



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

May 31, 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.

Youth Activities

- **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.

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!

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 allis 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) Suzanne Galle can get us a deal on the books so those who signed up for the book they should be in then next week and will cost \$22.00.

We also have some shorter readings that are in a handout located in the narthex. Our first meeting will be June 10 at 3 in the library. We will start with the shorter readings while we order the books and get them to you. All are welcome.

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.



We need one or two people to join our Sound Board team! Our current people are fabulous, but sometimes they need a day off or they want to participate in worship and the life of the church in other ways. If we have several folks who can run the board, then we can spread out the responsibility. Let’s not let our online friends down – we have about 40 who are regular attenders online – and step up to learn something new! Please talk to the folks at the board about getting some training. It takes all of us to make this happen! Thank you so much!



Just Food is hosting a Gala to celebrate the work that has been done to make sure everyone in Douglas County has nutritious food as well as raising critical funds to sustain and expand this work. If you agree that providing nutritious food for everyone – especially those who are unable to afford it – consider attending “**A Night in the Caribbean**” on June 11th at 6:00 pm at the Oread Hotel. Tickets are available at www.justfoodks.org or call 785-856-7030.

T-Shirts – A great big Thank you to everyone who ordered our new all-purpose FPC t-shirt. It will be so much fun to see a sea of blue shirts at events when we stand up for social justice or spot an FPC friend at the grocery store wearing the shirt. The order has been placed. The shirts should be here before the Pride Parade for those who want to wear them (stay tuned for more details.) If you missed out and didn’t reserve one for yourself we purchased an extra 10 shirts and have sizes ranging from M to XX-Large. Let the office know if you want to purchase one.



Join us at the Pride Parade on June 6th! The Lawrence Pride Parade is right around the corner. Join us as we gather at 11 am on Saturday, June 6 for a joyous walk down Mass Street. Wear your old pride shirt or purchase the new FPC T-shirt. If you haven’t signed up, send a quick email to Adrian (our parade leader) at adrian@firstpreslawrence.org

June 7 at 11:30 am is our Annual FPC Picnic! The Fellowship Committee is hosting and will provide the fried chicken and beverages. They ask that we bring a side dish or dessert to serve about 12. We might have some entertainment – still working out the details. Get the date on your calendar for a fun lunch after church on June 7!



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!

Deacon Love Fund - A thank you received in the church office for you! We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your generous support of the LDCHA tenants. Your assistance with the rent and utilities makes a meaningful difference in the lives of so many individuals and families you help to ease financial stress and provide much-needed stability. Because of you, residents are more able to focus on their own well-being. Your compassion and commitment to serving others truly reflect the spirit of community, and it does not go unnoticed. Thank you for being a source of hope and support to those who need it most. With heartfelt appreciation, The Resident Services Office at Lawrence Douglas County Housing Authority: Erin, Madison, Kallie, Josiah and Linda.

Gardening Tips from the K-State Horticulture Newsletter: Watering your Garden:

One of the easiest ways, especially if you're just getting started with your garden, is to water by hand. You will want to make sure that you can get close to your plants and get the water down near the base of the plants where the roots are. What you need to avoid is spraying your water over the top of the plants. You won't get as much water to the soil this way, and you may not be watering thoroughly. And, you'll also be getting the leaves of the plants wet, which can cause disease problems – especially in the heat of summer.

Drip irrigation is easier than hand watering because you can turn the system on and then go off and do something else for a couple of hours while the system waters your plants. Another benefit is that with the drip line, the water gets to the roots on the plants, and you won't waste water by spraying parts of the plants that don't need water, or parts of your garden that don't have any plants in them currently.

May 17 EcoTrek - Our hike was a wonderful adventure with perfect weather, exciting spider discoveries and only a few ticks. We learned many things from Hank and even assisted with collecting a few spider samples. We look forward to more activities with the Eco-team.



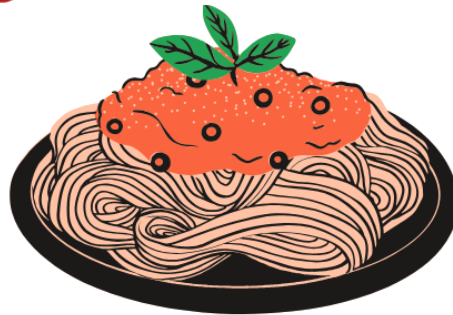
Many thanks to our Family Promise 5K team!



Peggy Southard, Diana Schoneweis, Grace Nganga, Leeann Gross, Eva Alley and Mary Warren, and Robert Mugridge – so far!

We will be serving pasta at LINK on June 27th. Sign up in the Narthex!

Pasta at LINK



SATURDAY, JUNE 27
11:30 AM-2:30 PM

IF VOLUNTEERING:

- Please arrive by 11:30 AM to help set up. The meal will be served at 1:00 PM.

IF PROVIDING FOOD:

- Bring all items to church kitchen on Friday, June 26 between 9:00 AM-3:00 PM OR bring directly to LINK on June 27 by 11:30 AM.