



MARCH 8, 2026
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



St Mary's Church, Alderbury — All-season High Altar frontal designed by Sophie, fabricated by Anna Diamond, and dedicated May 2022. Coordinating stoles by J&M Sewing.

WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD



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 (ask an usher for assistance)

- Large-print hymnal
- Hearing enhancement device
- 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 in room S202.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude: (8:30) *Ave Maria* Schubert
(10:30) *Schonster Herr Jesu* Miller

+ Please
rise in
body or in
spirit.

+ Call to Worship (In honor of Psalm 1)

One: Happy are those who are like trees planted by streams of water.

Many: They are drawing up and oxygenating the world around them.

One: They do not scoff. They are working on the substance of their being.

Many: They do not target others with schemes and manipulations, they focus on growth in and all around themselves.

One: Let us worship our Creator God, Alpha and Omega, and then Alpha again.
Amen.

+ Hymn #309 *Come, Great God of All the Ages* ABBOT'S LEIGH

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

Great Source of our Lives, whether still, sparkling, or springing, we confess that we take water for granted. We often forget the simple mystery that water is to earth and all her creatures. All of creation speaks to us in the language of water, gentle rain, dew, sweat, floods, and droughts. Our aquifers, sewage lines, and treatment plants tempt us to believe we can control this holy gift. How we long to live out the wisdom of water's flow. We offer this prayer remembering Christ who drew, drank, washed, and was baptized. 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.

We are grateful for last week's giving of \$4,947.40.

Prayer of Illumination

Epistle Reading: Revelation 21:5-14 (pew Bible NT pg.259)

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

Anthem

If a Man Die

Jean Berger

If a man die, shall he live again? There is hope of a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. If a man die, he shall live again.

+ Gospel Reading: John 5:5-9 (pew Bible NT pg.96)

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: Alpha and Omega: Ceremonies of Water

Leslie King, D. Min.

+ Affirmation of Faith

We believe in beginnings that are endings and endings that are beginnings. Whether reading or relating, awareness begins, and previous paradigms perish. Jesus' growth model cycles us through beginnings and endings. We arrive as we are but cannot help but be affected. We respond into beginnings, and endings, and the butterfly effect ripples out to our community. Scripture and sacrament anchor us like roots as our Creator God draws us forward to stretch. Gaining and losing are real. The Spirit comforts us in our beginnings and endings. Amen.

Offering (10:30)

Meditation

Benoit

+ 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) *While of These Emblems We Partake* Goldstein

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.

Venmo can facilitate your offering or designated gift.



+ 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 #630

Fairest Lord Jesus

CRUSADER'S HYMN

+ Charge & Benediction

+ Closing Response: (10:30) #175

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

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

Day by Day
O Worship the King

Roberson
Jones

Sanctuary Flowers

In loving memory of Figes
Davies Flaherty Dow.

Given by: David Dow



Parlor Plants

In celebration of our family
& friends.

Given by: Jim & Janet Ellor

Base of the Lord's Table Flowers - given by the family of the late Bill Falco.

Scan and register your attendance.



Thank you to
Melanie
Cook
for hosting
Coffee
Fellowship!

Palm Sunday

Donate eggs for our Palm Sunday egg hunt at Whitehall Park. Drop off filled eggs or take eggs from the bins at the Narthex and Franklin entrances, fill them, and return.

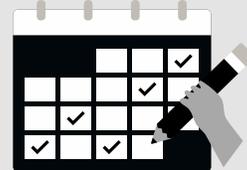


Easter offering

Our goal is to raise \$5,500 for the Heart of Texas Network for Immigrant Rights (HOTNIR) with our Easter Offering. HOTNIR organizes volunteers who provide advocacy, archival, transportation, food, and legal services for immigrants. Funds given to HOTNIR help cover legal fees for individuals without a criminal record that HOTNIR has agreed to support.



UPCOMING THIS WEEK



SUN

8

8:30 A.M.
9:15 A.M.
10:30 A.M.
11:30 A.M.
5:00 P.M.

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

MON

9

1:00 P.M.
5:30 P.M.

Presbyterian Women - Hybrid
Outreach Committee Meeting - Zoom

TUE

10

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.
6:00 P.M.

Meals on Wheels - For more information
contact Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305
Faith on Tap - Woodway Slowrise

WED

11

10:00 A.M.
12:00 P.M.
5:30 P.M.
7:00 P.M.

In The Wings Youth Programming - Cameron Park
Why Is There Suffering?
Why Is There Suffering?
Choir Practice

THU

12

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.
9:00 A.M.
12:00 P.M.

Meals on Wheels - For more information
contact Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305
Personnel Committee Meeting - Zoom
Finance Committee Meeting - Zoom

SUN

15

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

Youth Spring Break Cameron Park Hike and Lunch
Wednesday 11th, 10am-12:30pm. Meet at the church. Lunch is provided.
Rsvp with Malorie (254) 239-6442 or dcf@firstpreswaco.org.

The Children's Choir will perform on Palm Sunday. Please consider bringing your children to practice their music each Sunday (9:25-9:45) in the children's music room C309 during the formation hour.

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 held on Zoom. We are particularly interested in your opinions and experiences if you are a non-local participant of First Presbyterian. Look for our Hybrid House meeting on March 8th at 5:00 P.M. **Our question will be: What is your favorite blooming plant & what does it reveal to you about life?**



WEDNESDAY IN THE WINGS LINE UP 6-8 P.M.

Join Malorie, Brian & other volunteers Wednesday for our March evening programming.

- March 12 – Spring Break Hike in Cameron Park (10:00 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.)
- March 18 – Life is Like A River – Damon Boniface.
- March 25 – Riffing with Brian: Instrumentation, Improvisation & Music.
- April 1 – No foolin’, no gathering. Gathering instead for Maundy Thursday service on April 2.

FAITH ON TAP

Join us for Faith on Tap Tuesday, March 10th at the Woodway Slowrise at 6:00 P.M.

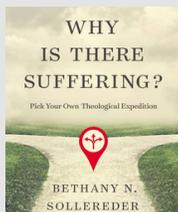
7608 Woodway Dr, Waco, TX 76712



WHY IS THERE SUFFERING BOOK STUDY

Join us for a three-week hybrid study of *Why Is There Suffering?* by Bethany N. Sollereeder, a conversation-based exploration of theological perspectives on suffering and personal reflection. Our final evening session meets Wednesday, March 11 from 5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Chapel Parlor, and a midday session begin Wednesday, March 11, through 18 & 25 from 12:00-1:15 p.m. in Room C201. Led by Leslie King. The book is available on Amazon.

Evening Class
Sign Up



Midday Class
Sign Up



THE COVE - SERVICE SATURDAY

Our next Service Saturday is scheduled for March 28. We will be at the Cove from 9:00 a.m. to noon, helping clean their facilities. The Cove provides support and resources for teens experiencing homelessness. We hope you can join us for this meaningful morning of service!

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@hot.rr.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 Associate for Gerontology	Jim Ellor, D. Min. Ph. D, H.R. (james_ellor@baylor.edu)
Streaming Team	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 Somerville, Sherry Cragen, Mary Lynn Klingman and Sue Young
Sanctuary Guild	Sharon Stern, Michael Muehlenbein
Sanctuary Flowers	Brenda Stephens, Susan Somerville, Kathy Jones
Celebration Way	Cary DuPuy

Session Committee Members

Administration Committee	Lyndon Olson, Roane Lacy, Mike Morrison
Christian Formation Committee	Shannon Field, Anita Karney
Congregational Life Committee	Ryan Joyner, Marsha Alvarado, Kathryn Delk
Facilities Committee	Hunter Harren, Mark Anderson, Christine Miller, James Hill, Bob Cragen
Finance Committee	Donna Black, Phil Hering, Chip Somerville
Outreach Committee	Lenore Wright, Sam Parler, Brenda Stephens
Personnel Committee	Chuck Weaver, Todd Ehlers
Worship Committee	Esther Lee, Meredith Palm

Diaconate Committee Members

Diaconate Moderator/Vice Moderator	Malorie Montoya, Bricker Bruner
Diaconate Secretary	Christine Dennis
Agape Committee	All Deacons
Our Hybrid House	Jeremy Mercer, Dave Reagan, Jen Ferretter, Avery Kerley, Cynthia Perry, Marilyn Harren, Zdzislaw Wieckowski
Power of the Pen	Katie Valenzuela, Scott Wagner, Melanie Cook, Helen Harris, Peggy Graham
Prayer Committee	Drew Risinger, Toni Percivill, John Jovicich, Kathy Jones
Stork Committee	Mike McPhee, 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

