



First Presbyterian Church

First Press

Weekly Newsletter

May 11, 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 Kathy Hodges, First 5 Years teacher, on the death of her father, Wilfred "Bud" Walz, on May 5th. Services were held in Michigan on Friday.
- Prayers of gratitude that Dr. David Hutchison, Pastor Helen's father, is now back home and doing well. He will continue to rehab but is happy to be back home.
- Kelly Grube is recovering well from two surgeries she had in April at the Mayo Clinic. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.
- Prayers for Myron Shipley as he receives treatment for cancer.
- 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.

- First 5 Years teacher, Lisa Marie Benke, asks for prayers for her husband, Russell, who was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- Ruthanne Stucky, mother of Alisa Stucky is grateful to be doing well in the treatment of her cancer. Thanks for all your prayers for her health.
- Alisa Stucky is recovering from a ruptured Achilles and appreciates healing prayers.
- 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.
- Liz Cloutman is receiving treatment for breast cancer.
- Susan and Pat - dealing with health concerns.
- 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, is facing serious health challenges.
- Prayer for our pastor and church leaders, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.

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		

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Martha Rose, Cherie Elo, Marin Hoover

Greeters: Pearl Hoover

South Door Greeter: Jan Poulsen

Offering: Cherie Elo and Ed Manda

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Margie Dyck

Birthdays in the Congregation

May 12	Edna Galle	May 14	Leah Pringle
	Pam Mitchell		Shane Hofer
May 13	Kaprelle Bradley	May 18	Paxton Christenson

Calendar

May 11	9:15 am	Youth Sunday School
	9:15 am	Children Sunday School
	9:15 am	Income Inequality and the Bible
	10:30 am	Worship
May 12	1:15 pm	Staff meeting
	2:00 pm	Pastor Helen Class
	3:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
	6:00 pm	Cub Scout Den – Schwaller

6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal	
May 13	6:00 pm	Session Meeting
	7:00 pm	Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting
May 14	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
May 15	2:00 pm	Parkinson's Support Group
May 16	10:00 am	Men's Group
May 18	9:15 am	Children Sunday School
	9:15 am	Income Inequality and the Bible
	10:30 am	Worship
	3:00 pm	Evan Flynn violin Studio Recital
	3:30 pm	Daisy Troop 5621

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 18** – Celebrate belonging at Church at the Lake – 5:30 pm at Overlook Park Shelter #1
- **May 31** – We are serving tacos at LINK! Sign up to bring food, serve food, or both. This is open to anyone 13 and older interested in helping. (Those 12 and under need to bring their adult friend in order to help.) Watch for sign up sheets in the Narthex.

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **“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. Class meets through May 18th in the Fireside Room.

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 May 5th we will talk about the prophet Micah. The class meets at 2 pm in the Fireside Room.

Community Opportunities

Container Gardening for your patio or balcony – Our FPC Community Gardeners are hosting an Extension Master Gardener on Saturday, May 10 at 2:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. The talk will include how to make a sub-irrigation pot for growing vegetables, flowers, or herbs on a balcony or patio. FPC garden volunteers, beginning gardeners, and gardeners-to-be are all welcome. This talk will help FPC support home gardens in limited spaces. First 5 Years will also be a recipient of some containers later in May. **Join us on Saturday!**

Hello FPC walkers and runners! The 5K Home Run 2025 to benefit Family Promise of Lawrence is on May 26th starting in South Park! Virtual participants are welcome. Keep track of your mileage over the week to total a 5K or 3.1 miles. You can sign up in the Narthex on Sundays May 11th and May 18. If you are not a walker or runner, you can still support our FPC team in the Narthex on Sundays! Last year we had 23 team members; can we equal that number this year? Go Team! Lois Dutcher

Finance Report

April	Budget	Actual
Membership Gifts – April	\$ 39,038	\$ 32,696
Membership Gifts – 2025 – YTD	\$ 172,817	\$ 207,040

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")



Solar Panels at FPC

Progress is being made and we will begin to see the work begin on May 27th! 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 by borrowing money from our Endowment Fund that we will pay back with interest. Together we can make solar power our primary source of energy at FPC!



FPC Church at the Lake – Spring Edition - Sunday, May 18th at 5:30 pm. A celebration of belonging in honor of our newly confirmed members. Hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish to share. To limit our environmental impact please bring your reusable dishes, silverware and cups if possible. Bring your lawn games and a friend to "Church at the Lake". We will gather at Overlook Park at Clinton Lake in Shelter #1. From the church take Clinton Parkway to E 900 Road and turn right, turn left onto N.1402 Road and follow that to the Shelter.

Please RSVP on the table in the Narthex so we have enough hot dogs for everyone!

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.

Summer Choir starts in June – are you in? This is a great opportunity for folks who love to sing, but can't make the weekly commitment to rehearse on Wednesday. Adrian is looking for folks to come to a 9:30 am rehearsal on Sunday to learn a piece of music for that day. So come when you can, as often as your summer schedule allows, and we will have a summer choir! Watch for the start date coming soon!



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.

The Justice Matters Nehemiah Action Assembly Monday evening at the DoubleTree updated over 600 folks about justice actions this year. The event brought together hundreds of residents and included a pledge from city and state officials to work together to create a process to solve issues stemming from childhood trauma and gave an update on some of Justice Matters' other initiatives, like increasing elder care workforce and ending chronic homelessness. I want to thank the FPC contingent: Melinda and Chris Fischer, Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, Annette Camlin and her son, Carol Kyner, Charles and Jennifer Tuttle, Robert Mugridge, Julie Simon, Thad Holcombe, Brett and Sondra Groene, Martha Rose and Anna Shouse. We stood for systemic change in Lawrence/Douglas County.

First 5 Years is wrapping up their school year. It has been busy and full of learning opportunities for the children. Here are some of the highlights from the year. Congratulations to our graduates! Best wishes to everyone advancing to Kindergarten – may your education journey be as successful as your year(s) at First 5!

