



JULY 19, 2026
SUDDERTH SUNDAY

WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD

Photo Credit: Carol Barrett



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
- Magnifying sheets
- 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) *The Battle Belongs to the Lord* arr. Mark Hayes
(10:30) *The Church in the Wildwood* arr. Miller

+ Call to Worship - For the Series (From John 18-23)

One: John the Baptist sent disciples to Jesus. They had a question.

Many: "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?"

One: Jesus replied something like this: "I've been working with many people.

They have been affected and strengthened."

Many: He released John's disciples, saying, "And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

One: Let us be the ones who have come to worship to strengthen the world around us in his name. Amen.

+ Hymn #346 *For the Healing of the Nations* ST. THOMAS (wade)

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

God who abides in freedom and in imprisonment, we confess feeling a freedom in the confines of a circumstance. We confess feeling constrained by the open ends and unfinished business of life. How we long to honor the relationship between freedom and accountability. How we long to honor the tie that binds and sometimes tethers us for the sake of deep experiences of freedom. As the Spirit moves among us, may we find our way to the next right action, and may it be to your glory. We offer this prayer and each prayer through Christ. 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.

**Special
thanks to
Carol Barrett,
Sarah Lieber,
Charlie
Stern, Peggy
Graham,
Martha Du
Preez, and
Diane
Williams.**

**Scan and
register your
attendance,**



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

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

We are grateful for last week's giving of \$6,606.17.

To date we have collected \$1,971.20 for the Sudderth Fund. Help us surpass our goal of \$2,500!

Venmo can facilitate your offering or designated gift.



Spirit Box Austin Ingalls
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

Prayer of Illumination
Hebrew Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:21-26 (pew Bible OT pg. 668)
Leader: The Word of the Lord. | **People: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem *I Have Longed for Thy Saving Health* William Byrd
I have longed for thy saving health, O Lord: and in thy law is my delight. O let my
soul live, and it shall praise thee: and thy judgments shall help me.

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: John 3:22-30 (pew Bible NT pg. 94)
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 In-de-pend-ence & Rugged Love: Matters of Decision Leslie King, D. Min.

Special Music *Polish Carol* W ZLOBIE LEZY
8:30 St. Cecilia Handbell Choir

+ Hymn #354 (10:30) V.3 *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* BATTLE HYMN

+ 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) *Rescue the Perishing* Joyce Jones
This hymn was written in 1869 by the famous blind composer Fanny Crosby. It became
a battle cry for Christians advocating temperance, urban renewal and mission work.

+ 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) *Fracture* Stephan Moccio

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 #693

Though I May Speak

GIFT OF LOVE

+ Charge & Benediction

Postlude: (8:30)

Interlude III

Mark Hayes

(10:30)

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Fanny Crosby (1875)

Sanctuary Flowers

Happy 5th & 7th birthday to Byntlie and Kynadie Montoya!

Given by: Malorie & Shane Montoya



Parlor Plants

Donated anonymously.

During 10:30 worship services in July, the prelude and offertory on the organ will feature late 19th-century "gospel hymn" arrangements. These historic tunes feature catchy melodies, upbeat rhythms, and quick tempos. They express joy and exuberance! On July 19, friends of the organ will add their instruments to "The Church in the Wildwood." Feel free to hum along!



Nominating Committee:

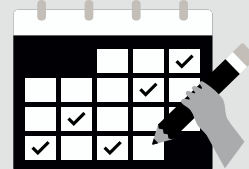
Within the Presbyterian Church, there is a season of nominating individuals to serve on the Diaconate and the Session. Your 2026 Nominating Committee will receive, review and recommend a list of nominees to be voted upon in our Annual Congregational Meeting in October. Look for more information on how to nominate a person to serve as deacon (diaconate) or elder (session) by using this QR code. Your congregational reps on the nominating committee include: Kris Olson, James Karney, Sue Patrick, Diane Williams and Charlie Stern.

**Thank you to
the
Malavanti
family for
hosting
Coffee
Fellowship!**

**Scan the QR
code to
nominate!**



UPCOMING THIS WEEK



SUN

19

SUDDERTH SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

Summer Christian Formation

Worship Service - Hybrid

Coffee Fellowship

MON

20

FRI

24

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. (Monday)

Character Camp! - Fellowship Hall

Stewardship Committee Meeting

TUE

21

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

12:00 p.m.

Meals on Wheels - For more information

contact Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305

Taco's With Taylor - Garibaldi Restaurant

3319 Brook Circle

WED

22

12:00 p.m.

Facilities Committee Meeting - Hybrid

THU

23

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

6:00 p.m.

Meals on Wheels - For more information

contact Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305

4th Annual Liver & Onions Extravaganza!

George's in Hewitt

SAT

25

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Blood Drive - Franklin Parking Lot

SUN

26

8:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

Summer Christian Formation

Worship Service - Hybrid

Coffee Fellowship

FIRST PRES NEWS



Our Hybrid House is the newest committee of the Diaconate, focused on enriching our environment for hybrid worship and Zoom 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 on August 9th. Our discussion will focus on our pets, past and present, and their personalities.



BLOOD DRIVE

We will host our next blood drive with Carter BloodCare on Saturday, July 25, from 9a.m.-1p.m. The BloodCare Bus will be in the Franklin Parking lot to receive donations. Use the QR code to reserve your spot! Help us reach our goal of 15 pints.



Sign up today!

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.



Sign-ups close August 6, 2026.

SUMMER CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adults - "Finding Our Place"

Please join us at 9:15 A.M. as we continue our journey on Finding Our Place. We will meet in the Session Room (C-201).

Children & Youth - "Character in Characters"

Children and Youth are exploring "Character in Characters" this summer, discovering character traits through Bible stories each week. Classes begin at 9:15 a.m. on the 3rd floor of the Franklin Wing. Pre-K-3rd grade meets in C306, and Pre-Teen-Youth meets in C304.

4TH ANNUAL LIVER & ONIONS EXTRAVAGANZA!



D.J. King is hosting the 4th annual Liver & Onions extravaganza on July 23, 6p.m., at George's in Hewitt. Whether you hope to enjoy Liver & Onions, or just want to come for another dish and community, we hope to see you there! Please register so we can let them know how many people will be in attendance, and how many plates of Liver & Onions to be prepared to serve up!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.FIRSTPRESWACO.ORG
OR FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @FIRSTPRESWACO



Staff

Pastor
Director of Congregational Life
Operations Manager
Director of Christian Formation
Office Assistant
Chancel Choir Director
Handbell Director
Organist
Pianist (8:30 a.m. service)
Nursery Coordinator
Parish Associate for Theology & Ethics
Church Historian
Parish Associate for Gerontology
Streaming Team
Custodian

Leslie King, D. Min. (lking@firstpreswaco.org)
Taylor Holleyman, Ph.D (tholleyman@firstpreswaco.org)
Shane Montoya, MBA (office@firstpreswaco.org)
Malorie Montoya (dcf@firstpreswaco.org)
Kyle Plaskett (officeassist@firstpreswaco.org)
Austin Ingalls (chancelchoir@firstpreswaco.org)
Amy Goodman, Ph. D (amy_goodman@baylor.edu)
Becky Ward, M.M. (vward@hot.rr.com)
Trisha Anderson (trishaanderson0926@gmail.com)
Chelley Breemes (bigcatz2000@yahoo.com)
Dr. Neil Messer (Neil_Messer@baylor.edu)
Katelyn Jaynes, Ph. D (kljaynes204@gmail.com)
Jim Ellor, D. Min. Ph. D, H.R. (james_ellor@baylor.edu)
Ben Bruton, James Karney, Amanda Lassetter, Thomas Munn, Adam Redmer
Adriana Goytortu

Organizational Officers

Clerk of Session
Church Treasurer, Asst. Treasurer
First Presbyterian Church Foundation
Forman Fund
Presbyterian Women
Sanctuary Guild
Sanctuary Flowers
Celebration Way

Ken Kuhns
Mark Harren, Donna Black
President - Chuck Weaver, Carr DuPuy, Carol Miller, Malorie Montoya, Charles Stern
David Smith, Phil Hering, Cathy McPhee, Patsy Norman
Susan Somerville, Sherry Cragen, Mary Lynn Klingman and Sue Young
Sharon Stern, Michael Muehlenbein
Brenda Stephens, Susan Somerville, Kathy Jones
Cary DuPuy

Session Committee Members

Administration Committee
Christian Formation Committee
Congregational Life Committee
Facilities Committee
Finance Committee
Outreach Committee
Personnel Committee
Worship Committee

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

Diaconate Committee Members

Diaconate Moderator
Diaconate Secretary
Agape Committee
Our Hybrid House
Power of the Pen
Prayer Committee
Stork Committee
Ushering Coordinator

Bricker Bruner
Christine Huston
All Deacons
Jeremy Mercer, Dave Reagan, Jen Ferretter, Avery Kerley, Cynthia Perry, Marilyn Harren, Zdzislaw Wieckowski
Katie Valenzuela, Scott Wagner, Melanie Cook, Helen Harris, Peggy Graham
Drew Risinger, Toni Percivill, John Jovicich, Kathy Jones
Mike McPhee, Jerry Barrett, Kevin Bartley
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

