



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

March 29, 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!

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- **Lenten Study** - Pastor Helen is offering a Lenten Study on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am in the Fireside Room. The class is called *The Grace of Les Misérables*. We will focus on the story of Victor Hugo's book and subsequent movies and musicals which challenge us to wrestle with the nature of grace, the fault of unwavering justice, the tragedy of poverty, the victory of love, the struggle for justice and ultimately hope.

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. If you can volunteer supplies or help, please contact Kelly at 785-979-2713. See you there!
- **LINK is in need of metal forks.** If you have extras from that old set or run across some at a sale, please consider donating them to the FPC Youth or directly to LINK. Thank you.

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.



Welcome to our new Office Assistant! **Rebecca** has joined the staff as our Office Assistant. She will be working Monday through Friday from 10 am to 2 pm. She comes to us with many qualifications, but especially as a mom of five looking for a position that allows her to work, as well as, have the time she needs to focus on her family. Come by the office and say hello. She is learning who we are, so please be sure to say your name the first few times you encounter her. We are fortunate to have her as part of the team!

All Church Work Day is March 28 - The Property Committee would like your assistance to spruce up the church especially for our Easter Guests. We will be polishing the brass, vacuuming the Sanctuary seat cushions, and polishing the wood in the Sanctuary. We will be clearing out some spaces in the stairwell and the basement. The Boy Scouts will join us to work on cleaning up outside – trimming, picking up sticks, cleaning up the playground fence, spreading mulch on the flower beds and weeding as needed. There is something for everyone and we need everyone to help us get it done. Join us on Saturday, March 28th from 9 to noon. Tools and supplies will be provided – or bring your own if you like.

A graphic with a dark red border. On the left, text reads: "You are invited to the All Church Work Day March 28 9 to 12". On the right, there are three images: a hand in a pink glove cleaning a surface with a white cloth that has the word "clean" written on it; a person in a yellow shirt and yellow gloves holding a black trash bag; and a view of the church sanctuary with wooden pews and a altar area.



Sign up for an Easter Lily on Sunday. Help us make the Sanctuary beautiful on Easter morning by providing an Easter Lily on the chancel steps. Order forms will be available on the table in the Narthex. Fill out the form and leave it in the offering plate or in the basket on the table. Please let us know who we are offering the flower in memory of or in honor of for the list that will be included on Easter Sunday.

Grieving Together – This group of First Presbyterian friends are gathering to help each other work through the loss of a significant person in their lives (recently or years ago). If this describes you we hope you will come to share your experiences moving through grief. Or come to learn from others as they navigate the process. We are meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 10:30 am in the Library. You are welcome to come to every meeting or as often and as long as the group meets your needs. Grieving alone can be lonely and hard to manage. Friends and family mean well, but might not be quite the right people to share your grieving process as they might be dealing with their own at the same time. Come see if this group is the right one for you on **Wednesday, April 1st at 10:30 am**. Want to get more information? Contact Peg Livingood at livingoods54@gmail.com.

Matthew 25

Statement of Witness

The current administration's decisions on immigrants prompted members of our congregation to discuss making a statement calling on us to be faithful disciples of Christ. These discussions led to the decision to create a formal *Statement of Witness* that declares our commitment to assist our neighbors as they resist actions that we consider contrary to the teachings of Christ. A committee comprised of Elders and members created the two-page statement that was endorsed by Session. It outlines 24 specific actions antithetical to our beliefs. The document defines how we as a congregation will respond and commit resources to activities occurring in our community. Therefore, it is important that all of our members review the statement and provide input.

This Sunday, March 29th committee members will be available in the library after Worship to listen to concerns, answer questions, and discuss how best to implement the statement.

We, the people of First Presbyterian Church of Lawrence, KS, will not remain silent. We are called by our humanity, and the God in whom we place our faith and trust, to raise our voices in witness and denounce as immoral, those forces within our government that are taking actions and imposing policies that are antithetical to our values.

Our witness is grounded in the prophets of ancient Israel and the ministry of Jesus. The prophets called out the rulers of the nation for their corruption, greed, and injustice toward those most in need in their society. The prophet Micah summed up the prophets' message: "*God has showed you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*" (6:8) Jesus continued the prophetic tradition. His ministry embraced those considered sinners and religious outcasts. He drew a contrast between the Kingdom of God and the kingdoms of this world and was crucified because he disturbed the current political and religious order. Jesus called us to be a light to the world (Matt. 5:14) and a light that shines even in the darkness (John 1:5).

To read the complete statement please go to:

https://www.firstpreslawrence.org/files/ugd/873495_576ad55f344543a6a8c0a1e918103dea.pdf

Opportunity for Witness! This **Saturday, March 28**, FPC members can join thousands across the country for the "**No Kings**" National Day of Protest. We are gathering to use our collective voice to witness against current administrative actions and stand up as disciples of Jesus Christ.

📍 **Where:** North side of the train engine (Watson Park, 727 Kentucky St.)

🕒 **FPC Meet-up:** 2:45 PM

🚶 **Action:** Lining up along 6th Street at 4:00 PM

Bring your signs, your spirit, and your commitment to nonviolence. Let's show up for our neighbors and our democracy.



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

Adult Education Offers 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. Good information for small gardens or large farms!

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.

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!**



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!



Palm Sunday – Join us on March 29 to begin Holy Week. We will have palms for those who would like to wave them as they enter the Sanctuary and remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem singing Hosana!

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal and Communion – On Thursday, April 2, at 5:30 pm, we will gather in Fellowship Hall to learn about the Jewish Seder Meal that was served to the Disciples at the Last Supper. How does this beautiful Jewish celebration of liberation connect with our Christian beliefs? At the end of the (mostly) symbolic meal we will share a pot-luck dinner, so please bring a dish to serve 8 to 10 people. Bring a friend because everyone is welcome to join us at FPC!



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