



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

April 5, 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 Children gather for fun and adventure in Room 14 at 9:15 am. Everyone is welcome to be a part of the fun!

Youth Activities

- **Breakfast on Easter Sunday** – FPC Youth will host breakfast on Easter Sunday beginning at 9:30 am. This is a biscuits and gravy fundraiser for the Youth. Your donation will help fund Youth Group activities. Come have a great breakfast before the Easter Worship

Adult and Youth Sunday School – No class on Easter Sunday

- **On April 12 join us for *Regenerative Agriculture in Douglas County*** - On Sunday, April 12 in the Fireside Room **Margit Kaltenecker**, Douglas County Agriculture Agent, will describe regenerative farming practices, including how soil health is improved, biodiversity increases, and why nature can heal and strengthen the land for future generations. This is a great time to learn how to get ready for the gardening season. This was the presentation that we missed during the Earth Care Forum due to snow and cold in February.
- **Beginning April 19** – **Christianity in the Americas and Europe during the Reformation**. This class will be led by Paul Laird. We will meet in the Fireside Room for three weeks.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class is meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We are currently studying the history of religion in the US. This is a class Helen taught at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M college. We will survey the history of religion in America and its impact on social reform, politics and intellectual life. It will offer an opportunity to study the religions of the world and the influence faith and religion have exercised in American history. Everyone is welcome!

Confirmation Class Open to all youth 6 to 12 grades. The group will meet with Pastor Helen on Sunday, April 12th from 4-6 pm to learn about what it means to be a Presbyterian. If they choose to join First Presbyterian Church, they will meet with a few of the Elders on Thursday, April 16 from 5-7 pm. Then they will be confirmed on Sunday, April 26th during worship. Contact Kelly Grube at 785-979-2713 for more information.

Mission News and Opportunities

Some Good News from the Family Promise March Newsletter

Celebrating Current Successes:

- All adults at Mt Hope are employed
- Family of three submitting housing application for permanent housing
- Family of four found childcare for all three of the children that they can attend together
- After a year of having no car, a family of three was able to build enough savings to buy a car debt free!
- A family of four received their second check from the Savings Match program! They used the funds to pay ahead on their rent and vehicle payments!
- Three Diversion families signed a lease for permanent housing, market rent!

God is Good! Thank you for your support FPC! Lois Dutcher, coordinator

FPC Community Garden News Lettuce and spinach seed were planted a few weeks ago. They are plants that tolerate cooler weather. I am not sure if they are tolerating this yo-yo weather, but we'll find out. I do not usually plant potatoes, but this garden is for Just Food. I got the seed potatoes from Cottins Hardware.

For more information on how to plant and care for each crop, visit the [Kansas Garden Guide](https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/kansas-garden-guide_S51.pdf) https://bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/kansas-garden-guide_S51.pdf

Please sign up in the narthex to help bring fresh produce from your home garden to donate to Just Food.

Upcoming Mission Events

- **On Saturday, April 11 at 1:30 PM**, FPC will be hosting a Spring Tea Party and Crafternoon at the Presbyterian Manor! We will lead residents in decorating flowerpots and planting their own flowers to welcome the spring season. Sign up to help at this event using the sign-up sheets in the Narthex starting this Sunday.
 - In preparation for the Spring Tea Party event at the Manor, Claire is looking for donations of 3–5-inch flowerpots. Please drop off any pots you may have lying around your house by Friday, April 10. Bring donations to the office. Thank you!
- Since the LINK serving calendar is full until late May, we will be cooking casseroles to donate to the LINK kitchen in the meantime! On Sunday, April 19 during the Sunday School hour (9:00-10:00 AM), we will meet in the kitchen to assemble the casseroles. Feel free to drop in during this time! In preparation, we will be collecting ingredient donations for the casserole. Check the list in the Narthex and bring the items to church on April 19!

Come celebrate the support of Haskell Indian Nations University by FPC and others. The Haskell Indian Nations Family/Friends network has approved a grant proposal from The Indian Leader, HINU's student newspaper, **A presentation of the check will be Wednesday, April 8, 6:15 pm in the Haskell Library.** First Presbyterian Church has seen this as another way to advocate for and educate about HINU. Several FPC members are members of the network, contributing to grant support and also serve in leadership of the HINU Steering Team.

Family Promise is inviting us to volunteer with them for **Family Promise of Lawrence's Ikea Build Days**, happening **April 20–24**. Thanks to a generous Ikea grant award, they have the opportunity to fully furnish and set up one of the Family Promise houses, creating a warm, functional, and dignified space for the next family moving in. Primary work will take place April 20–23, with April 24 reserved for finishing touches and a small celebration.

There will be two four-hour shifts to choose from each day:

- **9:00 AM–1:00 PM**
- **1:00–5:00 PM**

All tools and supplies will be provided — volunteers do **not** need to bring anything. If you'd like to join us, please sign up using the link below:

🔗 **Volunteer Form:** <https://wkf.ms/4d5mD2g>

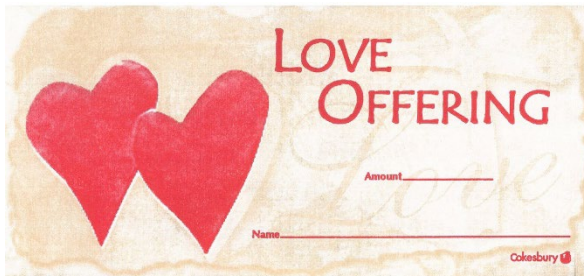
Once you sign up, you'll receive a confirmation email with details about parking, check-in, and your shift assignment as the dates get near. Thank you for helping us transform this house into a welcoming home. Your time and energy directly support families on their journey toward stability and belonging.

The PW Spring Gathering & Catered Luncheon is Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 11:30 am to 2:00 pm in the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall.

Mary Kaye Chandler will give the program "Precious Antiques". PW Executive Board will host the event. Please RSVP to Rachel Lindbloom at 785-865-8987 or rlindblo@yahoo.com, or add your name to the reservation list on the PW Bulletin Board or on the signup sheet in the Narthex or the church Friendship Pad on Sunday, with your name and guests you plan to bring. Don't miss this great program! **All ladies of the church and their friends and guests are invited!**

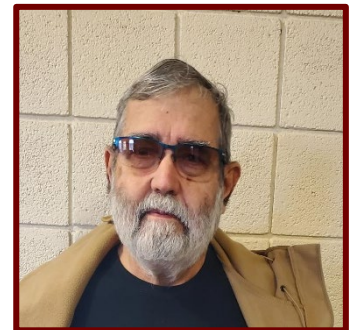


The Deacon Love Fund has been busy in March. Your gifts provided help with rent, utility bills, and one



case of providing funds for a certified birth certificate – requests that might increase depending on what our Legislature does with the SAVE Act. Your gifts of over \$1300.00 helped 10 individuals or families cover their bills so they can remain safe and sheltered. There has been a lot of illness the past month or so, which is causing people to have to choose between medicine and rent or food or utilities. Thank you for your support of this fund and your outreach to our neighbors in need.

Welcome to our new member, Richard Borton. Richard joined the church on March 10, 2026, with Session approval. He is a neighbor and walks to church but originally attended FPC while he was in grad school at KU after serving overseas in the Air Force. During that time, he also helped with the Cub Scout Pack 3059 here at FPC. Richard is part of the Men's Group that meets on Friday mornings. Richard can be found at 2125 Clinton Parkway – 785-550-7127 – borton.richard@gmail.com. He will join Dorothy Devlin's Deacon Group. Please say hello and introduce yourself when you see Richard on Sunday morning!



Happy Easter!



2026 Easter Lilies Contributors

Thank you to all who contributed this Easter season
in honor or memory of family and loved ones.

In Honor or Memory of:

Robert B. Longino
Clarice Loudon
Walter Loudon

Jeff Flottman

Ron Tucker

Loved Ones

Mike Kline

Sally Corrier

Westminster Ringers

Our Parents

The Steger Family

David Hutchison

Stan Roth

Dave Livingood

Our Grandchildren

Bob Givens

Our Parents

Allegra Dalton and Sarah Trulove

Given by:

Bob and Linda Longino

Vernis and Larry Flottman

Carroll Tucker, Brenda and Shelli

Nicole Barcomb

His Family

Pat and Bob Bates

Carol Fleeger

Charles and Jennifer Tuttle

Dennis and Susan Palmer

Helen Hutchison

Janet Roth

Peg, Callie and Family

Vic and Dianne Sisk

Jean Givens

Rhonda Givens Felix

Carol and Dave Kyner

Jim Woelfel