



DECEMBER 21, 2025
4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT &
SUDDERTH SUNDAY



WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD

INDONESIA – Nativity, 2011. Gde Sukana Kariana (Indonesian, 1974-), Oil on canvas



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 & fidget toys for children in the Narthex "parental discretion with these items please". 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 unless you request otherwise.

Childcare

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

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude: (8:30) *Carol of the Bells* Muskrat
(10:30) *Noel Huron* Bedard

Lighters of the Advent candles

8:30 Du Preez Family
10:30 Rock & Heather McNair

+ Call to Worship: Joel 2:28-29

One: In worship we trust in the pouring out of the Spirit.

Many: The young, with little life experience, prophesy of the future.

One: Those with many life experiences dream dreams of anticipation.

Many: Young leaders see visions.

One: Even the oppressed are enlightened by the Spirit.

Many: Let us worship the God of so many various ways of knowing. Amen.

+ Hymn #136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* GO TELL IT

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

God of Illumination and Belief, we confess that previous paradigms affect what we believe is possible. Our captive minds can constrict the freedom of our experiences. We are mindful of the new paradigm in Christ. So much of the paradigm now sounds familiar that it might seem routine to us. Return us to the revolutionary energy of Christ that we might see the present world more deeply and fully. Hear our confession and our longing in and through Christ. Amen.

Moment of Silence

Response Hymn #89 (10:30) *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*
For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

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

Spirit Box Chip Somerville

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.

**+ Please
rise in
body or in
spirit.**

**Thanks to
Sarah Lieber
for her
musical gifts.**

**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 \$20,102.81.

Our Sudderth Sunday fund has raised \$1,632.10. Please help us reach our 2025 goal of \$2,000.

Venmo can facilitate your offering or designated gift.



Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Daniel 5:1-12 (pew Bible OT pg.824)

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

Anthem

The Blessed Son of God

The blessed son of God only In a crib full poor did lie; With our poor flesh and our poor blood Was clothed that everlasting good. Kyri'eleison. The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear, Was a guest and a stranger here; Us for to bring from misery, That we might live eternally. Kyri'eleison. All this did he for us freely, For to declare his great mercy; All Christendom be merry therefore, And give him thanks for evermore. Kyri'eleison.

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-11 / Matthew 2:7-9 (pew Bible NT pg. 59 & 2)

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: Stations of Incarnation: Chaperones

Leslie King, D. Min

+ Affirmation of Faith

We affirm the stations of incarnation. We affirm the arrival of Christ into the heart and mind of each person. We affirm that each person, a sort of station themselves, has a part to play in the journey of Christ to arrive again and again into the human experience. We affirm that our sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper impart the essence of Christ and kindle our awareness. We affirm that scripture tells the Old Old Story not for nostalgia but so that we can live our part in that story today. We affirm nativity, novelty, and God's inbreaking into unlikely circumstances. Amen.

Offering (10:30)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Linker

+ 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.

**Scan and
register your
attendance.**



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 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 #134

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

+ Charge & Benediction

+ Closing Response: (10:30) #113 v.2 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

Postlude: (8:30)
(10:30)

Angels We Have Heard on High
From Heaven Above

McDonald
Pachelbel

**Thank you to
Evan Cole
for hosting
Coffee
Fellowship!**



Parlor Plants

In joyful celebration of my family,
both near and far.

Given by: Sarah Lieber



UPCOMING THIS WEEK



SUN

21

8:30 A.M.
9:15 A.M.
10:30 A.M.
11:30 A.M.

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

MON

22

7:00 P.M.

Power of the Pen - Zoom

TUE

23

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

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

WED

24

Communion & Christmas Eve Services

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

5:00 P.M.

7:00 P.M.

Office Holiday

Communion Service - Hybrid

Worship Service - Hybrid

THU

25

Christmas Day

FRI

26

All Day

Office Holiday

SUN

28

8:30 A.M.

10:30 A.M.

Worship Service - Hybrid
Christian Formation Holiday
Worship Service - Hybrid

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 P.M. **January 11th's question is: What are you hoping to accomplish in the new year?**



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS BACK IN JANUARY

Your youth programming team of Leslie, Taylor, Amy Goodman, Jeremy Mercer, Scott Wagner, Katherine Ehlers, and Rebecca Melton has worked hard to provide 8 weeks of programming this Fall! The youth worked hard after busy school days to get back into the heart of Waco and attend to scripture and life. We are looking forward to the spring semester, which will begin on January 8th. Our theme will be In the Wings!



HOSTING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

We're grateful to everyone who hosted Coffee Fellowship in 2025! As we look to the new year, we're now accepting 2026 sign-ups. Hosts provide light snacks in Foundation Parlor after the 10:30 service on their chosen date. Please scan the QR code to register.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us on Christmas Eve for worship at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The 5:00 service includes communion, candlelight, and carols, and the 7:00 service features candlelight and carols. Both services will also be available on Zoom.



FIRST PRES BLOOD DRIVE

Join us for the Carter BloodCare Blood Drive on Saturday, January 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Franklin Lot. Help save lives by giving blood—sign-up times are available now. Simply scan the QR code to reserve your spot!



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)
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)
Parish Associate for Theology & Ethics	Dr. Neil Messer (Neil_Messer@baylor.edu)
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
Church Office Hours: 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Sunday Services 8:30 A.M. (Weekly Communion) and 10:30 A.M. (Morning Worship)
Pastor - Leslie King

