



First Press

Weekly Newsletter

March 23, 2025

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 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

- Prayers for Myron Shipley as he receives treatment for cancer.
- Prayers for the Care Center, LINK, and Bert Nash who are experiencing a loss of funding.
- **First 5 Years teacher, Lisa Marie Benke**, asks for prayers for her husband, Russell, who was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer.
- **Susan and Pat** - dealing with health concerns.
- **Bruce Humphreys, step-father of Robert Mugridge**, is home now and asks for our continuing prayers.
- **Linda Wilson, Carol Fleeger's sister-in-law**, asks for prayers dealing with her her fight against cancer.
- **Kelly Grube** is traveling to New Jersey to consult with MD Anderson. Prayers for more information.
- **Alisa Stucky** is asking for prayers in support of her Mother's health. Her mother is **Ruthanne Stucky**.

- **Jenny Skridulis Vellon**, a former member of FPC, had breast cancer surgery recently. She will rest for a few weeks before starting radiation.
- **Nancy Brink**, a friend of Lois and Dave Dutcher, asks for prayers as she copes with brain and lung cancer diagnosis.
- **George Crump** is asking for prayers in support of his health and well-being.
- **Prayer for our local community organizations struggling with loss of funding including LINK, Bert Nash, and Haskell**, and we expect to hear about more in the coming days. Lord, hear our prayer.
- **Prayer for our pastor and church leaders**, for those leading our community, our state, and our nation.
- **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 serious health challenges.
- **Liz Cloutman** is receiving treatment for breast cancer.

Sunday Helpers

Ushers: Dianne and Vic Sisk, Heather Soper, Martha Rose

Greeters: Lindemeyer family

Offering: Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, Cherie Elo

Friendship Pad Collector: Petra Peterson

Bag Brigade Volunteer: Dede Dresser

Deacon Family Groups - 2025

A-Ca	Deborah Norwood	N-Q	Sandy Groene
Ce-Do	Joyce Carroll	Mc-Mz	Becky May
Dr-F	Diana Schoneweis	R-Si	Linda Longino
G-Ha	Lucille Eggenberger	SI-T	Russ Heikes
He-Ko	Mary Warren	U-Z	Allen Macfarlane
Kr-Ma	Lois Dutcher		

Birthdays in the Congregation

March 24	March 28
Jean Givens	Joyce Carroll
March 25	March 30
Dave Kyner	Mike Soper
March 26	
Karen Schorno	

Calendar

March 23

- 9:15 am Children and Youth Sunday School
- 9:15 am Names for the Messiah
- 10:30 am Worship
- 3:00 pm All Church Bowling Event

March 24

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 1:15 pm Staff meeting
- 2:00 pm Pastor Helen's Class
- 6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Cub Scout Den Schwaller
- 7:00 pm First 5 Years Board Meeting

March 25

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

March 26

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

March 27

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 1:00 pm Small World Classes
- 6:00 pm Girl Scout CPR Class

March 28

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 10:00 am Men's Group
- 6:00 pm Sustainability Action Annual Meeting

March 30

- 9:15 am Children's Sunday School Classes
- 9:15 am Names of the Messiah Class
- 10:30 am Worship
- 3:30 pm Daisy Troop 5621 Meeting

Children and Youth – classes resume January 12th

• Sunday School Classes for Children and Youth

- Pre-K and Kindergarten – Room 9 – Joan Golden and Nancy Hodges
- 1st and 2nd Grades – Room 12 – Anne Emert and Nikki Barcomb
- 3rd – 5th Grades – Room 14 - Chris Heider and Linda Longino
- The Youth are invited to attend Helen's class, Names for the Messiah.

Youth Activities

• March

- FUN, FAMILY: Bowling with FPC Youth – Everyone is invited to Royal Crest Lanes on Sunday, March 23rd at 3:00 pm. RSVP to Kelly at 785-979-2713

• April

- FELLOWSHIP – The youth will be serving biscuits and gravy on Easter morning. We need volunteers to help set up, cook, and serve. If interested in helping contact Kelly Grube at 785-979-2713

Adult Sunday School Classes

- **Names for the Messiah** led by Pastor Helen will meet in the Fireside Room at 9:15 am. For this Lenten season we will look at some of the names for Jesus and spend time thinking about the ways Jesus lives into those names.

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.
- **Pastor Helen's Monday Class** – On March 24th in our class on the Kings and Prophets of ancient Israel and Judea, we will look at King Asa of Judah (2 Chronicles 14-16), King Ahab of Israel and Elijah the prophet (1 Kings 17-18). The class meets at 2 pm in the Fireside Room.

Pastor Helen's Lenten Sermon Series

When I was in seminary, I was a youth director for Central Presbyterian Church in downtown Denver. I hosted a Star Wars Movie Marathan at the request of the youth. What was wonderful is that we had a deep theological discussion after those movies. The young people debated big questions about the force (i.e the force is not evil or good it just is and it is the way people use the force that makes something good or bad...)

That is the inspiration for our Lenten sermon series entitled The Prophets Story

March 23 rd	Third Sunday of Lent	Episode 3: Willing to be Surprised
March 30 th	Fourth Sunday of Lent	Episode 4: Finding Life
April 6 th	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Episode 5: God Speaks; The Word
April 13 th	Psalm Sunday	Episode 6: God's Weltanschauung; The Universe

Our Little Free Library Needs Adult Books! If you are cleaning out books, please consider donating some to the FPC Little Free Library. We currently have a good supply of children's books, but are in need of adult books to re-stock the shelves in the library located on the east side of the parking lot. You can bring your donation to the church office. Thank you!



March 23 – Join us at the bowling alley!

The Youth of FPC invite you to come bowl with them on Sunday, March 23 at 3:00 pm at Royal Crest Lanes (933 Iowa St.). Pick up a spare to come with you and join in the fun! RSVP to Kelly at 785-979-2713 or sign up in the Narthex today.

Lenten Devotionals – Adult Ministry is providing devotionals for Lent from Presbyterian Outlook titled, *“Grieving Change and Loss: The unpredictable, non-linear, faith-filled journey toward resurrection.”* One of the writers, Teri Ott shares, “Whether we take leave of a dying person, a community that has influenced and shaped us or a child going off to kindergarten or the first year of college, grief is in the emotional mix. We all have issues to grieve and Lent is an appropriate time to ponder this somber mix of emotions. Our human condition is awash in grief because we are mortal. Yet we are a resurrection people. There is life to be lived both within the grief and beyond it – a horizon of hope toward which we cast our eyes.” You can pick up a copy of the devotional in the Narthex today.

First 5 Years Playground Fundraiser - First Presbyterian Church’s First 5 Years Preschool will be installing a new playground this summer! The plans involve removing the two current structures and replacing them with one larger structure, installing pour in place surfacing (solid, rubber-like material) in the toddler area, and installing a climbing structure if budget allows. Fundraising will be the main source of funds for this project. We do have a matching donor for up to \$10,000, so every dollar up to that amount is doubled! Donations can be made by cash or check to the church office (please specify that your donation is for the preschool playground), online on the Church's online giving section (in the Designated Fund section with the note “Preschool Playground)

Mission: FPC Community Garden – It is time to start planting! Here are some timing guidelines. If you are interested in helping to plant, please contact Margie Dyck at mwdyck@gmail.com

GARDEN CALENDAR
Planting

Crop	Type of Planting	Timing			
asparagus	crowns	mid-March to mid-April	onion	sets/plants	mid-to late-March
kale	seed/transplant	mid-March	parsnips	seed	mid-March to early-April
fennel	seed	mid-March to early-April	peas	seed	mid-March
kohlrabi	seed	mid-March to early-April	potatoes	seed	mid-March to early-April
lettuce	seed	mid-March to early-April	radish	seed	mid- to late-March
			rhubarb	crowns	March to April
leeks	transplant	mid-March	rutabaga	seed	mid- to late-March
			spinach	seed	mid- to late-March
			turnip	seed	mid- to late-March

Matthew 25

Because the world is seldom fair, we go with justice.

Haskell Indian Nations University – Many members of First Presbyterian Church have been asking, “What can we do to support the students, faculty, and staff at Haskell?” Through the ongoing contributions to Just Food, assistance is already being given to the food pantry at Haskell Light, a campus ministry program. It is located at 137 Pawnee Ave. Next time you bring food donations, you might add a little extra for Just Food’s effort to support Haskell.

Bread for the World Offering of Letters - One in four children under five are severely malnourished. But it doesn't have to be that way. Every voice matters. With your help, we can reach the people with the power and resources to make hunger a problem of the past. Join us on March 30 or April 6, when Postcards for sending to our legislators will be available in the narthex before and after worship.



HOLY WEEK

Everyone is welcome to join us for any or all of these opportunities to celebrate Holy Week at FPC



Sun
April 13

Palm Sunday

Worship at 10:30 am
Easter Egg Hunt in the afternoon.



Thur
April 17

Maundy Thursday

Worship and Potluck at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall



Fri
April 18

Good Friday

Worship at 5:30 pm
In the Sanctuary



Sun
April 20

Easter Sunday

Breakfast at 9:00 am
Worship at 10:30 am

For more information check on our website
www.firstpreslawrence.org
or contact the church office at 785-843-4171