



# First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

April 28, 2024

## 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 [firstpreslawrence@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreslawrence@gmail.com)** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you.

## Prayers

### *Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations*

- **Jean Givens** is home following hospitalization for life threatening high fever and infection. She is receiving daily treatment and care. Her daughter is with her now.
- **Joann Wiley** died on April 19 at Monterey Village. Services will be held in Lakin, KS at a later date.
- **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. Prayers for strength and patience.
- **Tom Groene** is hospitalized at LMH.
- **Beckie Lewis** is at home healing broken ribs.
- **Steve Rauch, father of Holly Oertel**, suffered a heart attack while the family was in Tulsa, OK. He had open heart surgery to repair damage and is recovering in Tulsa.

- **Barbara Knops**, daughter of DeeDee and Guy Dresser, is home and continuing her recovery. Many thanks for your prayers.
- **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. The MRI showed that they removed all the tumor, and we are grateful for that good news!
- **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

April 29

Allen Macfarlane  
Catherine Norwood  
Emma Norwood  
Megan Derby

May 4

John Bell

## 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	Sl-T	Russ Heikes
He-Ko	Mary Warren	U-Z	Allen Macfarlane
Kr-Ma	Lois Dutcher		

## Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Jan Poulson

Greeters: Cherie and Pearl Hoover & Claire Lindemyer

Securing the Offering: b-f mcdonald

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Mugger: Margie Dyck

Flowers: Are provided by the Property Committee

## Calendar

### April 28

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
11:30 am	Presby Pickers Rehearsal
11:30 am	Youth Lunch
12:45 pm	Youth to KU Baseball Game

### April 29

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

### April 30

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes

### May 1

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

### May 2

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes

### May 3

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
10:00 am	Men's Group
5:30 pm	First 5 Years Art Show and Book Fair

### May 4

3:00 pm	Liora McCoy Recital
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### 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

## 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!
- **Youth Group on April 28 is a KU Baseball Game!** KU offered tickets and we accepted. Come cheer for the Jayhawks vs. Texas Tech. We will have lunch at the church and then head to KU for the 1:00 pm game.

## Adult Sunday School Classes

- **Join Paul Laird who is teaching a Sunday School class entitled "Judeo-Christian Themes in Musical Theater".** Meeting through May 5, we will consider the following shows: *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Joseph*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Godspell*, and *Children of Eden*. Please come and see how Broadway creators have dealt with some of the important stories of our faith.

## 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 1 and 2 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

## News from the Mission Committee

### Matthew 25

**PC(USA) delegation begins to right a historic wrong in Juneau, Alaska.** The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Lawrence urged the Presbytery of Northern Kansas to support an overture to the General Assembly with was ultimately approved to admit our responsibility for the racist closure of a church in Juneau, Alaska in 1963. In a very moving video that includes an admission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) taking responsibility. This action and our support of it speaks to our commitment to being a Matthew 25 Congregation and understanding that an apology needs reparation. You can access the video here. <https://vimeo.com/925163765>

Thad Holcombe wants to recognize the Rev. Phil Campbell. He was the pastor of Presbyterian/United Methodist Church in Juneau, Alaska. He contacted Thad since they had both been campus ministers at University of Tulsa and he asked if it was possible for the Presbytery of Northern Kansas to join in support of an overture.

Again, thanks to the FPC Session and the Presbytery of Northern Kansas for taking an action that supported the approval of the overture.

### Justice Matters Updates:

- You are invited to the Action Assembly Sunday, **April 28, 3-4:30 pm at the Lied Center**. There is no charge, but you will need a ticket to attend. Please check at the Narthex table for tickets.
- The Action Assembly is a way to come together for justice as a community. Your participation matters and is needed as a part of our community. Bring a friend, your family, a neighbor, your children!
- There will be updates from our initiatives:
  - Drafting the "A Place for Everyone" plan to end chronic homelessness.
  - Increasing staffing for quality care for our senior citizens.
- Remember what we have accomplished:
  - The Affordable Housing Trust Fund with over 800 units created to date.
  - No jail expansion while pushing for Criminal Justice Reform.
  - The Mental Health Treatment and Recovery Center was built and is operational.
  - Restorative Practice Teams in every school AND there is a three-year funding source.

**The EcoTeam of First Presbyterian Church** invites you to attend an EcoTrek, 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](http://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.

### 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

## Calendar & Info for Sunday School

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

**Apr  
28**

**Children's Sunday School  
Service Project**

**May  
19**

**Final Sunday School Class  
Teacher Recognition**

## Calendar & Info for Youth Group

Youth ages 6th grade - 12th grade

**Apr  
28**

**KU Baseball Game**  
Lunch after church / Game @ 1pm

**May  
19**

**Youth Group  
End of Year Bash**

Contact CE Coordinator & Youth Director Angela Pérez for more info  
[angela@firstpreslawrence.org](mailto:angela@firstpreslawrence.org)