

**MAY 17, 2026**  
**SUDDERTH SUNDAY**



**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) *Consider the Lillies* Hemphill  
(10:30) *Ich ruf' zu dir (I Call to You, Lord Jesus Christ)* Buxtehude

+ Call to Worship (Riffing on Psalm 68:4-6)

One: Sing to God and God's identity as the one who rides high for the sake of the big picture.

**Many: God feels vulnerability as if it were God's own.**

One: It is said that God provides space in which the vulnerable can live and the strong can arrive.

**Many: It is said that God leads the vulnerable and the strong out of their respective prisons into the possibilities of community.**

One: Let us worship our atmospheric God upon the proverbial clouds, this day and each day. Amen.

+ Hymn #683 *Lord of All Hopefulness* COURTNEY

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

**God of Boundaries and Nations, we confess the wonder of your wide world. Sometimes, wonder repels us when we witness a difference difficult to understand. Sometimes wonder compels us when beauty radiates. Sometimes wonder arrives close, and we retell. How we long to draw from the deep well of faith when in the presence of wonder. Hear our confession and our longing into the strength of your Spirit. 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 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

+ Please  
rise in  
body or in  
spirit.

A special  
welcome at  
the 10:30  
service to  
Sara  
Gutierrez, a  
Baylor  
student  
studying  
organ with  
Dr. Julia  
Doktor.  
Sara is  
sharing her  
gifts with  
us today by  
playing the  
prelude.  
Thank you,  
Sara!

**We are grateful for last week's giving of \$16,243.00.**

**To date we have collected \$1,825.90 for the Sudderth Fund. Help us surpass our goal of \$2,500!**

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



Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Reading: Exodus 18:19-23 (pew Bible OT pg.65)

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

Anthem

*All Nature's Work His Praise Declares*

Butler

All nature's work His praise declare to whom they all belong, there is a voice in every star, in every breeze a song. Sweet music fills the world abroad with strains of love and pow'r, the stormy sea sings praise to God, the thunder and the show'r. To God the tribes of ocean cry, and birds upon the wing, to God the tribes of ocean cry, and birds upon the wing, to God the pow'rs that dwell on high, their tuneful tribute bring. Like them, let man the throne surround, with them loud chorus raise, while instruments of loftier sound assist our feeble praise. Great God, to thee we consecrate our voices and our skill, we bid the pealing organ wait to speak alone thy will. Lord, while the music round us floats, may earthborn passions die. O grant its rich and swelling notes may lift our souls on high.

+ Gospel Reading: Luke 18:2-5 (pew Bible NT pg.81)

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: Enriching Spirituality & Resourcing Ourselves

Leslie King, D. Min.

+ Hymn #434

*Restore in Us, O God (V1)*

BAYLOR

+ 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)

*Trio*

Rheinberger

+ 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,



or please sign in on the pad located in the pew.

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 #432

*How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord*

REPTON

+ Charge & Benediction

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

*Families Can Be Together Forever*  
*Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow*

Goldstein  
Traditional

### Sanctuary Flowers

Honoring all students graduating this month.

Given by: Peggy Graham



### Parlor Plants

In honor of Polly Ehlers.

Given by: Todd & Katherine Ehlers

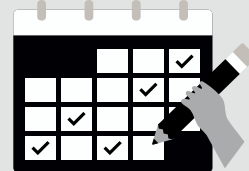
Thank you to **B.G. Coulter** for hosting **Coffee Fellowship.**

**Pentecost Prayer ribbons are available in the narthex. You are invited to write the names of people, situations, hopes, or prayers that are on your heart.**



Pentecost Prayers

# UPCOMING THIS WEEK



SUN

17

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  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84465033316>

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MON

18

2:00 P.M.  
5:30 P.M.

Worship Committee Meeting - Zoom  
Session Meeting - Hybrid

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TUE

19

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

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

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WED

20

7:00 P.M.

Choir Practice

**Last weekly practice of this season. Next choral offering on June 21.**

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THU

21

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

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

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SUN

24

8:30 A.M.  
10:30 A.M.

Worship Service - Hybrid  
**Christian Formation Holiday**  
Worship Service - Hybrid

We invite you to join us this summer for our combined Adult Formation series, "Finding Our Place." Rooted in our 2026 outreach **theme of displacement**, this series will guide us as we reflect on how we discover our own place—and how we help others find theirs—in a world shaped by movement, change, and belonging. The series begins May 31 and will include guest speakers throughout the summer. On this same Sunday, Children's Formation will also begin, and we will introduce our youth and children's theme, "**Character in Characters.**" Adults will gather in C201. Pre K in C306 & pre teen & youth in C304. We look forward to gathering each week at 9:15 a.m. as we learn, grow, and share in community.

# FIRST PRES NEWS



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 today, where the question will be: "What is something on your bucket list?"**



## OUTREACH SUMMER SERVICE SATURDAYS

- Saturday, June 13th, 9a.m.-noon volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.
- Saturday, July 25th, 9a.m. - 1p.m. The Carter Blood Care Bus will be in the Franklin parking lot to receive blood donations.

## CHURCH RETREAT

Church Retreat sign-ups are live! We hope you can join us at Mo-Ranch, November 6-8. We are excited to have Austin Dickson join us as our guest speaker. Austin is the CEO of the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, the organization that has led the Rebuild Kerr efforts following last year's devastating floods. We'll look forward to time together in the Hill Country this November.



## TACOS WITH TAYLOR

Taco Tuesdays with Taylor begins May 19! Join Taylor each Tuesday this summer as we explore taco spots around Waco. Email Taylor at [tholleyman@firstpreswaco.org](mailto:tholleyman@firstpreswaco.org) to share your favorite taco place for the tour.

**This Week: Taqueria Zacatecas  
2311 La Salle Ave, Waco, TX 76706**

## OFFICE HOLIDAY

The staff will be out of office Monday, May 25, and will return the following day.



Character Camp is our church's summer camp for kids, now with a brand-new theme!

Join us July 20-24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for a fun and meaningful week filled with faith based activities, character-building lessons, and opportunities to grow in friendship and community.

Use the QR code to sign up—we'd love for your child to be part of it!

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 Associate for Gerontology	Jim Ellor, D. Min. Ph. D, H.R. (james_ellor@baylor.edu)
Streaming Team	Ben Bruton, James Karney, Amanda Lassetter, Thomas Munn, Adam Redmer
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 Huston
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](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

