



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

July 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**

- Kick-off for fall classes will be on August 9th so mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- **Adult Classes will resume on August 16th**. In the meantime, check out the options available this summer during the week! See notes below.

Summer Sermon Series We are going to be spending the summer with the Psalter. The Psalms will guide our worship this summer as we look to the ways the psalms speak about our experiences and emotions.

Pastor Helen's Monday Class is taking a break while Pastor Helen is on vacation. We will resume our meetings on Monday, August 3rd. at 2 pm in the Fireside Room.

Our Summer Choir will sing again on July 12. Everyone – youth and adults are welcome to come to the rehearsal beginning at 9:30 in the Sanctuary to learn the music for the morning and then sing together during worship. This is perfect for the singers out there who have conflicts with a weekly rehearsal time or who just want to share their voices for the summer. Questions to Adrian Hartsough on Sunday morning or to Adrian@firstpreslawrence.org.

Summer Education Opportunity: Historical Perspectives on Indigenous Boarding Schools

The Matthew 25 cohort has been looking over the surveys many of you submitted several months ago asking about your knowledge and interaction of Haskell Indian Nations University and your wishes to be allies to the Indigenous people in our community. We have come up with several plans, beginning with the request that we need to better educate ourselves about indigenous history and treatment by governmental policies. We are starting with a book study using the book Education for Extinction: American Indians and the Boarding School Experience, 1875–1928 May 29, 2020 by David Wallace Adams (Author) **The class will take a break** while Pastor Helen is on vacation. We will resume to discuss Part 2 on July 15. All are welcome.

The Youth are collecting items that help others. You can help too!

Homeless Resource Center *Lawrence Community Shelter*



Single Serve Snacks
These will be given to guests at the Center.

New or gently used socks!

Ushers **Needed!**



& Greeters

Sign up at the table in the Narthex!

For our next project we will be looking for donations of single serving snacks to share with the guests of the Homeless Resource Center AND new or gently used adult sized socks for the Lawrence Community Shelter. Questions? Call Kelly Grube at 785-979-2713. We are expanding our donation requests to include gently used card and board games for more options to share with our LINK guests.

We are looking for volunteers to help on a Sunday morning from time to time as **ushers and greeters**. Plan to arrive a bit early, help folks who might be unfamiliar with our building find their way around, greet everyone, hand out bulletins, help find nametags, assist with seating, take a “head count” for the office staff, and meet some wonderful folks! If you can help please **sign up on the sheets in the Narthex**. Thank you.

Family Promise – It takes a lot of courage to accept help when you need it and it takes many folks to make the families feel welcome and have all the things they need during their stay at Hope House. We want to help with that by making appreciation gifts, thank you cards and welcome items for incoming families.

Sign up in the Narthex to join us on Sunday, July 12 at 9:00 to make some creations for these families. It will make you feel good!



family promise welcome gift project

Sunday, July 12 during the Sunday School hour (9:00-10:30 AM)

Join us during the Sunday School hour to create simple appreciation gifts, thank-you cards, and welcome items for Family Promise families, volunteers, and donors.

Updates are happening this summer at FPC!



We have new carpet in the choir loft! The risers were covered in a temporary cover several years ago. We now have a real carpet covering and it looks great! Thanks to the Presbyterian Women and the project leadership of Mary Kay Stephens.

Please excuse our mess! The Presbyterian Women are updating the women's restroom at the south end of the building. This week they painted and it is much brighter! The restroom is open for you to use, but some of the receptacles have been taken down during the remodel. We have all you need, just look around for it when you go in! Thank you for your patience as we make it better for everyone! New flooring and stalls are coming soon! There are other restrooms available at the north end of the building or in the basement.



Finance Committee reminders:

- **Have you paid your per capita yet?** One of the features of the PCUSA is the per capita (Latin for "per head") contribution. Currently at \$42, it's an annual amount that helps fund the General Assembly office in Louisville, the Synod of Mid-America in Kansas City, and the Presbytery of Northern Kansas in Salina. While the church's budget contains a line item to pay each member's per capita, when individuals make a separate donation, it frees up money for other purposes such as the Deacon's fund, mission donations or improvements to the church's building. Please consider paying yours today!
- **Summer Giving** – Summertime can get busy and routines interrupted, but the costs to run the church just keep coming! If you can we would appreciate everyone keeping up with their pledges over the summer and if you are able additional gifts are especially appreciated during this time of year.

Are You Prepared to Vote?

The August 4th primary includes an amendment that changes the selection of Supreme Court justices from the 70-year-old merit-based vetting system to an open general election. This amendment if passed, will fundamentally change the Supreme Court in Kansas. Beginning this Sunday, visit the Matthew 25 table to prepare to yourself to participate in this very important election. We will have information about the Amendment, different perspectives on how it could affect issues like abortion rights and public-school funding; how to register to vote, the three ways to vote in Kansas, and important election deadlines.



Rummage Sale – The Presbyterian Women are getting ready for all of your donations to our Rummage Sale this year! The doors to south fellowship hall will open for donations on Monday, August 3rd. Please use the South Fellowship Hall only as we are a polling place for the Primary Election on Tuesday on the North side of the Hall. We accept clothing, household items, holiday décor, home décor, books, music and more! We cannot accept electronics, large furniture or large appliances. The sale will be held on Friday and Saturday, August 7 and 8. Mark your calendar and start cleaning out now!

The 227th General Assembly of the PC(USA) begins on June 22nd in Milwaukee, WI. We are well represented by Thomas Lushington who is a member of our church and the Young Adult Advisory Delegate for the Presbytery of Northern Kansas. Thomas represented us at the last GA and was asked again this year when the delegate had to step down at the last minute. Thank you Thomas for your service at this important meeting of our denomination. We look forward to hearing from you at the end of the Assembly.

The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship is honoring Presbyterians for Earth Care at the 2026 General Assembly. The Moderator for PPF stated, "Earth care and fossil fuel divestment are acts of peacemaking for the future." PPF also sees peacemaking merit in the overture Regenerative Farming, a concern the EcoTeam of FPC included in this year's Earth Care Forum series.



***We hope you have a safe Fourth of July holiday.
Be thankful for freedom and hungry for justice!***

Ice Cream Social Coming up on July 19!

We will gather for Ice Cream and snacks right after worship. The Youth will lead the Bingo game, so be ready to play and win prizes! Everyone is always welcome at FPC!

*Ice Cream
Social and
Bingo!*

Save the date for
our annual
Ice Cream Social
on Sunday, July 19th
at 11:30 pm



Our Community Garden is making donations to Just Food. We provided basil, radishes, and Swiss chard for the produce section. You can bring non-perishable donations for our Just Food barrels. Summertime is hard on families who are used to relying on the schools to feed their children twice a day. You can help by providing non-perishable items for them to use. Our barrels are emptied regularly, so fill them up this week!