



# First Press

Weekly Newsletter

April 12, 2026

First Presbyterian Church

## Our Pastor

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Email: [helen@firstpreslawrence.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

- **Confirmation Class** Open to all youth 6 to 12 grades. The group will meet with Pastor Helen on Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> during worship. Contact Kelly Grube at 785-979-2713 for more information.

## 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!

**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. We are currently using "Lament" from the PCUSA Follow Me curriculum to provide us a Biblical perspective for grieving. We are meeting on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 10:30 am in the Library. Come see if this group and the study is the right one for you on Wednesday, April 15th at 10:30 am. Want to get more information? Contact Peg Livingood at [livingoods54@gmail.com](mailto:livingoods54@gmail.com).

**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.**

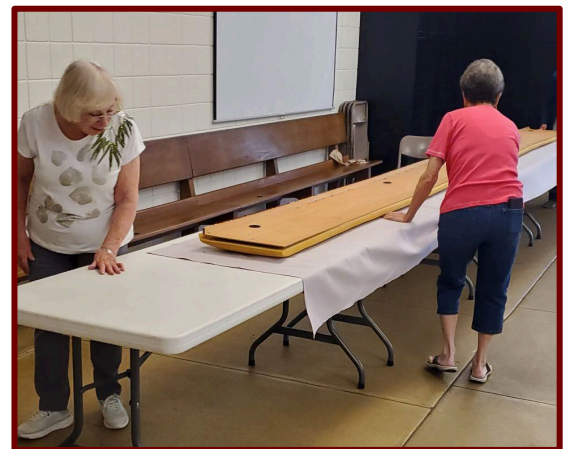
Mary Kaye Chandler will give the program "Precious Antiques". PW Executive Board will host the event. Please RSVP to Rachel Lindbloom at 785-865-8987 or [rlindblo@yahoo.com](mailto:rlindblo@yahoo.com), or add your name to the reservation list on the PW Bulletin Board or on the signup sheet in the Narthex 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!



**Many thanks to our Presbyterian Women!**

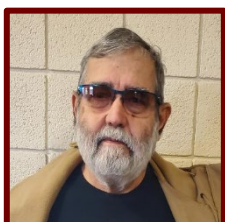
Several members of PW came to the church and made new tablecloths for us to use in Fellowship Hall. They are wonderful and will match!

Other members have reupholstered four pews in the Sanctuary and one in the Narthex. They are wonderful and look so much better.



We are so fortunate to have such talented members of FPC who are willing to share those skills with us.

**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. You can connect with Richard at 785-550-7127 or [borton.richard@gmail.com](mailto: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!



## Mission News and Opportunities

### 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!

**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.

**Gardening Tips from the Community Gardeners** - Kansas temperatures have ranged wildly this month, from lows across the state in the single digits and teens on March 16th, to highs in the mid-90's just four days later, on March 21st. While each of these temperature extremes poses its own challenge, the extreme back and forth has likely caused freeze injury to plants in your area. Unseasonably warm winter temperatures have encouraged many plants to emerge from dormancy earlier than normal this year. These warmer temperatures reduce the cold tolerance of plants as spring growth begins, increasing the severity of frost and freeze damage. Once spring begins, most plants will receive noticeable frost or freeze injury when temperatures dip below mid-20's.

For all plants suffering from freeze or frost injury:

1. Wait and allow adequate time for plants to recover before conducting heavy pruning or removal. Most plants will recover, but they may take more time than usual to leaf back out.
2. Provide a deep watering to reduce drought stress on the plant. Make sure to provide moisture 6-12 inches deep to support plant roots. Often this is accomplished by spring rainfall, but supplemental water may be needed in periods of drought or light rain.
3. Wait to fertilize until the normal time of year for each plant. Too much fertilization early in the season may only push plants to produce new growth which will be very susceptible to additional frosts and freezes.
4. Leave leaf debris in flowerbeds, including mushy leaves damaged in recent freezing weather. These leaves and recently damaged plant tissue will provide some insulation for perennial plants that may still experience upcoming spring frosts and freezes. If a lack of cover exists in your flowerbed, use mulch to insulate plants.
5. Provide regular care throughout the growing season to help plants replenish the energy used to produce secondary flushes of growth



## 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:**

### **Given by:**

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Robert B. Longino  
Clarice Loudon  
Walter Loudon

Bob and Linda Longino

Jeff Flottman

Vernis and Larry Flottman

Ron Tucker

Carroll Tucker, Brenda and Shelli

Loved Ones

Nicole Barcomb

Mike Kline

His Family

Sally Corrier

Pat and Bob Bates

Westminster Ringers

Carol Fleeger

Our Parents

Charles and Jennifer Tuttle

The Steger Family

Dennis and Susan Palmer

David Hutchison

Helen Hutchison

Stan Roth

Janet Roth

Dave Livingood

Peg, Callie and Family

Our Grandchildren

Vic and Dianne Sisk

Bob Givens

Jean Givens  
Rhonda Givens Felix

Our Parents

Carol and Dave Kyner

Allegra Dalton and Sarah Trulove

Jim Woelfel