



# First Press

Weekly Newsletter

First Presbyterian Church

December 1, 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 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](mailto:firstpreslawrence@gmail.com)** 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.

## Prayers

### *Cares, Concerns, and Celebrations*

- **Congratulations to David and Angela Pérez** on the birth of their daughter Sofia Kay on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **Michael Devlin** who has a multiple myeloma diagnosis and waiting for a treatment plan.
- **Peg Livingood and Family** as they mourn the loss of Dave, husband, father, grandfather.
- **Nora Wallace and Thomas Lushington** on the death of their father and grandfather, Bill Wallace.
- **Ruthanne Stucky, mother of Alisa Stucky**, asks for our prayers of healing and strength as she continues her fight against cancer.
- **Jenny Skridulis Vellon, a former member of FPC**, had breast cancer surgery recently. She will rest for a few weeks before starting radiation. Prayers welcome!
- **John Hughes** for health concerns.

- **Tim Dutcher, son of Lois and David Dutcher**, had a kidney transplant last Friday at Methodist Hospital in Rochester, MN. The kidney is working and the healing has begun – hallelujah!
- **Susan and Pat** who have health concerns.
- **Kelly Grube** is receiving chemo and being evaluated by Mayo Clinic.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- **Tanja Rounds** is dealing with a brain tumor. Prayers appreciated.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Linda Wilson, Carol Fleeger's sister-in-law**, is healing following cancer surgery.
- **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.
- **Prayer for our pastor and church leaders**, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.
- **Prayers for those** facing surgery or treatments, living with addiction or mental health issues, and for the caregivers supporting them.

## Sunday Helpers

**Ushers:** Myron Shipley, Larry Maxey, Larry Schlosser

**Greeters:** Linda Watts and Eva Alley

**Securing the Offering:** Jeff Southard and Jim Rumsey

**Friendship Pad Collector:** Petra Peterson

**Bag Brigade Volunteer:** Linda Longino

**Communion Servers:** bobbie frances mcdonald, Jeff Southard, Jim Rumsey, Russ and Marilyn Heikes, and Henry Johns.

## Birthdays in the Congregation

December 4

Quinn Peterson

December 5

Alison Hill

Lilli Derby

December 7

Brian Norwood

December 7

Linda Longino

Joy Laird

December 8

Carol Ann Vernon

Deb Pentecost

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

## Calendar

### December 1

9:15 am Sunday School Service Project  
9:15 am Advent Series with Pastor Helen  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Deck the Halls of FPC  
1:00 pm Youth Shopping for Family Promise

### December 2

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes  
1:15 pm Staff Meeting  
2:00 pm Pastor Helen's Class  
3:30 pm PW Eve Circle  
5:00 pm PW Tree Trim  
6:00 pm Cub Scout Den - Schwaller  
6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal  
6:30 pm First 5 Years Staff Meeting

### December 3

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes

1:00 pm Small World Classes  
4:00 pm Adult Ministry Meeting

### December 4

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

### December 5

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes  
1:00 pm Small World Classes  
6:00 pm Girl Scout Leadership CPR Training  
6:00 pm Property Committee Meeting

### December 6

9:00 am First 5 Years Classes  
10:00 am Men's Group

### December 7

2:30 pm Laura Hrivnak Studio Rehearsal

### December 8

9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School  
9:15 am Advent Series with Pastor Helen  
10:30 am Worship  
11:30 am Lunch on Sunday Group of 7 or 8  
3:00 pm Lawrence Community Hand Bell Choir Concert  
3:00 pm FPC Youth Holiday Party

## Children and Youth

### Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – Room 9 – Joan Golden and Nancy Hodges
- 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grades – Room 12 – Anne Emert and Nikki Barcomb
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grades – Room 14 - Chris Heider and Linda Longino
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grades – Room 11

## Youth Activities

Friends, we have some wonderful plans for 6-12 grades. Please add to your calendars and invite your friends to:

- **December**
  - SERVICE: The youth will be the readers for the Advent Candle lighting in worship on December 1. After worship stay and help Deck the Halls of FPC! Snacks will be provided.
  - MISSION: then the youth will be shopping to provide Christmas gifts for families in need after Deck the Halls on December 1.
  - FUN: youth Christmas Party at the Hoover-Elo house on Sunday December 8th
- **January**
  - MISSION: Youth Mission project over Winter break
  - FUN AND MISSION: Winter Youth Retreat – January 19<sup>th</sup> – 11:30am to 6 pm – Watch for more information
- **February**
  - MISSION: The youth group will lead the congregation in service a meal at LINK February 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - MISSION: The Youth will lead in collections of canned food for the Souper Bowl of Caring Feb.9<sup>th</sup>.

## Adult Sunday School Classes

- **Christmas from the Back Side** continues on Sunday at 9:15 am in the Fireside Room. The class will be led by Pastor Helen and will follow a book by J. Ellsworth Kalas, former president and professor of Asbury Theological Seminary. The class will look at the Christmas events to enlarge the familiar borders of the Christmas Story. (No need to purchase the book.)

## Adult Offerings during the week

- **The Men's Group** meets on Friday morning at 10:00 am in the library. Contact Charles Tuttle for more information at [cftuttle@gmail.com](mailto:cftuttle@gmail.com).
- **Pastor Helen's Monday Class** - For December 3<sup>rd</sup> we will be looking at "Blessed Deception" which is the Genesis telling of Isaac 24-27. The class meets at 2:00 pm in the Fireside Room.

**We are excited to announce** that the campaign to help fund the Solar Power System is officially underway! Be sure to check out the solar panel in the Narthex and learn more about our process.

**Interfaith Prayer Vigil for our Country** – On Saturday, December 7th at 6:00 pm Plymouth Congregational Church. A place to gather for comfort, hope, and community. We will have music, sacred readings, and prayers from many traditions. This will be a spiritually grounding space. Everyone is welcome to use this as another opportunity to discover "How Does the Weary World Rejoice?" FPC is one of the sponsoring churches.

## Presbyterian Women's Christmas Gathering



All women of FPC and their guests are invited to attend our Christmas Gathering on Saturday, December 14, at 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Rolls, fruit, coffee, and tea will be provided. The Executive Board and Ruth Circle will host the gathering. Please RSVP by calling the church office, noting your attendance on the Friendship Pad, adding your name to the sign-up sheet on the PW bulletin board or email to [rlindblo@yahoo.com](mailto:rlindblo@yahoo.com). This will help with our planning. Harpist Erin Wood will be with us to share a Christmas program of music. We will have a Christmas devotional, and a Christmas sing-a-long. Donations will be given to the Haskell Indian Nations University Student Fund. We hope you will come and join the fun!



**First Presbyterian Church started what is now the Ecumenical Campus Ministries** in 1905 and remains its biggest supporter to this day. ECM is governed by a board of governors, and FPC needs two people to fill open board positions. If you are willing to serve this campus ministry in what promises to be a very interesting next few years, contact Jeff Southard ([jeff\\_southard@hotmail.com](mailto:jeff_southard@hotmail.com)) or Jim Rumsey ([rumseylaw@sunflower.com](mailto:rumseylaw@sunflower.com)) Thank you!

**Deacon Love Fund** – In November your generous gifts provided almost \$800 in utility and rent assistance to six families. Without your support they might now have no heat or find themselves living on the streets of Lawrence. Thank you for your help and please consider a gift so that we can continue to help those needing a little extra, especially during the holiday season when the choices are harder to make.



**Ring in the Holidays with the Lawrence Community Hand Bell Choir** – Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm here at FPC. Come and enjoy a concert of seasonal music presented by our local musicians who love what they do, and it shows! The choir is directed by Amy Seifert and Becky Harris.

## News from the Mission Committee

### Matthew 25

*Because the world would die without it, we go with God's love.*

**Justice Matters** – After the Community Problems Assembly where we heard stories highlighting major issues facing our community, the Justice Matters Network voted to take on youth trauma as its next issue. If you are interested in joining the research process, please mark your calendar for December 8<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 5 pm at First United Methodist Church (downtown location).



**Christmas Joy Offering is the perfect gift!** Through this offering we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us – past, present, and future – who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us, but who now find themselves in critical financial need. This offering also honors emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world. Thank you for giving generously!

## Special Christmas Giving Opportunities

Find forms and a list of organizations we are supporting in the Narthex!



**Special Christmas Giving** - You can find order forms and information on the table in the Narthex. This year we are offering options in support of Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, Lawrence Community Shelter, Warm Hearts, Just Food, Willow Domestic Violence Center, FPC's First 5 Years Scholarship Fund, Heifer International, and Presbyterian Disaster Fund. Thank you for your support.



**Salvation Army Adopt a Family** – Each child and adult lists a “need” and a “wish”, the children are also provided pajamas and socks. You can choose a need or a wish or both for one or more individuals. There is also a request for a family gift. Please return your unwrapped gifts by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. Sign up in the Narthex today!

## ☀️ Deck the Halls of FPC! ☀️



December 1st after worship..  
Help us decorate the church for the season!  
The more the merrier!

**Today after worship please plan to stay for a little while and help us Deck the Halls of FPC!**

We have trees to put up, wreaths to hang, candles to place and more to make our church home ready for the holidays. As Helen is talking about on Sunday – we are all weary....so let us work together prepare the church for Christmas!



**The FPC Fellowship Committee is hosting our Annual Christmas Dinner** on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>!

The menu will include ham, potatoes au gratin, green beans, rolls and beverages. We need you to bring something to share: Please bring according to your last name:

**A to P please bring a side dish.**

**Q – Z please bring a dessert.**

Please plan to make or purchase enough to serve 8 to 12 people. Please RSVP on the Friendship Pad or call the church office.

