



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

July 7, 2024

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 create a 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** letting us know you joined us in worship. We look forward to getting to know you.

Prayers

Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations

- Prayers in support of the work of Thomas Lushington and all of the participants at General Assembly in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- Kelsey Newcomer, one of our First 5 Years teachers, lost her mother last week. Prayers for her family in their grief.
- Marshall Crowther died on June 1 at Brandon Woods. A memorial service is planned for July 13 at 10:30 am at FPC.
- Earl Huyser has moved to the nursing floor at Presbyterian Manor. Please note that his phone is only available for family use. Cards and letters are welcome!
- Nora Wallace asks for prayers for her father, Bill Wallace who has been in and out of the hospital recently. Also, for rest for her mother and sister who have been providing care.

- Loren Dolezal is home at Meadowlark Estates.
- George Crump is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- Allison Clunn-McPlin and family, friends of Dave and Lois Dutcher. Allison was diagnosed with an aggressive form of ALS.
- Kristi McAlister, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

Birthdays in the Congregation

July 8	July 11
Sarah Judd	Staphanie Lake
July 9	July 12
Trena Wilson	Larry Flottman
July 11	July 13
Patrick Clancy	Blake Savage

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: Heather Soper, Cherie Elo, Pearl Hoover

Greeters: Jan Poulsen

Securing the Offering: Jim Rumsey and Jeff Southard

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Guest Bag Delivery:

Communion: Jeff Southard, b-f mcdonald, Jim Rumsey, Ed Manda, Jan Roth

Calendar

July 7	
9:15 am	Wired Word
10:30 am	Worship
July 9	
6:30 pm	Session Meeting
July 10	
6:30 pm	Presby Pickers Sound Check
7:00 pm	Troop 59 Scout Meeting

July 11
6:00 pm Family Fun Night & Ice Cream Social

July 13
10:30 am Marshall Crowther Memorial
1:00 pm Presby Pickers Rehearsal

July 14
9:15 am Wired Word Class Discussion
9:45 am Presby Pickers Warm Up
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Youth Team Meeting

Children and Youth

- **The Family Ministry committee is hosting three Family Fun Nights** throughout the Summer! This will happen once per month on Thursday evenings throughout the Summer months. These fun nights will be Olympic themed so come ready to compete in our very own Olympic Games! Families, singles, couples, grandparents, friends....ALL are welcome!! The next one is Thursday, July 11 at 6:00 pm

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **The Wired Word** is the summer offering for Adult Sunday School. Please join us at 9:15! The class will discuss current topics around a current issue and scripture relating to the issue. Each week new topics will be available for discussion. Come one, come all – to each meeting or those you can attend!

Adult Offerings during the week

- **Pastor Helen's Monday class** will be scheduling movies for the month of July. Look for the schedule here next week!
- **The Men's Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the Library 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.

Presbyterian Women



Save the Date for the PW Rummage Sale in August! Presbyterian Women will hold their Rummage Sale on August 16 and 17. They will be collecting your items August 12 – 15 in Fellowship Hall. Funds from the sale will be used for updating Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!

Handbell ringers needed beginning in August! Would you like to be part of a great group of ringers for the next fall/spring ringing season? Particularly seeking bass bell ringers but would be very happy with treble ringers as well. This group typically rings the third Sunday of the month, September to May, with some additional opportunities during the Advent and Lenten seasons. Rehearsals are held Monday evenings, 6:00-7:00 pm, in the sanctuary. Looking forward to meeting some new ringers!! If interested, please send reply to carolfleeger@yahoo.com Carol Fleeger, Director



Deacon Love Fund – On the first Sunday of the month we ask that you consider a gift to the Deacon Love Fund supporting our neighbors and friends who might be experiencing a financial shortfall and need a helping hand. In June your gifts provided rent assistance to four women allowing them to stay in safe housing while they waited for a job, healed from a surgery, or supported their families in other ways. Thank you for your support of the Love Fund!

Coming up next:

Family Fun Night and Ice Cream Social!

Thursday, July 11 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm we will be playing olympic-style games and enjoying ice cream. Please RSVP on the Friendship Pad, to the church office (785-843-4171) or on the sign up sheet in the Narthex. Bring a dessert to share and plan on a great time together!



News from the Mission Committee

Matthew 25

Because the world is weary of war, we go with peace.

In July First Presbyterian Church will host a display on the lawn north of the church building to raise awareness regarding the high price we are paying due to gun violence.

“Firearms Were Involved in More Child Deaths in 2020 and 2021 Than Any Other Cause. On a per capita basis, the firearm mortality rate among children and teens in the U.S. is over 9.5 times the rate of Canada, the country with the second-highest child and teen firearm death rate. If firearm deaths in the U.S. had mirrored Canada’s rates between 2010 and 2021, **approximately 30,000 U.S. children and teenagers would still be alive.**” (Kaiser Family Foundation)

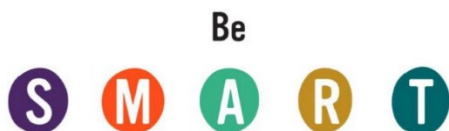
First Presbyterian Church is raising awareness of gun safety with a lawn display of 43 t-shirts. The CDC’s most recent statistics published in 2019 showed that Kansas recorded 43 deaths by firearm for ages 0-19 years. The red t-shirts represent 23 of those deaths as by suicide. The yellow t-shirts represent 20 of those deaths as by homicide or accident. The display will continue during the month of July. The display is on the church north lawn. The church is located close to the intersection of Clinton Parkway and Crestline Drive.

Firearms are a leading cause of death among children in many states. In Kansas, Firearms are the second leading cause of death among children. That is why it is more important for parents to know how to secure firearms. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that all firearms in households with children should be unloaded and in locked storage, with ammunition stored separately.

“The Be SMART campaign was launched to raise awareness that secure gun storage - storing guns locked, unloaded and separate from ammunition - can save children’s lives. Be SMART emphasizes that it’s an adult responsibility to keep kids from accessing guns, and that every adult can play a role in keeping kids and communities safer. The Be SMART campaign was launched in 2015 to promote responsible gun ownership in order to reduce child gun deaths. Whether you’re a gun owner, or you know someone who owns a gun, there is a role for everyone in the conversation around secure gun storage. Be SMART is a framework that parents, caretakers, and community leaders can follow to help keep their communities safe. Ultimately, you can help prevent kids from accessing firearms by storing them securely, and encouraging others to do the same. Because children deserve to feel safe, no matter where they are.” <https://besmartforkids.org/>

- The Be SMART campaign was launched to raise awareness that secure gun storage - storing guns locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition - can save children’s lives. Be SMART emphasizes that it’s an adult responsibility to keep kids from accessing guns, and that every adult can play a role in keeping kids and communities safer.
- Secure firearm storage is an important part of keeping your family safe. Firearms are now the leading cause of death among children in the United States. That’s why it’s more important than ever for parents and caregivers to know how secure firearm storage works. It’s simple. To help keep your family safe and prevent tragedies, it’s crucial to secure your firearm.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:



Secure all guns in your home and vehicle.
Model responsible behavior around guns.
Ask about unsecured guns in other homes.
Recognize the role of guns in suicide.
Tell your peers to Be SMART.

Douglas County has an active Moms Demand Action Chapter as well as a BE SMART program. FPC members Dede Dresser and Linda Watts are volunteers helping to distribute gun safe information from BE SMART. Questions? Ask Dede or Linda.

MOMS DEMAND ACTION
FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

