to force a conversation that had been avoided for years. Hopefully momentum will continue to grow, and lawmakers will hold a full and transparent debate and pass Medicaid expansion in the 2025 session.

Please consider sending an **email thanking the Republican Senators who voted yes to move the bill out of committee**. Their names and email addresses are listed below. Many of them experienced significant pressure from their party to vote against the motion. We want them to know how much it was appreciated. Please thank the amazing Democratic senators who supported and pushed for the bill.

R- Rick.Billinger@senate.ks.gov

R- Elaine.Bowers@senate.ks.gov

R- Ethan.Corson@senate.ks.gov

R- Brenda.Dietrich@senate.ks.gov

R- John.Doll@senate.ks.gov

R- Carolyn.McGinn@senate.ks.gov

R- Rob.Olson@senate.ks.gov

R- Kristen.OShea@senate.ks.gov

D- Oletha.Faust-Goudeau@senate.ks.gov

D- Marci.Francisco@senate.ks.gov

D- Tom.Holland@senate.ks.gov

D- Cindy.Holscher@senate.ks.gov

D- Jeff.Longbine@senate.ks.gov

D- Pat.Petty@senate.ks.gov

D- Jeff.Pittman@senate.ks.gov

D- Usha.Reddi@senate.ks.gov

D- Dinah.Sykes@senate.ks.gov

D- Mary.Ware@senate.ks.gov

The EcoTeam of First Presbyterian Church invites you to attend an EcoTrek, today, Sunday, May 5, beginning at 4:00 at the Nature Center at Prairie Park. Ken Lassman will be our "guide". He is the author of *Seasons and Cycles: Rhythms of Life in the Kansas River Basin* in 1985, *Wild Douglas County* in 2007, and curator of www.kawvalleyalmanac.com. He posts weekly in the Lawrence Times nature updates. This is a "family friendly" trek. Also, if interested, bring a snack to eat at the end of our trek.

The EcoTeam Pollinator Garden

May is the month for planting the pollinator garden located in the southeast corner of FPC. If you are interested in learning more about attracting Monarchs and other pollinators to your lawn and garden, join the EcoTeam in planting on Saturday, May 11 at 9:30 am. Plants will be purchased from Monarch Watch (<https://monarchwatch.org/openhouse/>) during their annual fundraiser. A variety of plants are needed to attract and maintain a habitat for pollinators. As an Earth Care Congregation, FPC has maintained our garden for over 10 years with hopes that the Monarch population might benefit from these efforts. Bring a trowel, if you have one, along with your sunscreen and water and help us open FPC's pollinator garden. Bring a friend too!

Family Promise of Lawrence

We at FPC have just completed our host week with Connect Church for Family Promise. Twenty volunteers provided food, gift cards, and hospitality to the families at Grace House and to those in other programs. Thank you to those who helped and to our FPC Youth Group who baked cookies and brownies for these families. Everything is very much appreciated!!! Thank you for all of the support and compassion for the families in Family Promise from our FPC congregation. Our next host week is July 7th - 13th.



In the meantime, we are forming an **FPC Run/Walk team for the Family Promise 5K Home Run on Memorial Day, May 27th**. Team members can participate in three different ways: 1) Walk/Run with other Walkers/Runners on May 27th, at South Park; 2) run/walk on your own -- or with a friend or family member sometime the week prior to May 27th; 3) walk with a group on Sunday afternoon, the 26th.

Someone will be in the Narthex on April 28th -- and on succeeding Sundays -- to sign-up those wanting to join our team. That person will also receive financial donations from the congregation on those Sundays. Last year we had 13 members on our team and significant financial support from the general congregation! **WE HOPE TO HAVE A TEAM OF 15+ PEOPLE THIS YEAR!** Look for us in the Narthex and get on the **TEAM** or leave a donation to show your support! **GO FPC!** Lois Dutcher, coordinator

Deacons

The Love Fund is one way the Deacons reach out to our friends and family who may be experiencing a hard time. In April your gifts provided over \$600 in assistance for rent and utilities. May can be an expensive month with graduations, school events and the need to plan for summer care for children. Seasonal jobs can be ending or perhaps beginning, both of which create extra expenses. Please consider a gift to our Deacon Love Fund today. Thank you!

First 5 Years

Friday, May 3, is the **annual Art Show and Book Fair** for our preschoolers. You are welcome to come shop for Scholastic books for our littlest friends. Also great options for young grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The Art Show offers a look at the young talent we have here in First 5 Years as well as the creativity of our staff. Join the event on Friday, May 3rd at 5:30 in Fellowship Hall or take a stroll through some of the displays on Sunday morning on the South side of the hall. You might be amazed!

Summer Sermon Series

National Parks are the **topics** each Sunday. Helen will talk about sharing, caring for, and the gifts of many of our National Parks. Yellowstone was the first established national park and a great place to start the series on June 2nd. She will include in the weeks following Denali, Great Basin, Zion, White Sands, Mount Rainier, Grand Canyon and Redwood National Parks. Have you visited any of them? Did you have a moment of awe? Or maybe more than one? Come find out what we can learn about these gifts from God and what their messages to us might be if we just pay attention.



Calendar & Info for Sunday School

Children ages Pre-K through 5th grade & Youth SS Class

May
19

Final Sunday School Class Teacher Recognition

Calendar & Info for Youth Group

Youth ages 6th grade - 12th grade

May
19

Youth Group End of Year Bash 5:30pm-7:00pm



The Youth of FPC
and our volunteers
enjoyed a fun (but
rainy!) day at the
ballpark last
Sunday!

Rock Chalk!