

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 - SUDDERTH SUNDAY

WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD

COVER ARTWORK: CRISTOBAL ALMANZA | SOULPAINTER.COM | THE FOUR EVANGELIST



Integrative Method of Worship

There are many styles of worship. At First Presbyterian, our worship style, generally, is a traditional reformed service with liturgy, confession and classic Christian hymnody. Even with our traditional emphasis, we believe that relevant worship in the 21st century provides space for congregants and visitors to do integrative spiritual work. By this, we mean that our daily experiences inform and affect our theology and vice versa. In worship at First Presbyterian, we are striving to integrate experience and theology so that we feel responsive and genuine in our faith as we live our daily lives. Worship planning is anchored and planned around the sermon or the sermon series. Series are planned to address any one of four areas: mission of the church, life of the church family, Biblical literacy and current relevant topics. We strive to be balanced and thoughtful in what is offered for your prayer and reflection. However, because integration and responsiveness are the goal, we will often address sensitive issues. Prayers and confessions are written by our pastor. Our children's Spirit Box time is the opportunity for children to have a choice and voice in worship. We welcome you, as you are, to each worship service at First Presbyterian. Integrative work is not easy. It is not always comfortable, but it is essential to a vital church. Please feel free to reach out to our pastor with your questions.

Statement of Mission

First Presbyterian Church of Waco, Texas, welcomes all as children of God through our worship, outreach, Christian education and congregational life events. By the liberating and compelling grace of God, and in accord with our Reformed theological heritage, we follow Jesus Christ's example by reaching out to seekers and those in need, nurturing disciples, honoring diversity and seeking to reconcile the world to God through ministries of justice and mercy.

If You Are New Here

Stop by our Welcome Center in the Narthex for information. When you are seated, please fill out the Welcome Folder you will find in the pew. After all in the pew have signed, pass it to the center aisle or use the QR code to sign in online.

These May Help During the Service

If you would like a large-print hymnal or hearing enhancement device, please ask an usher. We also have worship bags for children on the wall of the Narthex. Please return the bag after the service.

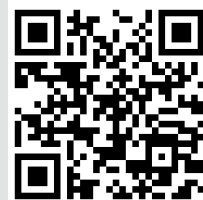
If You Are in Need of Prayer

You will find prayer cards in the back of the pew. You may place them in the offering plate or hand them to an usher. Your prayers are confidential.

Childcare

Childcare is available from 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM. Contact the church office at (254) 752-1665 for more information.

Scan and
register your
attendance.



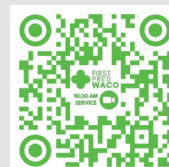
+ Please
rise in
body or in
spirit.

Scan the
QR code
to chat
with the
Zoom
room!

8:30 AM



10:30 AM



Greetings and Announcements

Prelude: (8:30) *I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go* arr. McDonald
(10:30) *Exuberant Joy* Arnold Sherman
St. Cecilia Bell Choir

+ Call to Worship

One: We gather in to find our voices and voice.

Many: We sort through the voices of our past to arrive to our present.

One: We seek to be fully present for the voices of our current moments.

Many: We are listening for the voices of the future.

One: God's still small voice emerges at the intersection of our past, present, and future.

Many: We seek to worship God with one voice and to engage ministry to God's glory. Amen.

+ Hymn #722 *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak* CANONBURY

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

God of Life, we confess our temptation to hold a breath. In moments of intensity or uncertainty, we can feel immobilized. You are *ruach* and strength. We seek to be filled by your energy and spirit. Grant us grace as we practice speaking the words of life and faith to one another. How we aspire to not only articulate your Good News but to live it out in our world. We offer this prayer, lifting our confession and adorned in our longing. It is into your strength of Spirit that we offer each prayer. Amen.

Moment of Silence

Response Hymn #341 (10:30) *O God, Show Mercy to Us* THAXTED
O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace;
and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face.

Declaration of Grace & Sharing of the Peace of Christ

+ Invitation to Our Children (10:30) "*Christ Before Me*" St. Patrick's Breastplate
Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ beside me, Christ within me,
Christ in the face of those who love me

We are grateful for last week's giving of \$11,972.53.

Our Sudderth Sunday fund has raised \$1,456.80. Text Leslie if we should increase our goal. 254 214 - 5999

Venmo can facilitate your offering or designated gift.



Spirit Box (10:30) Mila Malavanti
God be in my head. God be in my heart. God be on my left. God be on my right.
God be beneath me. God be above me. God be in the faces of all who love me.

Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11 (pew Bible OT pg.667)

Leader: The Word of the Lord. | **People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Send Forth Thy Light

Mily A. Balakirev

Send forth Thy Light, send forth thy truth, and let them lead me to Thy holy hill. My soul shall praise the lord in heav'n whose glory yet will I sing, who is the hope of my salvation, and my God.

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:16-20 (pew Bible NT pg.34)

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord. | **People: Praise to you, O Christ**

+ Gloria Patri #581 (10:30)

Glory Be to the Father

Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Sermon: Go Tell - Evangelism & the Wilderness

Leslie King, D. Min.

+ Affirmation of Faith - page 35 of Hymnal

Apostles' Creed

This creed, spoken together, allows us to feel, summarily, the major movement of the gospel. Speaking it allows us to be cradled in the elements of the gospel that give us the most comfort. Equally, it allows us to ponder and wonder about elements that are more challenging to understand. Our recitation of it is not a call to uniformity and conformity. Rather, it is a call to continue to explore our mysterious gospel for the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Offering (10:30)

Praise to the Lord

Callahan

+ Doxology #606 (10:30)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30) *Amazing Grace*

arr. Pam Gervais

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayers of the People

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 and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

+ Hymn #737 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song* LES PETITES SOEURS

+ Charge & Benediction

+ Closing Response: (10:30) #741 *Guide My Feet* GUIDE MY FEET

Postlude: (8:30) *Nearer, My God, To Thee* arr. Paul Cardell
(10:30) *Prelude in G minor* J. S. Bach

Sanctuary Flowers

In thanksgiving of all creatures great and small.

Given by: Bill & Dwana Nesbitt



Parlor Plants

With gratitude for our children, their spouses, and our grandchildren.

Given by: Mike & Kathy Jones

Thank you to Dwana and Bill Nesbitt for hosting Coffee Fellowship!

We're excited to welcome Peighton Pulley as our new intern at First Presbyterian Church! Peighton is pursuing her Master of Social Work at Baylor University and is passionate about the connection between mental health and ministry.

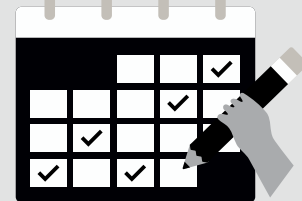
As part of her placement, she will offer confidential counseling support for individuals and families, providing a safe and compassionate space for healing and growth.

Peighton will have informational flyers available to provide details on resources she can offer. You can reach her at peightonp@firstpreswaco.org with questions or to connect.

Nominating Committee



UPCOMING THIS WEEK



SUN

21

8:30 AM
9:15 AM
10:30 AM
11:30 AM

Worship Service - Hybrid
Christian Formation Classes for all ages
Worship Service - Hybrid
Coffee Fellowship

MON

22

5:30 PM

Session Meeting - Hybrid

TUE

23

8:30 - 11:30 AM

Meals on Wheels - For more information contact
Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305

WED

24

12:00 PM
1:30 PM
6:00 PM
6:00 PM
7:00 PM

Facilities Committee Meeting
Worship Committee Meeting
St. Cecilia Bell Choir Practice - Sanctuary
Mid Week Programming - Youth
Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

THU

25

8:30 - 11:30 AM

9:00 AM

Meals on Wheels - For more information contact
Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305
Classic Voice Ensemble - Choir Room

SUN

28

8:30 AM
9:15 AM
10:30 AM
11:30 AM

Worship Service - Hybrid
Christian Formation Classes for all ages
Worship Service - Hybrid
Coffee Fellowship

FIRST PRES NEWS

OUR HYBRID HOUSE

Our Hybrid House is the newest committee of the Diaconate and will be focused on what it means to enrich our environment for hybrid worship and meetings. We are particularly interested in your opinions and experiences if you are a non-local participant of First Presbyterian. Look for our Hybrid House meetings on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5:00 PM.

Our next meeting will be on October 12th. Octobers question will be "Who is your favorite character in the Bible and why?"



POWER OF THE PEN

Join us Monday, September 29th at 7:00 PM on Zoom for Power of the Pen.



MID WEEK YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Youth, join us Wednesdays for Cha & Chats! We meet at the church at 6:00 PM, walk to Cha Community for an hour of conversation and refreshments, then return from 7:00–8:00 PM for Study Hall—a supportive space to focus on homework or reading. A midweek chance to connect, reflect, and grow together!

PIG ROAST

We are excited for the Olsons to host the Pig Roast again this year on Saturday, October 11th at 3:00 PM to 7:30 PM.

1654 Rock Ridge Road
Valley Mills, TX 76689



COLLECTING FOR THE COVE

This October, we're collecting full-sized hygiene items for The Cove, a Waco nonprofit supporting youth experiencing homelessness.

Needed items include:

- Body wash
- Conditioner
- Shampoo
- Hairbrushes
- Lotion
- Shaving cream
- Feminine Hygiene – specifically pads with wings
- Mouthwash

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.FIRSTPRESWACO.ORG
OR FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @FIRSTPRESWACO



Staff

Pastor	Leslie King, D. Min. (lking@firstpreswaco.org)
Director of Congregational Life	Taylor Holleyman, Ph.D (tholleyman@firstpreswaco.org)
Operations Manager	Shane Montoya, MBA (office@firstpreswaco.org)
Communication & Design Specialist	Evan Cole (ecole@firstpreswaco.org)
Organizational Developer: Communities for Children & Youth	Jeremy Davis (jdavis@firstpreswaco.org)
Social Work Intern	Peighton Pulley (peightonp@firstpreswaco.org)
Chancel Choir Director	Austin Ingalls (chancelchoire@firstpreswaco.org)
Handbell Director	Amy Goodman, Ph. D (amy_goodman@baylor.edu)
Organist	Becky Ward, M.M. (vward@hotmail.com)
Pianist (8:30 am service)	Trisha Anderson (trishaanderson0926@gmail.com)
Nursery Coordinator	Chelley Breemes (bigcatz2000@yahoo.com)
Church Historian	Katelyn Jaynes, Ph. D (kljaynes204@gmail.com)
Parish Assoc. for Gerontology	Jim Ellor, D. Min. Ph. D, H.R. (james_ellor@baylor.edu)
Streaming Team	Sondra Dubowsky, James Karney, Amanda Lassetter, Thomas Munn, Adam Redmer, Mike Vale
Custodian	Adriana Goytortu

Organizational Officers

Clerk of Session	Ken Kuhns
Church Treasurer, Asst. Treasurer	Mark Harren, Donna Black
First Presbyterian Church Foundation	President - Chuck Weaver, Carr DuPuy, Carol Miller, Malorie Montoya, Charles Stern
Forman Fund	David Smith, Phil Hering, Cathy McPhee, Patsy Norman, Bob Grayson
Presbyterian Women	Susan Sommerville, Sherry Cragen, Mary Lynn Klingman and Sue Young
Sanctuary Guild	Sherry Cragen, Leigh Marcus
Sanctuary Flowers	Susan Somerville, Kathy Jones
Celebration Way	Cary DuPuy

Session Committee Members

Administration Committee	Charlie Olson, Mike Morrison
Christian Formation Committee	Jamie Jackson, Shannon Field, Anita Karney
Congregational Life Committee	Sharon Stern
Facilities Committee	Mark Anderson, Christine Miller, James Hill, Bob Cragen
Finance Committee	Phil Hering, Chip Somerville, Lyndon Olson
Outreach Committee	Sam Parler, Brenda Stephens, Matthew Malavanti
Personnel Committee	Mike Harper, Todd Ehlers, Elouise Frazier
Worship Committee	Jamie Delk, Meredith Palm

Diaconate Committee Members

Diaconate Moderator/Vice Moderator	Malorie Montoya, Bricker Bruner
Diaconate Secretary	Bricker Bruner, Kitty Huneke
Agape Committee	All Deacons
Our Hybrid House	Helen Harris, Christine Dennis, Dave Reagan, Jen Ferretter, Avery Kerley, Cynthia Perry, Zdzislaw Wieckowski, George Ahrens
Power of the Pen	Helen Harris, Peggy Graham, Michelle Plaskett, Parker Adamson
Prayer Committee	Sarah Davis, Toni Percivill, John Jovicich, Kathy Jones
Stork Committee	Drew Risinger, Jerry Barrett, Kevin Bartley
Ushering Coordinator	Wes Field



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - WACO, TEXAS
1100 Austin Ave. - Waco, TX 76701 - 254.752.1665 - www.firstpreswaco.org
Church Office Hours: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Sunday Services 8:30 AM (Weekly Communion) and 10:30 AM (Morning Worship)
Pastor - Leslie King

