



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison, Pastor

Linda Maxey, liturgist

September 20, 2026

Acknowledgement of Place

We at First Presbyterian Church acknowledge that long before the church was built, these lands were cared for by indigenous people including the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa, Pawnee, Osage, and Kanza. We honor their people, their wisdom, past and present.

Prelude

Andrew Morris, organ

Welcome and Announcements

Friendship Pads: Please help us maintain good communication with all our members and guests by completing the Friendship Register as it is passed from the end of each pew. Please let us know the best way to communicate with you. Be sure to greet folks new to you at the end of worship!

Cards of Encouragement: Blue cards found in the pew rack ~ please put in offering plate and we will send them out in the mail.

Introit

Prairie Suite, People of the South Wind

Westminster Ringers

KATHLEEN WISSINGER

Carol Fleeger, director

Kathleen Wissinger's "Prairie Suite" is a set of three short movements she composed for the 2010 Handbell Festival held in Topeka. Today we ring the first movement, "People of the South Wind", which honors one of the original Native American tribes in the Midwest, the Kansa tribe, also known as "The South Wind People". They lived in the central part of Kansas as well as in Missouri.

Statement of Native Land Acknowledgment

(Read by Linda Watts, Rev. Anna Shouse, Rev. Thad Holcomb, Heather Soper, Margie Dyck)

Call To Worship

One: We are Your children.

All: We have heard You in the winds, seen You in the sunrise; we have felt Your kindness in the season.

One: Great Spirit, we know You! We hear You speak!

All: We know this very moment You are near to us as the air that surrounds us and fills our lungs with life.

One: Be with us, Great Spirit. Show us the way You would have us go!

* **Hymn of Praise**

"Take the Saving Word of God"

Glory to God #454

a Kiowa call to worship

* **Call To Confession**

Linda Maxey, liturgist and Pastor Helen

* **Prayer of Confession and Reconciliation (We are still Here)**

Linda Maxey, liturgist and Pastor Helen

Indigenous: We are still here, on Turtle Island, placed by the Creator.

Non-Indigenous: Some of us came seeking home, displaced or persecuted.

Indigenous: And we were here, diverse nations, many peoples—at home.

Non-Indigenous: Some of us came seeking adventure, riches or glory.

Indigenous: And we were here, living with deep connection to the land.

Non-Indigenous: Some of us came seeking a better life, security and possibility.

Indigenous: We offered peace and friendship.

Non-Indigenous: And some of us accepted, treaty people, living in relationship.

Indigenous: We shared the land, and our deep wisdom of this place.

Non-Indigenous: And some of us were open to hear.

Indigenous: At first you were few and we were many.

Non-Indigenous: And then we were many, with greater and greater hunger for land.

Indigenous: The land of our ancestors, our identity.

Non-Indigenous:	The land we imagined could be ours.
Indigenous:	At first we were friends and allies.
Non-Indigenous:	Then you became enemy, in the way of what we wanted.
Indigenous:	We shared and still share a deep reverence for life gifted from the Creator.
Non-Indigenous:	We seemed unable to recognize your faith, seeking to impose our own.
Indigenous:	We believed we could live side by side, two boats in the same river.
Non-Indigenous:	We could only imagine you becoming like us.
Indigenous:	You spoke benefit but brought harm
Non-Indigenous:	Trying to dissolve you into our image.
Indigenous:	You brought unspeakable pain,
Non-Indigenous:	Abuses of power, holding tight to a sense of superiority.
Indigenous:	You took our children from us
Non-Indigenous:	Breaking sacred bonds of kinship.
Indigenous:	Your gospel of love distorted by hate.
Non-Indigenous:	How could we have been so wrong?
Indigenous:	Your ways tried to break us.
Non-Indigenous:	But still you rise.
Indigenous:	Your vision tried to disappear us.
Non-Indigenous:	But still you stand.
Indigenous:	We are resilience and strength.
Non-Indigenous:	We are beginning to understand.
Indigenous:	We are coming home to our traditions.
Non-Indigenous:	We still seek home, but now alongside and with you.
Indigenous:	You are facing this truth.
Non-Indigenous:	We are listening, unlearning, and learning anew.
Indigenous:	Stand beside us in acts of justice.
Non-Indigenous:	Receive our contrition, embodied in solidarity.
Indigenous:	May the Creator's plan
Non-Indigenous:	For right relation in this place
All:	Finally come to be. Amen

* **Moment of Silence**

* **Pouring the Water**

* **Words of Forgiveness**

Linda Maxey, liturgist

One: On mountaintops and in valleys, in our homes and in our hearts, God knows us better than we know ourselves, and God forgives us when we cannot forgive ourselves. By God's mercy, we are forgiven; by God's mercy, we are made whole; by God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others. Thanks be to God. Amen.

* **Passing the Peace**

Linda Maxey, liturgist

One: Knowing the grace and mercy of the Lord, we share it with one another.
The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please greet one another and exchange signs of peace and reconciliation.)

* **Hymn**

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.
Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen. Amen.*

Prayer of Illumination

Linda Maxey, liturgist

Holy One, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Spirit, that, as the scriptures are read and your word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

Hebrew Bible Reading

Genesis 1:1-2:3

Linda Maxey, liturgist and Pastor Helen

Anthem

A Native American Prayer
Nolan E. Schmit

FPC Chancel Choir
Dr. Adrian Hartsough, director
Haskell University Choir
Dr. Britney Rice, guest conductor
Andrew Morris, piano

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison

Readings

Beginnings:

Lawrence, First Presbyterian Church and Haskell

Jeff Southard

Memorial Arch:

Selection from "Haskell Indian Nations University Memorial Arch"

Heather Soper

By Eric Anderson

"Native America Has Lessons for Surviving an Apocalypse"

Rev. Thad Holcombe

Bishop Charleston, Choctaw

"Could the Blackfoot Wisdom that Inspired Maslow Guide Us Now?"

Carolynn Williams

Teju Ravilochan, published by Esperanza Project

A Pueblo Indian Prayer

Linda Watts

John (Fire) Lame Deer, Sioux Lakota (1903-1976)

Hymn

"Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace,"
based on a traditional Maori melody

Glory to God #425

Minute for Mission

Haskell Cemetery Fund
Pastor Helen and Rev. Anna Shouse

The Offering

Andrew Morris, organist

* Doxology

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Glory to God #606

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heav'nly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

* Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Words of institution

Communion of the People

As the ushers direct your row, please come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread and the cup.

You will partake of communion at the front and return to your seats by the south aisle.

Communion will be taken to those who wish to remain in their seats.

Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer

(First Nations Version)

**O Great Spirit, our Father from above,
we honor your name as sacred and holy.**

**Bring your good road to us,
where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above
is reflected in the earth below.**

**Provide for us day by day—
the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon.
The corn, the squash, and the wild rice.
All the things we need for each day.**

**Release us from the things we have done wrong,
in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.**

**Guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road,
and set us free from the evil one and his worthless ways.**

Aho! May it be so!

* **Affirmation of Faith**

World Council of Churches 2022

Christ's love calls us to reconciliation and unity. Reconciliation involves courage to dismantle oppressive structures, policies, ideologies and theologies that restrict access to the abundant life that Jesus promised for all. (John 10:10). The dominant discourse on reconciliation and unity has largely been responsible for the domination and suppression of Indigenous communities and other marginalized communities. Christian unity, in an Indigenous context, has often meant little more than conformity to the colonial way of life, and the dissolution of Indigenous, land-centered identity.

Love, as taught by Jesus of Nazareth, is radical. It heals and restores, and confronts and transforms. It calls us to love our enemies, restore justice, and make community with those pushed to the margins by the dominant systems and traditions. It indicts systems and cultures that discriminate and dehumanize. It empowers the disempowered and re-members the dis-membered. As such, Christ's love is subversive and offensive to the systems and cultures that dominate, discriminate and dehumanize. Such love alone can make reconciliation lasting and unity real.

* **Closing Hymn**

"Many and Great, O God"
also known as "Dakota Hymn."

Glory to God #21

* **Charge and Benediction**

Postlude

Andrew Morris, organist

* Stand as you are able – in spirit or in body

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; 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, please talk to Pastor Helen.

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Flowers today** are in celebration of Dorcas Gavi receiving her US Citizenship this week.
- **We welcome singers** from the choir at Haskell Indian Nations University and their Director, Dr. Britney Rice.
- **Our families** facing transitions and providing care to loved ones.
- **Mary Newberg Gale**, our former associate pastor, has received a cancer diagnosis. Prayers for her and her family as they face this challenge.
- **Kelly Grube** is receiving a round of chemotherapy and is grateful for our prayer support.
- **Nora Wallace** asks for prayers for herself and her extended family as they manage multiple health issues.
- **Kristi McAlister** continues to receive cancer treatments. Kristi and Pat McAlister (her mother) are grateful for our continued prayers and support.
- **Betty Thomas, Joy Laird's mother**, is receiving hospice care at Presbyterian Manor. Prayers please.

- **Diana Schoneweis' great nephew, Luke (12)**, completed chemotherapy. Prayers for healing.
- **George Crump** asks for our prayers as he navigates life issues.
- **Sammie Locke** is receiving care at Bridge Haven where she lives.
- **Allison Clunn-McPlin and family**, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison has ALS and has entered a clinical trial which has proven helpful to her.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Jim Rumsey, Vic and Dianne Sisk
Greeters: Larry Flottman and Carol Smith
South Door Greeter: Russ Heikes
Offering: Jeff Southard and Paul Laird
Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson
Bag Brigade Volunteer: Dede Dresser

Birthdays in the Congregation

September 22 Pat McAlister	September 25 Ron Teeter
September 23 Jan Roth	September 26 Dick Verhage
September 24 Gaye Groene	September 27 John Andrews
September 25 Jo Cummings	

Deacon Family Groups - 2026

A-B	Dorothy Devlin	Lf-Me	Deborah Norwood
C-Di	Lois Dutcher	Mf-N	Becky May
Dj-F	Sandy Groene	O-R	Diana Schoneweis
G-Ha	Melinda Fischer	S-Si	Charles Tuttle
Hb-J	Lucille Eggenberger	Sj-To	Mary Parkinson
K-Le	Linda Longino	Tj-Z	Nikki Barcomb

September 22

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

September 23

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
6:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 59 Meeting
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal

September 24

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:00 pm	Small World Classes
5:30 pm	Worship Committee Meeting

September 25

10:00 am	Men's Group
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September 27

8:30 am	Presby Pickers Rehearsal
9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult and Youth Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship

Calendar

September 20

9:15 am	Children's Sunday School
9:15 am	Adult and Youth Sunday School
10:30 am	Worship
11:30 am	Ticketed Roots of the Land Meal

September 21

9:00 am	First 5 Years Classes
1:15 pm	FPC Staff Meeting
2:00 pm	Pastor Helen's Class
6:00 pm	Westminster Ringers Rehearsal

Children Sunday School

• Sunday School Classes for Children

- Our September Study is called Cross Borders

Typically, borders are lines that separate two geographical areas: two countries, regions, cities, neighborhoods, and so on. For this study we are considering borders as points of separation, the lines imagined or real that separate us from them and you from me. God's creation is a full, rich, diverse place, a place where flourishing is inextricably entwined with that diversity. Our differences are cause for celebration and our unique voices compose a holy chorus. In Scripture, we see over and over again the stories of borders between people of different faiths, cultures, classes, genders, and ethnicities. Even communities that wandered had boundaries that they carried with them. The people of God are called over and over again to cross borders in order to live more faithfully, in relationship with one another and with God.

Here, we will focus on four aspects of the ways borders are crossed in Scripture and in the Christian life:

- Leave Your Comfort Zone
- Embrace Relationships
- Challenge Exclusion
- Speak God's Language of Love

Adult and Youth Sunday School

- New class will begin on September 27th. Watching and reading the news and scrolling on social media can lead to sadness, fear, anger, and helplessness. We might even be grieving. But wait! There is always hope at the intersection of our current world crises and our faith! We can seek to grieve prophetically, seeing our world, even at its darkest, with the spirit and energy of the Hebrew prophets and the resurrected Christ. We are called to make a difference and contribute to the greater good. We will discuss the book, **Grieving Our Loss of Democracy** by Anne Hays Egan, with Rev. Marc Giedinghagen leading the discussion. Marc is a retired parish minister, chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Educator.

Youth Activities and Opportunities –

- Be sure the CROP Walk is on your calendar for October 4th at 1:30. Sign up with Claire Boyette to walk for this great cause! Please keep Kelly and family in your prayers as they travel to Mayo's to get more information about her health.
- Our next collection being gathered by our Youth will be to supply the HRC with a stock of adult-sized shoes. We are looking for donations of any size or gender, gently used (or new) shoes. Donations can be brought to the church office or to me for collection. Kelly Jones-Grube, Youth Coordinator

Pastor Helen's Monday Class will continue meeting on Mondays at 2 pm in the Fireside Room. We are studying the History of Religion in the United States. You are welcome to join us.

Worship for August and September

We continue a sermon series on *Epic Meltdowns in the Bible and How God Responds*. It may help us in our own meltdown or meltdown arounds us to know that God Forgives, God Waits, God Humbles, God Protects, God Instructs and God Provides Help.

Handbell Ringers Needed!

The Westminster Ringers Handbell Choir is looking for new ringers for both treble and bass bells, beginning Monday, August 31. Rehearsals are held on Mondays, from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The group regularly participates in the 10:30 am worship service on the third Sunday of each month, September through May, with occasional additional services throughout the year.

Westminster Ringers will celebrate 50 years of ringing in 2027! If you would like to be part of this dynamic and fun group of musicians, contact director Carol Fleeger at carolfleeger@yahoo.com or 225-235-9285. We are looking forward to having YOU join us!

Answering the Question: But What Can We Do? Haskell Cemetery Donations

The Matthew 25 group is leading First Presbyterian Church's initiative to develop a closer and more informed, aware relationship with our Indigenous brothers and sisters. Part of that initiative is financially supporting the cleaning, refreshing, refurbishment, and resetting of the 103 gravestones in the Haskell Cemetery. This sacred space contains the burials of children and teens who died while at Haskell, predominantly spanning the years 1884 – 1913. Most of the tombstones were placed in the 1930's and detail the children's names, tribes, and lifespans. In a conversation with Travis Campbell, Director of the Haskell Cultural Center, inquiring about how First Presbyterian could be of meaningful support, he shared that he and Courtney King, Manager of Haskell's Eric Allen Greenhouse, are in the process of refurbishing the cemetery gravestones. This task requires substantial funds to purchase special gravestone cleaning kits with appropriate brushes and chemicals and to reset the stones as needed. Mr. Campbell was delighted and enthusiastic to hear that First Presbyterian will be making a financial contribution to this vital work of honoring those buried there. You can learn more about Haskell's early years and those buried in the cemetery in *Haskell Institute: 19th Century Stories of Sacrifice and Survival* by Haskell Professor Emerita Dr. Theresa Milk. You can donate by stopping by the Matt 25 table in the narthex or by giving by check or online to First Presbyterian Church, Haskell Cemetery Project.

World Communion Offering – Sunday October 4

The World Communion Offering works to ensure all God's people flourish as God intends through ministries working for racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. Thank you for supporting this PCUSA Special Offering.

Blessing of the Animals

Several people have asked that we have a Blessing of the Animals service. So, on Saturday, October 10th we plan to do just that! The Lawrence Humane Society has agreed to work with us on this project and in return we will help them with some much needed supplies. You can bring your donations of soft dog treats, dog and cat food, peanut butter, paper towels, sheets, blankets, small rugs, and spray cheese to the box in the Narthex. The Humane Society will bring some of their pets to share (adoption has to happen at their facility, so will not be available at this event). You might be a lucky person who can take a pet home for a day – if you are interested. Watch this space for more information as we get closer, but bring in those donations anytime!

