



SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD

Cover art: AI Generated by Leslie after a search for art on the measuring of the New Jerusalem. Using 20 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

Prelude (8:30)	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	Page
(10:30)	<i>Rhosymedre (Lovely)</i>	Williams

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

+ Call to Worship:

One: Our identity extends formally from our birth certificates.

Many: Our identity emerges informally from our circumstances and experiences.

One: Our identity is chosen when we seek to follow God in Christ.

Many: We gather into worship to enrich and catalyze our full identity toward the demands of life.

One: Let us worship God, our strength and guide. Amen.

+ Hymn #5	<i>God the Sculptor of the Mountains</i>	JENNINGS-HOUSTON
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Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

Architect of Life, we confess that we can find ourselves throwing together our life shelter with the likes of concrete, doors, and keys. We can become habituated to what we have quickly assembled. We pause to remember that you are the God of thoughtful and responsive construction. How we long to build our lives with prayerfulness and commitment that allows for your flow of water, wind, and spirit. We offer our confession and our longing as we remember Jesus. Amen.

Moment of Silence

Response Hymn #341 (10:30)	<i>O God, Show Mercy to Us</i>	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)	<i>"Christ Before Me"</i>	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 (8:30)	Jack Watkins Holleyman
(10:30)	Evee Kerley

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.

**Scan and
register your
attendance,**



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

We are grateful for last week's giving of \$8,847.

Venmo can facilitate your offering or designated gift.



Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (pew Bible OT pg. 735)

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

Anthem (10:30)

Be Thou My Vision

Rutter

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me save that thou art.

Thou my best thought by day and by night; Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord. Thou my great Father, I thy dear child; Thou in me dwelling, with thee reconciled. Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight; be thou my whole armour, be thou my true might. Thou my soul's shelter, thou my strong tow'r; Raise thou me Heav'nward, great Pow'r of my pow'r. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always. Thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art. High King of Heaven, my victory won, May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun! Heart of my heart, whatever befall, Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Epistle Scripture Reading: Revelation 21:15-21 (pew Bible NT pg. 260)

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

+ 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: Generative Humanity: Thoughtful Games

Leslie King, D.Min.

+ Hymn #450 V1 (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)

Trio

Rheinberger

Thank you for passing the plate across each aisle, symbolizing our shared responsibility and opportunity.

+ 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) *Flight of the Monarch* Bober
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 #401 *Here in This Place* GATHERING

+ Charge & Benediction

Postlude (8:30) *An Autumn Prayer* Muskrat
(10:30) *Fanfare* Lemmens

Sanctuary Flowers

In loving memory of Mack's Momma and our Poppy - we love you all there is!

Given by: Mack, Teresa, Hannah, and Finley Gingles



Parlor Plants

In honor of those who volunteer their time and energy for FPC.

Given by: Mike and Kathy Jones

First Pres thanks the Montoya family for hosting this week's Coffee Fellowship!

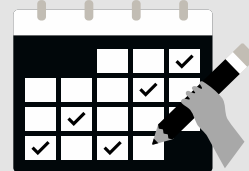
Nominating Committee:

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

27

EIGHTEENTH 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

7:00 p.m.

Young Adults Group - Moody Library

MON

28

2:00 p.m.

Worship Committee Meeting - Hybrid

7:00 p.m.

Power of the Pen - Zoom

TUE

29

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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

WED

30

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

1

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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

6:30 p.m.

Open Table - For more information contact
Taylor Holleyman

FRI

2

6:00 p.m.

Reel Spirituality - Pinewood

SUN

4

8:30 a.m.

World Communion Sunday

9:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

10:30 a.m.

Christian Formation - Hybrid

11:30 a.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

7:00 p.m.

Stewardship Luncheon - Fellowship Hall

Young Adults Group - Moody

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 October 11th. What was your first car, and how did you acquire it?



STEWARDSHIP KICKOFF LUNCHEON

Join us in Fellowship Hall for a main course of fried chicken! In true stewardship fashion, we are inviting side dishes of cold salads, warm sides, breads, fruit and dessert. You can sign up in the narthex, by calling the church office, or by signing up with this QRcode.



REEL SPIRITUALITY

Join us for Reel Spirituality at Pinewood Public House on October 2nd at 6:00 p.m. This month's movie will be *Good Morning, Vietnam* (1987). Available to borrow from the Waco library or for rent on most major streaming platforms.

2223 Austin Ave Suite D, Waco, TX 76701

NOTE: 2026 Pig Roast has been delayed until the Spring of 2027

YOUNG ADULT GROUP

Many thanks to Kyle Plaskett for organizing a Young Adults group, meeting at Moody Library each Sunday at 7 p.m. for a Bible study on John's gospel.

On October 11, we will host our Young Adults for lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 service. Scan the QR code below to join the Young Adults GroupMe and place your order for lunch on October 11th. Lunch costs are covered by the church!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT YOUTH

Youth are invited to join us each week for Wednesday Night Programming from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This Wednesday, September 30th, we will conclude the September discussion topic, "Stories of Belonging." Our Social Work intern, Kirk Evetts, will join us. During the 7 o'clock hour, we will have pizza and study hall time.

The October theme will be "Belonging to a Community," and we will have the chance to hear from our Outreach Committee. Be on the lookout for more details to come soon!

Bring a friend for fellowship and fun together! Contact Malorie Montoya for more information or questions: dcf@firstpreswaco.org

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 Choir 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. (lkinge@firstpreswaco.org)
Taylor Holleyman, Ph.D (tholleyman@firstpreswaco.org)
Shane Montoya, MBA (officee@firstpreswaco.org)
Malorie Montoya (dcfe@firstpreswaco.org)
Kyle Plaskett (officeassist@firstpreswaco.org)
Kirk Evetts (kevetts@firstpreswaco.org)
Austin Ingalls (chancelchoir@firstpreswaco.org)
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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, Charles Stern
David Smith, Phil Hering, Cathy McPhee, Patsy Norman
Susan Somerville, Sherry Cragen, Meg Parrish, 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 Vice Moderator
Diaconate Secretary
Agape Committee
Our Hybrid House
Power of the Pen
Prayer Committee
Stork Committee
Ushering Coordinator

Bricker Bruner
Melanie Cook
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

