



**SEPTEMBER 6, 2026**  
**COMMUNION SUNDAY**



**WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD**

Cover art: Generated by AI and Leslie using two 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

+ Call to Worship:

One: We have been in over our heads.

**Many: We have been tossed around.**

One: We have scrambled for stability.

**Many: We have arrived to hold steady and find right ways forward with God as our light.**

One: Let us worship God in Christ. Amen.

+ Hymn #17

*Sing Praise to God, You Heavens!*

WIE LIEBLICH IST DER MAIEN

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

**God of the Table, we confess that we have constructed many ways to feed our lives. Savings accounts and pantries all play their part. How we long to remember that it is in the breaking and sharing that we find our deepest life. May we have the courage for such practices each day of our living. 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 (8:30)

(10:30)

Miles and Theo Stahl-Wright

Reed and Kate Olivarez

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.

**Thank you to Andrew Hudson (8:30) for serving as pianist and Dr. James Pitts (10:30) for serving as organist today.**

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

**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  
\$4,116.**

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



Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Genesis 6:9-19 (pew Bible OT pg. 5)

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

Anthem (10:30)

*The Lord My Shepherd Guards Me Well*

Scott

The Lord my Shepherd Guards me well, and all my wants are fed. Amid green pastures made to lie, beside still waters led. My careworn soul grows strong and whole when God's true path I tread. Though I should walk in darkest ways through valleys like the grave, no evil shall I ever fear, your presence makes me brave. On my behalf your rod and staff assure me you will save. For me a table has been spread where all my foes can see; you bathe my head with fragrant oil to soothe and comfort me. My heart and cup are both filled up with joyful ecstasy. Your steadfast love will follow me to shield me all my days, and bring me to your holy house, redeemed from error's ways, my whole life long to join the song of those who sing God's praise.

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:24-27 (pew Bible NT pg. 6)

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: What We Build

Leslie King, D.Min.

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

*Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

*On Sundays when we have communion or baptism and the congregation responds to the sacrament, we receive that participation as our Affirmation of Faith for the day.*

Offering (10:30)

+ 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 and 10:30)

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 Great Thanksgiving

**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 #12                                      *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*                                      ST. DENIO

+ Charge & Benediction

Postlude

**Sanctuary Flowers**

Given in remembrance of  
Charles and Geneva Gamble  
and their faithful service to FPC  
Waco.



Given by: Melanie Cook

**Parlor Plants**

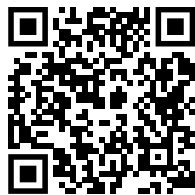
In memory of parents and  
grandparents who loved and  
labored for their families.

Given by: Mike and Kathy Jones

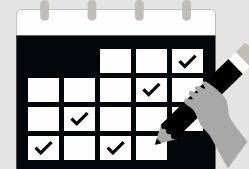
**Nominating Committee:**

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**

**6**

## COMMUNION SUNDAY

8:30 a.m.

9:15 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

7:00 p.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

Christian Formation - Hybrid

Worship Service - Hybrid

Young Adults Group - For more information contact

Kyle Plaskett - (254) 717-8415

**MON**

**7**

Office Holiday

**TUE**

**8**

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 - SlowRise Woodway

**WED**

**9**

5:30 p.m.

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

6:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

This Is First Pres

Wednesday Night Youth Programming

Bell Choir Practice

Choir Practice

**THU**

**10**

8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

6:30 p.m.

Meals on Wheels - For more information contact

Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305

Open Table - For more information contact

Taylor Holleyman

**SUN**

**13**

8:30 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Worship Service - Hybrid

Christian Formation - Hybrid

Worship Service - Hybrid

Coffee Fellowship

Ice Cream Social

Our Hybrid House

Young Adults Group - For more information contact

Kyle Plaskett - (254) 717 8415

# 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 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 7:00 p.m. This week, September 9<sup>th</sup>, we will continue discussing "Stories of Belonging," along with guest, Brian Rainosek, and his musical talent. During the 7 o'clock hour, we will have pizza and study hall time. Bring a friend and join us!

Contact Malorie Montoya for more information or questions: [dcf@firstpreswaco.org](mailto:dcf@firstpreswaco.org)

## THIS IS FIRST PRES

Would you like to learn more about First Pres, her ministry, and history? This Is First Pres is a gathering with the pastors to tour the building, talk about the Presbyterian tradition, and to share our own experiences with church and faith. The next gathering is Wednesday, September 9, 5:30 p.m.

RSVP by texting Leslie at (254) 214-5999

The next opportunity for membership is at the Session meeting on September 21.

## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Our annual Ice Cream Social is back on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. 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.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will begin their new year on Monday, September 14, at 1:00 PM in 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.

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  
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](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

