



First Press

Worship and Wisdom

First Presbyterian Church

June 13, 2021

Our Transitional Pastor

Rev. Barry Williams

Our Mission

We are a community of 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

Welcome to everyone whether you are joining us virtually or in-person we are happy to have you with us. If you are joining in person on Sunday morning, please be sure to sign in on our Friendship Pad on the tables in the entry way so that we can keep you connected to events coming up. If you are with us virtually, we would love to know who you are. Feel free to send us a message on our website that you joined us or in the chat area with YouTube or Facebook.

A reminder for in-person worship: As you arrive at the church, put on your mask, then we will ask you to sign in on the Friendship Pad on tables in the Narthex. Ushers will escort you to your seats, keeping in mind social distancing from other family groups and our singers on the north side of the sanctuary. People will be seated from the front to the back, so you will probably not get to sit in your usual pew. At the end of worship, please remain seated until the ushers come to dismiss your row and then exit the Sanctuary. If you discover that you are ill with COVID-19 within three days of attending worship in-person, we ask that you notify the church office so that we can notify the appropriate people that they might have been exposed. We are working to keep all of us safe and this is another way to do that. We also ask that if you aren't feeling well – it might be best if you stay home. We want this to be a safe gathering for everyone in every way possible! Thank you for your help.

Be Inviting!

Be sure to share our Facebook and Website locations via your social media and email friends. Invite them to view our worship online with you virtually. Remember you can attend worship anytime via YouTube!

Prayer List

Cares, Concerns and Celebrations

- **Phil Rankin** has moved to a rehab facility in Lincoln, NE. Sharon will go with him.
- **David Dutcher** is recovering from recent back surgery. He is at home.
- **Jill Bradney** had hip surgery this week. She is recovering at home.
- **William and Julia Wallace**, parents of Nora Wallace and grandparents of Thomas Lushington, are both dealing with serious health issues while continuing to care for each other.
- **Carolyn Stillions** has shingles. Prayers for healing.
- **Earl Huyser** is dealing with health concerns.
- **Kristi McAlister**, FPC member and daughter of Pat McAlister, who is facing some serious health challenges.

Birthdays in the Congregation

June 14

Jeff Southard
Amber Luckie

June 17

Jennifer Waegelein

June 18

Mark Schoneweis
Jamie Resseguie

June 19

Henry Lake

Calendar

June 13

9:00 am RoundTable Class – Fireside Room
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am PNC Small Group Meeting – Fireside

June 14

5:00 pm Personnel Committee – Fellowship
6:30 pm Mission and Witness Committee

June 15

6:00 pm Deacon Meeting

June 17

6:30 pm Pelathe District Committee

June 18

6:00 pm Al-Anon Family Group

June 20

9:00 am RoundTable Class – Fireside

10:30 am Worship

11:30 am PNC Small Group Meeting - FH

Helpers this morning

Ushers: Jim and Nancy Rumsey, Ed Manda, and Larry Schlosser

Greeters: Vic & Dianne Sisk and Heather Soper

Securing the Offering: Carol Kyner and Paul Laird

Education

This Sunday

- **The RoundTable Class** – Is now meeting **in person** in the Fireside Room at 9:00 am. Masks are required. They are beginning a study of the book, ***Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teaching of Plants*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer. If you prefer you can also meet with members via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Contact Linda Watts for the Zoom link.
- The Old Testament Class will NOT meet over the summer. You can catch up on classes you might have missed using this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCEfMfsln_sXSz2fEYWRsBw.

The First 5 Years Staff would like to thank the church staff and congregation for all their support this past school year. It took an enormous team effort, but with all of us working together we were able to pull off another successful school year. With a lot of planning and implementing of health and safety procedures we were able to remain open for the entire school year and continue to offer a quality childcare program to the community. We are looking forward to our June Summer Camp and we are already planning for our return in the fall!

Fall Retreat: The Great Outdoors-Still Small Voice Ladies! Plan now for our retreat October 29 and 30 at Heartland Conference Center in Parkville, MO. This beautiful setting will inspire you and provide balance to your mind and heart following this tumultuous time just passing. Sponsored by the Education Ministry and Presbyterian Women and led by Judith Galas the retreat will be a treat for everyone attending! A deposit of \$50 saves your place. Pay online or bring to the church office.

Questions? Contact Julie Simon, organizer, at 304-654-3992.

Worship

Mariana Farah and Randy Frye – last day is July 18! Note this change!!

We are excited and celebrate these career moves for Mariana and Randy and will also miss their music, voices, and valuable contributions to our worship and lives here at FPC. Celebrations are being planned for after worship on July 18. We are also collecting a “Love Offering” for them to help as they make these moves around the country. If you would like to contribute, please mark your check or envelope with “Music Gift”. Please be sure your gift is in the office by July 11th.

The Personnel Committee would like you to be aware that there is already a search committee working to find our next Music Director and Organist. This group is being led by Joy Laird. If you know someone who might be interested in applying for either position, please contact her at pjclaird@sunflower.com. Thank you!

Information from the PNC

The Pastor Nominating Committee is hosting follow ups to our Holy Cow survey. If you were not able to fill out the survey or if you think there are areas that the survey did not cover that you would like to address, the PNC would like to hear from you. They are hosting an in-person opportunity in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 13. If you prefer, you can join a zoom meeting at 7:00 pm on June 22nd. Sign up for these opportunities by calling the Church Office at 785-843-4171.

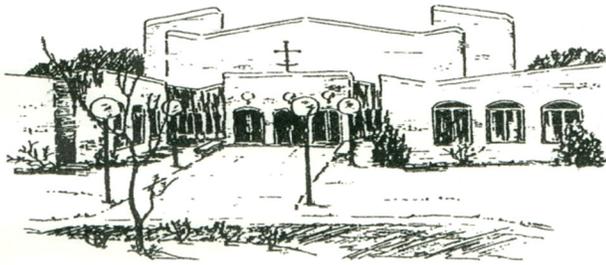
Mission

Being a Matthew 25 Church means that we are actively involved in three aspects of discipleship:

- Building congregational vitality
- Dismantling structural racism
- Eradicating systemic poverty

More information about Matthew 25 can be found on the Presbyterian Mission Agency website: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/matt-25-resources/>

Justice Matters – Some history: It has been six years, seven months, and two days since Justice Matters was officially born. We have faced many trials, opportunities, and forks in the road since then. But the all-out resolve to improve our city – particularly for the most vulnerable - has remained unchanged bearing fruit on every side of town.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Third Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Barry Williams, preaching
Paul Laird, liturgist

June 13, 2021

Prelude

Christ Is the King
JOHN EGGERT, arr.

Randall Frye, organist

Welcome and Announcements

Moment for Mission

Pastor Nominating Committee

Kelly Jones, moderator

Call to Worship

One: Small as a mustard seed and lofty as a cedar:

All: The kingdom of God is growing.

One: While we sleep and rise night and day:

All: The kingdom of God is growing.

One: The low are brought high; the high are brought low:

All: The kingdom of God is growing, its large branches are home to all kinds of people!

Opening Prayer

Opening Hymn

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!
CORONATION

Hymnal #142

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we so often miss your kingdom at work among us.

Captivated by power and prestige, we overlook the mustard seeds you have planted all around.

Forgive us for failing to notice where and how you are at work.

Forgive us when we work against your plans and purposes -

fostering divisions when you have called us to a ministry of reconciliation;

beset by apathy when the world has such deep needs;

building walls to keep people out when your branches offer generous nests.

Help us to grow in faithfulness, we pray, so that we might reach our fullest height of faith.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Sharing the Peace

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Scripture

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

Paul Laird, liturgist

Children's Moment

Leah Towle

Special Music

The Trumpeters Lullaby
LEROY ANDERSON

Sharon Toulouse

Scripture

Mark 4:26-34

Sermon

"The Greatest of All Shrubs"

Rev. Barry Williams

Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation
EAST ACKLAM

Hymnal #553

Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Call for Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Offering plates are located in the Narthex at the end of the "sign-in" tables.

Hymn

We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight
DUNLAP'S CREEK

Hymnal #399

Charge and Benediction

One: Share your faith with the world. God will make of it more than you can imagine.

All: We will dare to speak of God's love. We will seek to live out the love of Christ.

One: In Christ, we are a new creation.

Walk by faith, not by sight. God will add to your understanding day by day.

All: We will seek to view others as God sees them. We will claim them as sisters and brothers.

One: Amen.

All: Amen.

Postlude

Opportunities to Participate in Ministry

In-Person Worship – We are discovering that it is challenging to offer in-person worship after not having it for 14 months! We need volunteers to help with ushering and greeting and inviting people to join us safely. Please contact Pat McAlister at 785-766-2172 or at pmcalist@sbcglobal.net to sign up for one or two up-coming Sunday mornings!

Join the Tech Team and learn a new skill! We are also finding that it is important to keep our worship on Sunday livestreaming for those who are not ready or are not able to attend in person. At the moment more people are watching You Tube and Facebook than are attending in person! So, we are looking for people who are interested in learning how to run the equipment – the soundboard, the live-stream or the camera – by training with our Sound Board team. We won't put you on your own until you are ready, but we need some folks to join in soon! Call the church office or check in with one of the people at the board on Sunday. Thank you! It truly takes a team to make this happen.

We are reviving our "Mugger" program for our first- time guests. If you are interested in helping to deliver mugs to our guests please contact Margie Dyck at mwdyck@gmail.com. Thank you!

FPC Session Leadership

Worship: b-f mcdonald and Paul Laird
Welcome: Margie Dyck and b-f mcdonald
Fellowship: John Hughes and Carol Kyner
Education: Linda Watts, Henry Johns, Carol Kyner, and Heather Soper
Mission: Heather Soper, Ted Waiss, and Margie Dyck
Care: Deacons and Parish Nurses

Support:

Finance: Marilyn Harp, Ted Waiss,
Property: Mark Shiflett, John Hughes,
Personnel: Marilyn Harp, Paul Laird, and Linda Watts

Elders on Church Nominating Committee: Heather Soper and Carol Kyner

Elders on Pastor Nominating Committee: Mark Shiflett and Henry Johns

On the north side near the hospital, one can see construction crews putting the final touches on a new Behavioral Health campus to treat people with mental illness. Everywhere you see a city police officer, you can know s/he has been trained in de-escalation tactics when encountering someone in a mental health crisis.

No matter where they live in Lawrence, parents who send their children to middle school this fall can feel assured that every teacher their child will encounter has been trained to teach conflict resolution rather than exclusion and alienation.

On the far eastern edge of the city limits, one will see a jail with as many cells as it had when it opened in 2000 instead of cranes permanently expanding the footprint of incarceration. When you walk into a courtroom or into a meeting at the Sheriff's office, one can witness people leaning into creative criminal justice reforms like drug courts, expanded work release options, eliminating the cash bail option that leaves so many poor people stuck in jail.

As you make your way up Iowa Street between 6th and 9th streets, you will pass the Days Inn Hotel where over 300 people experiencing homelessness were spared from dying of hypothermia during the arctic blast in February 2021.

And on the City of Lawrence website you can see a map with 157 affordable homes sprinkled throughout neighborhoods that have been built or preserved so women fleeing domestic violence, low-income working families, or people in recovery do not have to slip into homelessness.

All this and more in just six and half years. Here's even more good news: we are just getting started.

At our annual Celebration at the Fairgrounds on Monday, June 14 from 6 – 8 pm, we will celebrate what God has done in the city, consider our present commitments, and invest in our future. Please join us. All Justice Matters Network Members are invited. Event details are below.

To confirm your attendance, please contact your team leaders.

Event details:

- Date & Time: Monday, June 14 from 6 – 8 pm (6-7 activities/7-8 main program)
- Location: Douglas County Fairgrounds inside the Outdoor Pavilion
- Dinner available from 5:30 – 7 pm: Southern Poppy's food truck will serve dinner featuring smoked brisket and barbecue, tacos, and chicken. First 50 people eat free!
- COVID-19 Safety: This is not a drive-in format. The Outdoor Pavilion is a large, well-ventilated, covered space.
- Activities from 6 – 7 pm include:
 - Dunk-a-Pastor dunk tank (Pastor Justin Jenkins and Deacon Godsey are signed up, with more on the way)
 - Justice Matters Photo Booth
 - Congregational Fellowship - Everyone is encouraged to bring your own drinks (responsible use of alcohol permitted)
- Program from 7 – 8 pm include:
 - Virtual keynote address from author Leonard Pitts
 - Celebration of Justice Matters Accomplishments
 - Opportunity to invest in the organization

The day after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack, journalist Leonard Pitts wrote an editorial for his syndicated column that gained national recognition. He wrote directly to the terrorists and summed up Americans like this:

"We are fundamentally decent, peace-loving and compassionate. We struggle to know the right thing and to do it. And we are, the overwhelming majority of us, people of faith, believers in a just and loving God. Some people - you, perhaps - think that any or all of this makes us weak. You're mistaken. We are not weak. Indeed, we are strong in ways that cannot be measured by arsenals."

Leonard Pitts will expand on these "believers in a just and loving God" with his real-time virtual keynote address on Monday, June 14 at the Justice Matters Annual Celebration. You won't want to miss it.

Care

If you or someone you know from the church is hospitalized or plans to be, please let us know. Lawrence Memorial Hospital is now allowing clergy to visit people there, so we need to know when someone has been hospitalized! Thank you for your help. You can call the church office or contact your Deacon.

Are you taking care of yourself? As difficult as it was to make the decision and then take action to shut down the church in March of 2020, we are finding that it is a lot more difficult to open it back up! We are also aware that all of us are making decisions about what activities and which people in our worlds are safe and how to go about our daily activities now! This work can affect our physical and mental health. Are we taking care of ourselves? Here are some tips to help you stay on track.

- **Get regular exercise.** Just 30 minutes of walking every day can help boost your mood and improve your health.
- **Eat healthy, regular meals and stay hydrated.** A balanced diet and plenty of water can improve your energy and focus throughout the day.
- **Make sleep a priority.** Stick to a schedule, and make sure you're getting enough sleep.
- **Try a relaxing activity.** Explore relaxation or wellness programs or apps, which may incorporate meditation, muscle relaxation, or breathing exercises.
- **Set goals and priorities.** Decide what must get done now and what can wait. Learn to say "no" to new tasks if you start to feel like you are taking on too much. Try to be mindful of what you have accomplished at the end of the day, not what you have been unable to do.
- **Practice gratitude.** Remind yourself daily of things you are grateful for. Be specific. Write them down at night or replay them in your mind.
- **Focus on positivity.** Identify and challenge your negative and unhelpful thoughts.
- **Stay connected.** Reach out to your friends or family members who can provide emotional support and practical help.

Deacon Family Groups

A-Bo	Alison Hill	Lj-Me	Linda Upstill
Bp-Ch	Carol Smith	Mf-N	Nancy Rumsey
Ci-Dr	Kathryn Roblee	O-Re	Sandy Groene
Ds-F	Deborah Norwood	Rf-Sh	Kathy Stover
G-He	Julie Simon	Si-Sz	Cherie Hoover
Hf-Ke	Sara Quick	T-Wa	Annette Camlin
Kf-Li	Charles Tuttle	Wb-z	Peggy Southard

In the Community

Save the Date! On October 9 the Alzheimer's Association will host a **Walk to End Alzheimer's** at South Park, 1141 Massachusetts. You can register at www.alzwalklawrence.org

Support

We are thankful for all of you who are pledging your support for FPC in 2021. If you would like to make a pledge or give a one-time gift, you can do so by going to our website and clicking on the "Online Giving" button. Check it out at www.firstpreslawrence.org.

The Finance Committee reports giving for the period ending April 30, 2021:

	Budget	Actual
Membership Gifts – May	\$42,458.00	\$41,602.00
Membership Gifts – 2021 - YTD	\$256,191.00	\$248,788.00