



# First Press

Weekly Newsletter

April 6, 2025

## First Presbyterian Church

### 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 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](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*

- Prayers for Myron Shipley as he receives treatment for cancer.
- **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.
- **Kelly Grube** is traveling between Lawrence and the Mayo Clinic in preparation for surgery the end of April. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.
- **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.

- **Liz Cloutman** is receiving treatment for breast cancer.
- **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.
- **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.

### Sunday Helpers

**Ushers:** Mark and Diana Schoneweis, Larry Maxey, Larry Schlosser

**Greeters:** Eva Alley, Linda Watts

**South Door Greeter:** Judy Wilson

**Offering:** Eric Fischer, Marilyn Heikes

**Friendship Pad Collector:** Petra Peterson

**Bag Brigade Volunteer:** Linda Longino

**Communion Servers:** Erinn Barcomb-Peterson, Cherie Elo, Marilyn Heikes, Jim Rumsey, Larry Schlosser, Lucille Eggenberger

### 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

April 7	James Emert	April 10	Cristin Chapin
April 8	Gary Forister	April 12	bobbie frances mcdonald
	Josephine Pringle	April 13	April Hodges
	Kowen Pringle		

## Calendar

### April 6

- 9:15 am Children's Sunday School Classes
- 9:15 am Easter Sunday School Service Project
- 9:15 am Names of the Messiah Class
- 10:30 am Worship
- 3:30 pm Daisy Troop 5621 Meeting
- 3:30 pm Eagle Scout Court of Honor

### April 7

- 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
- 6:00 pm Westminster Ringers Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm Cub Scout Den Schwaller
- 6:30 pm First 5 Years Staff Meeting

### April 8

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 1:00 pm Small World Classes
- 6:30 pm Session Meeting
- 7:00 pm Kaw Valley Fiber Guild Meeting

### April 9

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

### April 10

- 9:00 am First 5 Years Classes
- 11:00 am Family Ministry Meeting
- 1:00 pm Small World Classes
- 3:00 pm Matthew 25 Cohort Meeting
- 6:30 pm PW Ruth Circle

### April 11

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

### April 12

- 9:15 am Justice Matters Committee Meeting

### April 13

- 9:15 am Youth Sunday School Class
- 9:15 am Children's Sunday School Classes
- 9:15 am Names of the Messiah Class
- 10:30 am Worship
- 2:00 pm Easter Egg Hunt

## 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 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
- Today the Youth are invited to attend Helen's class, Names for the Messiah. On April 13<sup>th</sup> Margie Dyck will discuss Justice Matters with the Youth. Feel free to bring a friend!

## Youth Activities

### • April

- FUN, SERVICE: Spring Tea Party and Crafternoon at Presbyterian Manor on April 12. **We are currently looking for 3 to 5-inch flower pots to be donated for this event.**
- FUN, SERVICE: Help prepare for the Easter Egg Hunt. Meet in the Library after Children's Time.
- FELLOWSHIP – Join us for Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall 9:15-10:45, Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. Youth and friends at FPC invite all to join us for our annual Easter biscuits and gravy breakfast fundraiser. Donations are appreciated, all are welcome! If you would like to volunteer supplies or to help see the signup genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084CAAEE2DAAFD0-56042829-fpcyouth>

### • May

- CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Youth interested in learning about church membership come and have dinner and discussion with Pastor Helen on May 4

## 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](mailto:cftuttle@gmail.com).
- **Pastor Helen's Monday Class** – On April 7<sup>th</sup> in our class on the Kings and Prophets of ancient Israel and Judea, we will look at the prophet Amos. The class meets at 2 pm in the Fireside Room.

**Youth Membership Opportunity** – On Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> Pastor Helen is inviting youth interested in joining the church to a dinner from 5 to 7 pm. There is no requirement to join, just a desire to learn more. If you do choose to join the church you will then meet with members of Session at a dinner on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. The congregation

will then welcome you into membership on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join this group or would like more information, please contact the church office at 785-843-4171. We do need you to RSVP so we know how many we are feeding!

### **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*

April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Episode 5: God Speaks; The Word
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Palm Sunday	Episode 6; God's Weltanschauung; The Universe

**The Deacon Love Fund** in March provided utility assistance to two families. Your gifts help us to be available to provide assistance especially during this time of uncertainty. Thank you.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is our special offering collected on Easter Sunday. The funds raised through this offering will support the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program. *"If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!"*

**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)



**Family Promise of Lawrence** - This week of April 6-12 is FPC's next host week with Connect Church. We are providing dinner and hosts to the 4-6 families at Hope House on Friday, April 11th and Saturday, April 12th. The FPC youth have made Lasagna, garlic bread, salad, and chocolate chip cookies for dinner on Friday, April 11th and other volunteers are providing pulled meat varieties and buns, salad, and veggies with sugar free ice pops and fruit for dessert for Saturday, April 12th. We have 3 hosts signed up to help!! (Still need a few more!!). Thank you to all and if you would like to help out by giving some money for other weekly needs; please contact me , Lois Dutcher at [grammydutcher@yahoo.com](mailto:grammydutcher@yahoo.com) or see me at worship. Blessings to all FPC members, Lois Dutcher

**Easter Lily Order forms** are available now in the Narthex. You can contribute to the beauty of our Easter Sanctuary by donating a lily (\$15 – 20 is suggested) in honor of or in memory of a loved one or group. Donations in excess of the cost will go to funding for the care of church plants, flowers for Sunday, and summer plantings around the building. Thank you.

**Presbytery of Northern Kansas announces an Adult Volunteer Work Trip** to Burnsville, NC to help rebuild homes damaged by Hurricane Helene. The group leaves from Salina on June 14 and will return on June 21. To register go to their website at [www.pnks.org](http://www.pnks.org) and click on "Upcoming Events"

### **Mission**

Matthew 25

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

**FPC Justice Matters Network** invites you to join them at the April 10<sup>th</sup> Solutions Briefing in preparation for the May 5<sup>th</sup> Nehemiah Action Assembly. The Solutions Briefing will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1245 New Hampshire Street, from 6:30 to 8 pm. The Nehemiah Action Assembly will be held at the Douglas County Fairgrounds from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to join us!

**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.

**Community Garden** - It is spring in the garden. We transplanted radishes, lettuce, spinach and snap peas last week. We trimmed the chives plants and took the harvest to Just Food. That was an aromatic drive. Please let Margie Dyck know if you would like to help plant or water the garden or sign up in the Narthex.



# 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 9:15 am  
Worship at 10:30 am

For more information check on our website  
[www.firstpreslawrence.org](http://www.firstpreslawrence.org)  
or contact the church office at 785-843-4171

## Star Wars Scrolling Texts

Dear Friends,

Several of You have requested to have the words we have had scrolling with our Star Wars theme. You will find the words for all of our Lenten services below.

### **March 9, 2025**

### **1st Sunday of Lent**

A Long time Ago in a church far, far, away...  
The Prophets Story  
Episode 1: The King Must Die

A Long time Ago in a church far, far, away... It was noticed that most movies follow the same plot structure and that this bore a remarkable resemblance to the stories of the prophets in the Bible. Are we too called to follow in the footsteps of Ezekiel, Jeremiah, Harry Potter and Luke Skywalker?

### **March 16, 2025**

### **2nd Sunday of Lent**

A Long time Ago in a church far, far, away...  
The Prophets Story  
Episode 2: A New Hope

Hope is an absurdity too embarrassing to talk about, for it flies in the face of all those claims we have been told are facts. Hope is the refusal to accept the reading of reality which is the majority opinion. Hope is subversive, for it dares to announce that the present to which we have all made commitments is called into question.

### **March 23, 2025**

### **3rd Sunday of Lent**

A Long time Ago in a church far, far, away...  
The Prophets Story  
Episode 3: Willing to be surprised

Now let's admit, it's not always easy to know what God is doing, because what God is doing in the world always comes as a surprise. ...People who look with eyes of faith see yet another sign of what our surprising Jesus, the Son of the living God, is doing in the world, calling us to justice in our broken land, teaching us the truth that lives our society has not always valued do indeed matter, and we want to get behind Jesus and follow.

*Thomas G. Long*

### **March 30, 2025**

### **4th Sunday of Lent**

A Long time Ago in a church far, far, away...  
The Prophets Story  
Episode 4: Finding Life

Bones are sort of fascinating, aren't they? Some forensic anthropologists make a living studying bones. revealing the messages hidden in bones — messages that tell a story or that might reveal a killer. The message of the bones in Ezekiel 37 does not require the sleuthing of a forensic expert, because something amazing is about to happen. God is going to take "dem bones, dem dry bones" and breathe on them, bringing them to life. When the people said, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost."

God promises: "I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves." God's going to breathe on us, and the reaction of God's breath on our dry bones will reinvigorate our souls, and new life to grow. We "shall live"

**April 6, 2025**

**5th Sunday of Lent**

A Long time Ago in a church far, far, away...

The Prophets Story

Episode 5: God Speaks: The Word

How can we say Words have no power?

Words have set whole nations in motion...Give me the right word and the right accent and I will move the world.

*Joseph Conrad*

It was with a word that God created the world. "Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."

And the Word became flesh and lived among us. In a world where we are searching for hope, and searching to make a difference, don't ever forget the power of your words.

**April 13, 2025**

**Palm/Passion Sunday**

A Long time Ago in a church far, far, away...

The Prophets Story

Episode 6: God's Weltanschauung: The Universe

Attention all moons, planets, stars, and galaxies: Earth soon will be staring at you with bigger, keener eyes than ever before. An age of mammoth telescopes - optical, radio, and infrared, on land and in space has begun.

The goal is to look back to the dawn of the universe and the birth of the first stars; to track down the mysterious "dark matter" that fills most of space; To see with God's Weltanschauung or with God's point of view.

