

**DECEMBER 28, 2025**  
**1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**



**WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD**

AUSTRALIA – Black Madonna: Omega, 2004, by Julie Dowling, synthetic polymer paint,  
red ochre, glitter and metallic paint on canvas, 2017 © Julie Dowling



# 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: *Once in Royal David's City* Lasky

+ Call to Worship:

One: Like a prayer, we long to do our part.

**Many: We arrive in worship to have the flames of faith, hope and love stoked.**

One: Like a prayer, we hope that even small efforts make a difference.

**Many: We arrive to worship to remember the quiet moments that made all the difference for an individual's resolve.**

One: Let us worship God this day and each day of the New Year ahead of us.  
Amen.

+ Hymn #145 *What Child is This* GREENSLEEVES

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

**O Great Cartographer, we confess that maps can be hard to read. We can lose our way and become disoriented in direction. We are ever seeking a North Star to guide us. We long for an intuitive strength gifted by your Spirit that may help us find a road less traveled when we need it most. May courage rise up when we need to cut a path for family, friends, or the wider world. Hear our prayer and our longing as we pray in your Holy Name. 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

Spirit Box

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.

**Special  
thanks to our  
organist  
today, Matt  
Hulon.**

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

**Scan the  
QR code  
to chat  
with the  
Zoom  
room!**

**8:30 AM**



**10:30 AM**



Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Daniel 12:5-13 (pew Bible OT pg.834)

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

Anthem

*Amazing Grace*

John Newton

*Amazing grace! how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch; like me! I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed! The Lord hath promised good to me, His word my hope secures; He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we first begun.*

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:19-23 (pew Bible NT pg. 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: Cartographers

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)

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Westenkuehler

+ 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.

Venmo can  
facilitate  
your  
offering or  
designated  
gift.



**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 #146

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

FLORIDUM

+ Charge & Benediction

+ Closing Response: (10:30) #134 V.1 *Joy to the World*

ANTIOCH

Postlude:

*Toccata on "He is Born"*

Bedard



### **Parlor Plants**

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

Given by: Sarah Lieber



**Thank you to Katie King for serving as our  
liturgist this morning.**

# UPCOMING THIS WEEK



**SUN**

**8:30 A.M.**

Worship Service - Hybrid  
Christian Formation Holiday  
Worship Service - Hybrid

**28**

**10:30 A.M.**

**TUE**

**8:30 - 11:30 A.M.**

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

**30**

**THU**

**New Years Day  
All Day**

Office Holiday

**1**

**FRI**

**6:00 P.M.**

Rolling into the New Year - Bowling Main Event

**2**

**SUN**

**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

**4**

**Saturday, January 3 at 9:00 a.m. — Breakfast with  
Christian Formation leaders and Malorie at Café  
Cappuccino Downtown.**



# FIRST PRES NEWS

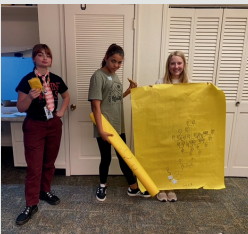
## OUR HYBRID HOUSE

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.



### ROLLING INTO THE NEW YEAR

We invite all young adults and young families to join us as we Roll into the New Year with an evening of Bowling at Main Event on Friday, January 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Cost for bowling will be covered by the church. Please RSVP on Realm.



### 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](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)
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](http://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

