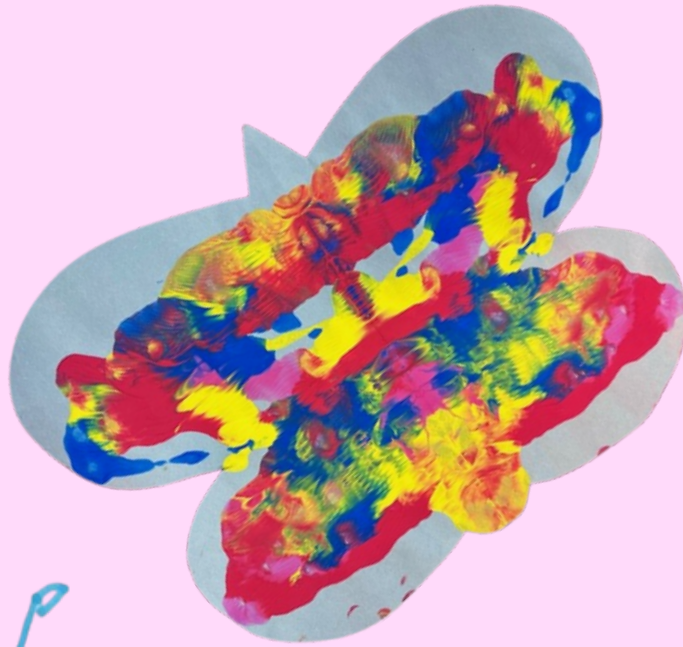




# OCTOBER 19TH, 2025 CHILDREN'S SUNDAY & SUDDERTH SUNDAY



## WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD

ART BY: KYNADIE (MERMAID) & BYNTLIE (BLUEY) MONTAYA, JACK WATKINS HOLLEYMAN (BUTTERFLY),  
& CORRIE OLDHAM (LANDSCAPE)



# 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 hot topics. We strive to be balanced and thoughtful in what is offered for your prayer and reflection. However, because integration and responsiveness is 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.

Word of Welcome from CF Moderator Jamie Jackson.

Font: Jack Watkins Holleyman / Mila Malavanti

Prelude (8:30) *His Eye is On the Sparrow* Gary Lanier  
(10:30) *His Eye is on the Sparrow* Gabriel

+ Call to Worship Ryan Fergus

Leader: Come, let us praise God together!

**Congregation: We come to sing and pray!**

Leader: God loves us and calls us to love!

**Congregation: We come to share God's love!**

+ Hymn #22 *God of the Sparrow* ROEDER

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration Hannah & Finley Gingles

One: God of each emotion, we want to share our feelings that shine like a rainbow across our lives.

**Many: Some moments feel pink and red. We are proud in heart and head.**

One: Some times are orange and yellow. We play, stay busy and go, go, go.

**Many: Other hours feel brown and gray. We are meh. Nothing seems to move today.**

One: Some feelings are blue and green. We glide as high as the sky or stretch deep to places unseen.

**Many: Some days feel purple and black. We are hurt sometimes we attack.**

One: How we long to honor our emotions and return our hearts and minds to our work of kindness and understanding.

**Many: O God of each emotion, may you hear our confession and all that we long for as we remember Jesus who loved us. Amen.**

Moment of Silence Reed Olivarez

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 Lola Joyner

+ 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.*

+ Please  
rise in  
body or in  
spirit.

Special  
thanks to  
Joycelyn  
Williams for  
her musical  
gift.

Scan the  
QR code  
to chat  
with the  
Zoom  
room!

8:30 AM



10:30 AM



**We are grateful for last week's giving of \$8,303.90.**

**Our Sudderth Sunday fund has raised \$1,507.10 Text Leslie if we should increase our goal. 254 214 - 5999**

**Venmo can facilitate your offering or designated gift.**



Spirit Box (10:30) Uplift  
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.

2026 Stewardship Speakers: John and Brenda Stephens

Presentation of 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles: Ella Woolen, Phoenix Harren, Sawyer Muehlenbein

Prayer of Illumination Brianna Harren  
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Genesis 21:14-21 (Paraphrased) Lukas Preddy  
Leader: The Word of the Lord. | **People: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Choir *Song of Joseph*  
*Here I Am Lord*  
Emily Brink  
Daniel Schutte  
Conducted by: John Jovicich & Brian Rainosek

Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:41-50 (Paraphrased) Jameson Joyner  
Leader: The Gospel of our Lord. | **People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

+ Gloria Patri #581 (10:30) *Glory Be to the Father*  
*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.*  
Gloria Patri

Sermon: In the Wings - Feathering the Wing Leslie King, D. Min.  
& All Children

+ Affirmation of Faith Carl Wright  
**We are trying to figure Jesus out. Trying to understand what is believable and what I have Questions about. We're trying to get a sense of the spirit. Sometimes feelings may rise up in our stomachs, or across our skin or hearts. Those feelings make us wonder about how we can play our part. How does the creator work? When we see others hurt, we might worry God is only a powerful jerk. We're wondering who we are to God and to you. Thanks for loving us that feels true. We affirm that we are growing deep and wide as children of God.**

Celebration of the Children Baptized since October 2024  
**Remi Bartley, Lukas Preddy, Phoenix and Brianna Harren.**

Offering (10:30) *This Little Light of Mine*  
Kolander  
**Phoenix Harren, Charlotte Ochel, Kynadie & Byntlie Montoya.**

+ Doxology #606 (10:30) *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* Old Hundredth  
*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) *Autumn Hymn*

Andy Muskrat

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.**

+ Prayer of The People

Paul Ehlers

**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 #661

*Why Should I Feel Discouraged*

SPARROW

+ Echo & Benediction

**We kindly ask that you remain seated for our  
congregational meeting.**

### **Sanctuary Flowers**

In honor of Toni's mother,  
Roberta Villano.

Given by: Toni Percivill



### **Parlor Plants**

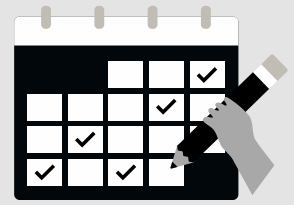
In memory of Dr. and Mrs. R.E.  
Henderson, Jr, and in honor of  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Metz.

Given by: Ron & Charlotte  
Henderson

**Scan and  
register your  
attendance.**



# UPCOMING THIS WEEK



**SUN**

**19**

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

8:30 AM

9:15 AM

10:30 AM

11:30 AM

Worship Service - Zoom and in-person

Christian Formation Classes All Ages

Worship Service - Zoom and in-person

Congregational Meeting - Hybrid

**MON**

**20**

5:30 PM

Session Meeting

**TUE**

**21**

8:30 - 11:30 AM

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

6:30 PM

First Pres Book Club

**WED**

**22**

12:00 PM

1:30 PM

6:00 PM

6:00 PM

7:00 PM

Facilities Committee Meeting

Worship Committee Meeting

Into the Heart Wednesdays - Cha Community

St. Cecilia Bell Choir Practice - Sanctuary

Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

**THU**

**23**

8:30 - 11:30 AM

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

9:00 AM

Classic Voice Ensemble - Choir Room

**SUN**

**26**

## Reformation Sunday

8:30 AM

9:15 AM

10:30 AM

11:30 AM

11:30 AM

Worship Service - Zoom and in-person

Christian Formation Classes All Ages

Worship Service - Zoom and in-person

Coffee Fellowship

**Church Retreat Attendee Meeting - Hybrid**

**Church offices will be closed due to construction. Power will be off in the building Oct 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. Staff will be working from home.**

# FIRST PRES NEWS

## OUR HYBRID HOUSE

Our Hybrid House is the newest committee of the Diaconate, focusing on enriching 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.



### POWER OF THE PEN

Power of the pen will be meeting Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM on Zoom.



### INTO THE HEART WEDNESDAYS

Join us Wednesday night at 6:00 PM for our Into the Heart Series.

- October 22: *Into the Heart - Cha Community Dumping.*
- October 29: *Into the Heart - Halloween for the Homebound.*

### CHURCH RETREAT ATTENDEE MEETING

If you are attending the Church retreat in November, we invite you to attend a pre - retreat meeting on Sunday, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 service in the sanctuary. Zoom option will also be available.

### OPEN TABLE DESSERT

We are excited to sponsor Open Table, a college ministry and chapel option at Baylor University. Open Table meets each Thursday to enjoy a meal and conversations about faith. If you would like to sponsor dessert for one of their Thursday gatherings please sign-up here:



### CELEBRATION WAY BRICKS

We have engraved and installed our first re-order of bricks along Celebration Way!

Celebration Way is a walkway in the courtyard where you can buy a brick to be engraved to remember a loved one, celebrate a baptism/confirmation/wedding, and so much more! If you are interested in purchasing a brick contact Shane at

[office@firstpreswaco.org](mailto:office@firstpreswaco.org).



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VISIT OUR WEBSITE [WWW.FIRSTPRESWACO.ORG](http://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)                                                  |
| Social Work Intern                | Peighton Pulley (peightonp@firstpreswaco.org)                                        |
| Chancel Choir Director            | Austin Ingalls (chancelchoir@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                    | Brenda Stephens, 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](http://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



The background of the cover is a photograph of a brick building with a large, multi-paned arched window. A green rectangular overlay is positioned on the right side of the image, containing the title text. In the bottom right corner, there is a white logo consisting of four overlapping circles arranged in a cross shape.

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# A REPORT FROM

## PASTOR LESLIE KING

This year might be characterized as both at the front lines and in the balcony.

Front line work takes us into the management of details and experiencing relationships.

- Visiting members during ordinary days and during times when life becomes more intense remains an important privilege. This is the grounding work of ministry, and I continue to learn so much from my visits with each of you. Thank you for making slow time to be your pastor.
- This year has included the redevelopment of communities for youth and children. This is tier work of listening to parents, inviting adults to shepherd the communities on Sunday morning, and Wednesday night and finally encouraging the young people to bring their gifts and fill their church home with energy. This work is slow but progressing. Front line work has also happened on Baylor Campus in the expansion of Open Table, our chartered ecumenical organization with Calvary, Dayspring, 7th and James and University Baptist Church. We Presbyterians are holding our own in this collaboration with energy and resources. Securing the grant from 1001 Worshipping Communities of our denomination, we brought 20,000.00 in programming money to Open Table to better serve a generous theology among Baylor students.

Balcony work is attention to the big picture of life and cultural trends.

- Prayer connections in our Realm platform remain a balcony picture of the array of congregational experiences that give rise to joy, sorrow, grief, and personal transformation. It is a privilege to create a hub for our congregational awareness and the mystery of prayer that supports and sustains our church family and its wider community. Not unrelated to prayer
- connections is the task of preaching, writing weekly liturgy, and establishing educational opportunities. This, too, is balcony work as we consider world circumstances and the intersection of faith, politics and questions of meaning and purpose in our own lives. The ability to write and construct is very related to the visiting of bullet point one above. Neurodivergence is a current example of cultural curiosity. We were able to take an opportunity with Grace Presbytery to be an early adoption cohort that considers neurodiversity in worship. The congregation continues (after decades of work with autism) to show strong support for this subject. We look forward to bringing this balcony issue of science and culture into the frontlines of our experience as a church family.

Just a brief report on the joy that it is to be one of your pastors.

Faithfully, Leslie





Chairperson: Sharon Stern

Members: Sue Patrick, Taylor Holleyman, Christine Dennis, Kris Olson, Charlie Olson, Mike Farr, LaRaine DuPuy, Melanie Cook, Marla Jaynes and Greg Palm

## A REPORT FROM **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

Major Accomplishments for 2024-2025: Successfully had two Dinners for 8 (February 1 and July 19), Beer & Hymns (March 23), Ice Cream Social (September 7), Pig Roast (October 11), All Church Retreat (November 7-9) and Caroling and Soup (December 20). We began emailing reminders to Coffee Fellowship hosts.

Significant Learnings for 2024-2025: Dinners for 8 has more engagement during the spring and fall than in the summer.

# A REPORT FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women FPC met monthly from September to May for Bible study, understanding the wider PW mission, and fellowship, including celebrations during Advent and at the end of the year. The Bible study, a PCUSA publication, was titled "Let Justice Roll Down," focusing on environmental and economic justice. Leslie King facilitated the lessons.

PW/FPC made monetary contributions to three offerings of the PW/PCUSA and collected funds to support three local organizations related to the environment – Urban Reap, Hunger Free Community Coalition, and Meals on Wheels.

The membership grew this year after a concerted effort to recruit all FPC women to become active members. There were approximately 30 active members (as listed on Realm). PW also proactively increased its visibility in the congregation with a Moment for Mission during worship. Having more members maintains the sustainability of the group!

PW was led by:

Cathy McPhee, Lead Moderator  
Sherry Cragen, Vice-Moderator & Secretary  
Sue Young, Treasurer



# A REPORT FROM

## ADMINISTRATION

- **AutoInsurance:** Worked with Shane to identify a new provider for auto insurance following cancellation of prior policy.
- **Oil and Gas Top Lease:** Entered negotiations related to an unsolicited offer of an oil and gas top-lease relating to a mineral interest owned by the church. The proposed lessee is currently producing with horizontal wells on both sides of our lease. Roane Lacy, with Session approval, developed and made a counter proposal for payment of \$350/acre for a 3-year paid-up lease and an option for a two-year extension for the same amount and a royalty of 1/4 or 25%. There was no response to this counter, and no further contact was received.
- **Property and Liability Insurance:** Worked with Facilities and Finance to identify and obtain affordable property and liability insurance coverage from a new provider following the non renewal by the former carrier, which abandoned the Texas church property insurance market.
- **Elevators:** Working with facilities and finance to address issues related to unmet needs for maintenance and repair of our elevators, or whether to revise or terminate and replace the existing provider. This project is still in the discovery phase.
- **Child Safety:** Continued updating a list of steps to be taken and required action items to be satisfied to comply with our expectations as well as the requirements for Child Protection of the Presbytery and the laws of the State of Texas. Detailed information to further describe and explain these steps and requirements is contained in a full policy document, on file.
- **Energy contract:** The company we used last time is working to provide sample agreements from several suppliers to give us a head start on making a choice quickly since when daily bids come out, they expire at 4:00 PM (not sure which time zone) that day. We are also considering whether, notwithstanding the advice that increased summer energy expenses are not the best gauge of future pricing, it may be wise to lock in a steady price now rather than wait.
- **Policies:** Consider creation of policies for conflict-of-interest reports, whistleblower processes, and document destruction.

Chairperson: Mike Morrison

Members: Charlie Olson, Enid Watkins Holleyman (through 9.1.2025)

# A REPORT FROM

## WORSHIP

Communion was celebrated each week of the year at our 8:30 worship service. This service is growing in numbers for both adults and young people. Communion was celebrated in November (2024), February, March, May, June, July, August, September, and October at the 10:30 service and at the Church Retreat at Mo-Ranch in November. Communion was also celebrated on Christmas Eve 2024 and Maundy Thursday 2025. We continue to streamline and find more efficient ways to recruit and train communion servers, for instance, through new visual diagrams and more robust clean-up instructions.

We were honored to celebrate the baptisms of Remi Bartley, Lukas Preddy, Phoenix, and Brianna Harren.

A variety of liturgists have played integral roles in worship over the past year, and our new Director for Congregational Life is seamlessly moving into worship leadership. We are grateful for guest preachers who have contributed in a variety of ways over the past year, including Dr. Neil Messer, Dr. Taylor Holleyman (prior to his employment), and Dr. Devan Stahl.

This year we held special services of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Pentecost, Reformation Sunday, All Saints and Christmas Eve. We try out new ideas for special worship services; for instance, this year, we included the opportunity for members of the congregation to write prayers on ribbons to wave during Pentecost Sunday. Additionally, Youth Sunday, Confirmation Sunday, and Children's Sunday continue to be bright spots for our congregation as young people emerge as leaders.

We are grateful to the music team for their work and leadership. Special thanks go to Chancel Choir Director, Austin Ingalls, and Organist, Becky Ward, for their leadership in coordinating service music. Thanks to Amy Goodman for direction and development of the St. Cecilia bell choir. Last, but not least, thank you to Tricia Anderson, our 8:30 accompanist, who brings innovation and spiritual attention to our worship.

We are continuing to work on making the Zoom community as integrated with the service as possible. Leslie often shares chats from the Zoom room with the congregation to remind them of the contributions from these congregants. We are grateful to members of the streaming team for their tireless efforts to bring us together during worship services and to Our Hybrid House for continuing to propose ways to include remote members.

Chairperson: Meredith Palm

Members: Jamie Delk, Nancy Newman,  
Paige Guzman with Austin Ingalls,  
Leslie King, Taylor Holleyman



# A REPORT FROM FACILITIES

Franklin Estate Endowment portion allocated for capital projects provided the necessary funds to accelerate the scheduling of full roof replacement and office and 1950s classroom wing window replacement.

- Parsons Roofing, with a bid of \$97,518, was chosen in January 2025 to fully replace the church buildings' roofs. Facilities Committee members hosted a preconstruction meeting on January 27, 2025, which helped create a positive environment and reliable communication between all involved during the life of the project. The project began on February 25, 2025, and was completed in late March 2025. Corbell Enterprises LLC, dba Gather & Co, with a bid of \$151,543, was contracted in July 2025 to replace about 116 windows in the office and 1950s classroom wings. The project includes adding eight egress windows in various rooms located in the basement and first floors. The work commenced the week of October 6, 2025.
- The upper story of the Christian Formation wing received a lifted ceiling and a restored ceiling. This significant project replaced HVAC vents and allowed for restored lighting to enhance the space.
- Humidity problems in the building were remedied with the installation of a dehumidifier.
- Alden Organ Company is engaged to restore the balcony organ façade beginning in October 2025.

Ongoing flooding issues in the Fellowship Hall kitchen and stage area culminated in two plumbing improvements on September 15, 2025. Mike Staas Services was retained for \$830 to secure the existing, but no longer needed, grease trap and repair a clean-out in the men's restroom. The plumber piped through the grease trap, after removing the plastic housing of the pit itself, and filled it in with sand and structural rebar, and concrete. After multiple rainfall seasons presenting with flooding generated from the vicinity of the grease trap, it is hoped that the removal of said grease trap will remove the flooding issue entirely. However, the next rainfall season will be integral to determining if this is the final solution.

## **Significant Learnings for 2024-2025:**

To the benefit of the church herself, and all her patronage, it was important for the Facilities Committee to lean on other members with experience in other trades to ensure solid ground and efficient communication and expectations between contractors and staff.

Mr. Chip Somerville, an experienced attorney, was integral in reviewing contractor bids and proposals to help determine the best contractor for each capital project. His expertise in contract law benefited the committee in choosing the right fit and advocating for the church in an educated and compassionate manner.

Mr. John Plaskett, an experienced mechanical engineer, was integral in reviewing the existing condition of the Fellowship Hall kitchen flooding issues, preparing a possible solution and the subsequent retention of Mike Staas Services to conduct the work needed to mitigate the existing grease trap.

Chairperson: Christine Miller

Members: Bob Cragen, James Hill, Mark Anderson (joined committee April 2025), Dana Williams (ad hoc member), Jerry Merritt (departed committee April 2025)



# A REPORT FROM **FINANCE**

The Finance Committee of First Presbyterian Church Waco has held a meeting proceeding each of the monthly Session meetings. The Committee consists of church members, Phil Hering, Chip Somerville, Donna Black, Lyndon Olson, Senior Pastor Leslie King, Church Treasurer Mark Harren, and Operations Manager Shane Montoya.

The Committee reviews the monthly and YTD budget, balance sheet and income statements prior to the monthly report to the Session, with attention to all-church income and expenditures by various Session committees serving the church's mission. In addition, the Committee reviews the expenditures of maintenance, and capital improvements, which have been determined to be necessary by other Session committees or the Senior Pastor. This past year, we worked closely with the facilities committee to allocate the Franklin Estate gift and will secure a Review of Agreed Upon Procedures from Capin Crouse Financial Services.

The Finance Committee solicits an annual next-year budget request from the Session Committees, reviews, and uses the Church Treasurer's predictions for revenue projections, makes adjustments as deemed prudent, and presents to the Session for approval. With ongoing careful analysis, the Church has maintained a positive financial outlook for years, with dedicated and committed members. While being a downtown church with a 120+ year-old building presents unique challenges, the Finance Committee is prayerfully convinced that First Presbyterian Church can continue to provide and serve God's people on the corner of 11th and Austin Ave., now and forever.



Chairperson: Phil Hering



A special gratitude to our Treasurer, Mark Harren for the tireless way he resources our committee, the Session and our congregation.

## **Major Accomplishments for 2024-2025:**

Throughout the year, the Committee assisted with updating employee job descriptions and providing feedback concerning suggested staffing structures. The Committee also supported our Pastor, Head of Staff, as she helped navigate staff enrichment: Austin Ingalls accepted into Princeton Theological Seminary's Master of Theology with an emphasis in Justice and Public Life, and Shane Montoya begins a leadership cohort program with the Lewis Center for Church Leadership.

The Committee worked with the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee throughout the year to offer support as the APNC worked to find the best candidate. The Committee assisted in developing a Congregational Life Director position description, worked with the Treasurer to provide a salary for the new position, and provided support to our Pastor, Head of Staff as she navigated the conversation with our Presbytery to call a Congregational Life Director candidate with the intent for the candidate to pursue ordination. The Committee was pleased Dr. Taylor Holleyman accepted the position.

The Committee completed annual reviews with each staff member, and we discussed goals with employees as a part of their review as well. The Committee has continued to be a sounding board and attempted to be a support to Leslie, as the Church continues to see changes and challenges in being fully staffed, as the church saw turnover in staff positions. In addition, the Committee has worked with the Treasurer to propose a personnel budget for 2026, which invests in our staff through raises. The Committee hopes to challenge the congregation to look at the need for a full-time Director of Christian Formation in the coming year(s).

## **Significant Learnings for 2024-2025:**

Learned from the continued challenges of staffing structures for the Church as it continued to be in flux due to staff departures and changes.

## **Gratitude:**

Gratitude for the entire staff that continues to help the Church grow and continually adapt to the ever-changing landscape of being Church in the world, especially grateful to Leslie and her strong leadership. In addition, gratitude for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, as that committee worked to find an outstanding candidate.

Chairperson: Mike Harper

Members: Todd Ehlers, Elouise Frazier, Mark Jaynes and Leslie King

# A REPORT FROM OUTREACH

## Major Accomplishments for 2024–2025:

The Outreach Committee's accomplishments in the past year include:

- Funds distribution to 8 Waco-based organizations, with grants totaling \$40,000.00. Our Outreach theme for 2025 has been “mental wellbeing,” and grants were allocated in part according to applicants' engagement with this theme.
- Monthly “Service Saturdays” working with our Outreach partners. These included on-site workdays, collection drives, and Easter and Christmas offerings. Our partners include the Carter Blood Center, China Spring Cares, Compassion Ministry, the Cove, Habitat for Humanity, South Waco Elementary, and Talitha Koum. The 2024 Christmas offering went to Montreat, NC, flood relief. The 2025 Easter offering went to the Family Abuse Center.
- Selection of “displacement” for our 2026 Outreach theme. Grant application forms will be circulated to Outreach partners and posted on the FPC website later this month.
- \$673 from on-hand assistance was used to provide bus tickets and one hotel stay for individuals in need. Additional funds donated by the congregation were used to supply emergency buckets for flood relief efforts.

## Significant Learnings for 2024–2025:

This year, Outreach has had productive (and continuing) conversations regarding:

- Balancing (1) our commitments to existing outreach partners with (2) the potential for attracting new partnerships. This tension is felt most acutely during our grant distribution process. We wish to continue supporting organizations we have supported for years, and our past “by invitation” process helped to ensure that virtually all applicants receive some funds. A more open application process would dilute the impact of funding but might allow FPC to foster new partnerships that better align with our annual themes. This year, we will send out our usual invites but also post the application on FPC's website without further publicity. The committee will reflect on whether this approach is preferable after the application cycle has concluded. Related to the previous item, the committee seeks to clarify the procedure for assessing grant applications and allocating funds.

## Gratitude:

Outreach would especially like to recognize the work of outgoing moderator, Sarah Lieber, for her expert, energetic leadership last year, and particularly for shouldering additional responsibilities following the departure of Associate Pastor, Rev. Chris Palmer. We also thank Dr. Leslie King for stepping into Chris's role in the interim. We welcome the new Director of Congregational Life, Dr. Taylor Holleyman, and appreciate his quick, thoughtful acclimation to the committee's work. A final thanks to all of our members for their joyful advocacy connecting FPC to the Church's larger mission.

Chairperson: Sam Parler

Members: Taylor Holleyman (ex officio), Jamie Jackson, Leslie King (ex officio), Lory Latimer, Sarah Lieber, Matthew Malavanti (Session), Sue Patrick, Brenda Stephens (Session)

# A REPORT FROM **DIACONATE**

**Major Accomplishments:** The Deacons began the year by orienting to the space of FPC. There was an overview of what it means to arrive on a Sunday morning to usher, but also what it means to arrive on any given day or event that one might not be ushering.

- **Prayer Committee:** The committee includes a group of 4 deacons who have dedicated attention and detail to sending prayer cards to members that are on our prayer request list, along with sending cards to home-bound members, noting the impact it made on those who can't physically arrive. The committee has sent over 200+ cards this year, with more to come for the remainder of the year. The committee has dedicated time to prayer, and explored ideas of what prayer can be and look like for our congregation.
- **Power of the Pen (POP):** The Committee includes a dedicated group of 11 member correspondents who have, to date this year, provided 418 birthday, anniversary cards, and supportive correspondence to First Pres members.
- **Hybrid House (HH):** The Committee is one of the newly created committees of the diaconate, providing monthly opportunities on Zoom for members to build relationships, while using the Zoom technology one Sunday evening a month. Participants have included First Pres members, and regular visitors who now live out of state, as well as homebound adults, persons/families with illness, families with neurodivergent children who need a sensorially managed worship experience, and members who live in Texas at a distance that prohibits in-person attendance. Several long-term First Pres members living at a distance have reconnected with First Pres for support through illness and for funeral/remembrance planning (Dee Blinka, Stanton Koehne).
- **Agape:** The committee beautifully coordinated the services for at least 3 people this year. This included ushering and coordinating meals.
- **Stork Committee:** The committee delivered and managed the stork to the Palm residence in February. The committee looks forward to 2 more babies next year, so far.

**Major Learnings:** Deacons explored significant concerns around an active incident plan. Members were invited to attend a safety training, which was then simulated during a Diaconate meeting. It did raise concern over the intensity, but went to the Session. Deacons explored what it would entail to create and launch our own church app. It was determined that Realm would remain the database for financial and biographical information for church members. **Gratitude:** The Diaconate recognizes that ushering is an ongoing development of teamwork. They give gratitude and thanks to ad-hoc ushers, with appreciation for their arrival and presence. Ushering was done this year in choir robes, with children/youth, and with Deacons who bring their children alongside, which makes a statement. Giving and counting the contributions from the congregation is precious. The Diaconate gives thanks to those who have contributed to the Deacons Closet, as it regularly provides for greater community members who arrive.

**Moderator:** Malorie Montoya, **Vice Moderator:** Bricker Bruner, **Ushering Coordinator:** Wes Field, **Co-Secretaries:** Kitty Huneke, Bricker Bruner, **Prayer Committee:** Moderator, Sarah Davis, Vice Moderator, Toni Percivill, John Jovicich, Kathy Jones, **Power of the Pen Committee:** Moderator, Helen Harris, Vice Moderator, Peggy Graham, Michelle Plaskett, Arianna "YaYa" Patterson, Parker Adamson, **Our Hybrid House Committee:** Helen Harris, George Ahrens, Zdzislaw Wieckowski, Cynthia Perry, Avery Kerley, Jen Ferretter, Dave Reagan, Christine Dennis, **Agape Committee:** Moderator, Melissa Boss, Vice Moderator, LeeAnn Priebe, All Members of the Diaconate, **Stork Committee:** Drew Risinger, Jerry Barrett, Kevin Bartley

## CHRISTIANFORMATIONCOMMITTEE & YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD

### Major Accomplishments for 2024- 2025:

Our Christian Formation classes: 2024 was marked by the major accomplishment of building the scaffolding for communities of youth and children.

- Teachers returning to a broad-based classrooms for Sunday morning Christian Formation. Children and families were still flexing their Sunday morning muscles to build back the habit. With some frequency, teachers arrived at an empty classroom, but adults were returning to the commitment of holding space for children from pre-K to teenagers. Their arrival during these uncertain Sundays would make all the difference for our 2025 experience.
- The 2024-2025 Confirmation class strategically decided to include a younger cohort of confirmands in order to build social bonds among the young people for the sake of the youth group and pre-teen and youth Christian Formation.
- An intergenerational return to Wednesday night programming with meals, conversations and nursery was great energy in the Fall of 2024. It was less energetic in the Spring of 2025.
- Some of our children completed the Certificate Program and rose to the opportunities of church leadership like: Ringing the bell tower bell, serving communion and leading in service.
- Traditional programming, like Children's Sunday, Posada and a Youth Christmas party, were successfully planned and completed.

2025 experienced a loss of momentum in the spring. But we recognized that this is part of the development process. Even so, Youth Sunday was wonderfully attended and invested in by our youth. The Easter Egg Hunt on Palm Sunday was attended by over 100 people. It was also a highlight to welcome confirmands into membership at the end of April. And it was our first time to take a small but mighty crew of adults and youth to Frontera De Cristo in Augua Prieta, Mexico, along the New Mexico border. The trip was celebrated in worship in mid-July. The fall launch of 2025 has enjoyed renewed attendance in our classrooms and momentum from our families. Youth Wednesday night programming has returned with renewed interest from the youth and commitment from a strong volunteer base. The future is looking very bright as we continue to develop our congregational muscle for a strong Christian Formation program that holds a unique place in Waco, Texas.

**Gratitude to:** Congregants and Staff of First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas

Chairperson: Jamie Jackson

Members: Shannon Field, Anita Karney, Charlotte Henderson, Taylor Holleyman, and Leslie King

Youth Advisory Board: Rebecca Melton, DJ King, and Amy Goodman





# 2025

# THANKS

# FOR READING!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



# NOMINEES TO SESSION & DIACONATE

| Name                     | Years in Church | Age Range | Occupation                           |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| Marsha Alvarado          | 37              | 66-75     | High School Teacher                  |
| Donna Black              | 23              | 46-55     | Accountant                           |
| Kathryn Delk             | 11              | 46-55     | Audit Compliance Spec.               |
| Hunter Harren            | 24              | 36-45     | Sr. Imaging Systems Tech             |
| Ryan Joyner              | 13              | 36-45     | Theatre Professor                    |
| Roane Lacy               | 69              | 76-85     | Retired Businessman                  |
| Chuck Weaver             | 36              | 56-65     | Neuroscience Professor               |
| Lenore Wright            | 24              | 46-55     | Philosophy Professor                 |
| Arianna "YaYa" Patterson | 2               | 14-18     | Youth (Session)                      |
| Esther Lee               | 5               |           | Anthropology Professor               |
|                          |                 |           |                                      |
| Melanie Cook             | 16              | 56-65     | Insurance                            |
| Marilyn Harren           | 40              | 56-65     | Higher Education                     |
| Mike McPhee              | 17              | 76-85     | Retired                              |
| Jeremy Mercer            | 10              | 36-45     | Network Systems Admin.               |
| Drew Risinger            | 46              | 56-65     | Clinical Asst. Professor             |
| Toni Percivill           | 34              | 56-65     | Business Owner                       |
| Katie Valenzuela         | 1               | 26-35     | Sr. Marketing Specialist             |
| Scott Wagner             | 29              | 46-55     | Texas Department of Criminal Justice |
| Pending (Y)              |                 |           | Youth (Diaconate)                    |

Ballot (only if needed)

ALL NOMINEES

Or individually as follows:

SESSION

Class of 2028:

☐ Marsha Alvarado  
☐ Donna Black  
☐ Kathryn Delk  
☐ Hunter Harren  
☐ Ryan Joyner  
☐ Roane Lacy  
☐ Chuck Weaver  
☐ Lenore Wright

Class of 2026:

☐ Arianna Patterson (Y)  
☐ Esther Lee - Unexpired Term

DIACONATE

Class of 2028:

☐ Melanie Cook  
☐ Marilyn Harren  
☐ Mike McPhee  
☐ Jeremy Mercer  
☐ Drew Risinger  
☐ Toni Percivill  
☐ Katie Valenzuela  
☐ Scott Wagner

Class of 2026:

☐ Pending (Y)

Trustee (T)    Youth (Y)

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2026

☐ James Karney  
☐ Kris Olson  
☐ Sue Patrick  
☐ Diane Williams  
☐ Charlie Stern