



SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER
PENTECOST

WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD

Cover art: Generated by AI and Leslie using six prompts



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 is recommended with these items, please. Please return the bag and fidgets 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

**Thank you
to Dr.
Katie
Hedrick
(10:30) for
serving as
organist
today.**

Prelude (8:30)

(10:30)

Holy God We Praise Your Name

Burkhardt

+ Call to Worship:

One: God of the Genesis garden and the intense apple, our desire "to know" continues.

Many: We have a sense of shame and honor. We are humbled by the challenge it is to understand.

One: We are called to worship integrating our knowing with our hoping.

Many: We are called through honor, shame, and humility to be a bold community in your name.

One: Let us worship God in Christ. Amen.

+ Hymn #35

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

LOBE DEN HERREN

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

Holy Host of our Lives, we confess the extreme responses of catastrophizing or too easily accepting technologies. We have been cautioned against "playing God". We have been cautioned against losing our humanity. How we long to engage emerging technologies and new ways of knowing with our human essentials. How we long to engage you in the profound play of curiosity, discovery, and meaningful outcomes. We offer our confession and our longing as we seek the mind of Christ. Amen.

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

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.

**Scan and
register your
attendance,**



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

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.

We are grateful for last week's giving of \$12,897.

Venmo can facilitate your offering or designated gift.



Spirit Box (8:30)

(10:30)

Miles Palm

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: Genesis 11:1-9 (pew Bible OT pg. 9)

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

Anthem (10:30)

St. Richard's Prayer

L'Estrange

Thanks be thee, Lord Jesus Christ for all the benefits which thou hast won for us; thanks be to thee, Lord Jesus Christ, for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for us; O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, savior hear our prayer: May we know thee more clearly, may we love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 6:33-34 (pew Bible NT pg. 29)

Leader: The Gospel of the 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: Tools, Tricks, and Generative Humanity: Deus Ex Machina

Leslie King, D.Min.

+ Hymn #450 V.1 (10:30)

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

+ 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)

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Powell

+ 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)

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 #315 *In the Midst of New Dimensions* NEW DIMENSIONS

+ Charge & Benediction

Postlude (8:30)
(10:30) *Praise Ye the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him* Westenkuehler

**First Pres
thanks Jamie
Jackson for
hosting this
week's
Coffee
Fellowship!**

Sanctuary Flowers

In honor of our grandchildren:
Jacob, Charlotte, Molly, and
Henry



Given by: Charlie and Sharon
Stern

Parlor Plants

In honor of our children, their
spouses, and grandchildren.

Given by: Mike and Kathy Jones

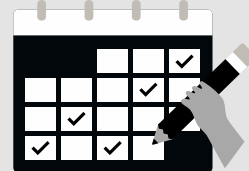
Nominating Committee:

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. Your session reps are Sam Parler and Meredith Palm.

**Scan the QR
code to
nominate!**



UPCOMING THIS WEEK



SUN

13

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

9:15 a.m.

Christian Formation - Hybrid

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

11:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

5:00 p.m.

Ice Cream Social and Our Hybrid House

7:00 p.m.

Young Adults Group

MON

14

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Meals on Wheels - For more information

contact Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305

1:00 p.m.

Presbyterian Women - Hybrid

5:30 p.m.

Diaconate Meeting - Hybrid

5:30 p.m.

Outreach Committee Meeting - Zoom

WED

16

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday Night Youth Programming

6:00 p.m.

Bell Choir Practice

7:00 p.m.

Choir Practice

THU

17

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Meals on Wheels - For more information contact

Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305

12:00 p.m.

Finance Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Open Table - For more information contact

Taylor Holleyman

FRI

18

7:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast

SUN

20

8:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

9:30 a.m.

Christian Formation - Hybrid

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

11:30 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

7:00 p.m.

Young Adults Group

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 September 13th. We will gather as a virtual team to participate in the trivia competition at the annual Ice Cream Social at 5:00 p.m.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH

Youth are invited to join us each Wednesday in September for Wednesday Night Programming from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This Wednesday, September 16th, the discussion continues in the Youth Suite over, "Stories of Belonging." Our social work intern, Kirk Evetts, will be joining us. During the 7 o'clock hour, we will have pizza and study hall time. Bring a friend for fellowship and fun together!

Contact Malorie Montoya for more information or questions: dcf@firstpreswaco.org

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will begin their new year on Monday, September 14, at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Women of FPC are invited to participate in a monthly Bible study led by Leslie and Taylor, hear about and support the wider PW mission, and enjoy the fellowship of FPC friends. This year's study is "United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other," focusing on Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. A study guide written and published by the PC(USA) is available for purchase through the church office and is a valuable resource for the monthly lessons. As an added benefit, the meetings will be available on Zoom. Please contact the church office if you would like to receive the monthly Zoom link.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Our annual Ice Cream Social takes place tonight! Scan the QR code to signup to bring ice cream. Anyone who brings a homemade option will be entered to win the coveted golden scoop - chosen by popular vote. For entertainment, we will divide attendees into teams for pub-quiz style trivia. We look forward to having a virtual team from Our Hybrid House join us via Zoom.



SEPTEMBER SERVICE SATURDAY WITH MISSION WACO

On September 26 we are hosting a Service Saturday with Mission Waco. We will be at My Brother's Keeper from 10am-noon repainting their Chapel room. Meet in the Franklin parking lot at 9:45. Scan the QR code or sign-up on realm.



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
Social Work Intern
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)
Kirk Evetts (kevetts@firstpreswaco.org)
Austin Ingalls (chancelchoir@firstpreswaco.org)
Amy Goodman, Ph. D (amy_goodman@baylor.edu)
Becky Ward, M.M. (wardbecky372@gmail.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, Meg Parish, and Peggy Graham
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

