



JANUARY 4, 2026
EPIPHANY SUNDAY



WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD

Cover image: Job Rebuked by his Friends, William Blake



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

If you would like a large-print hymnal or hearing enhancement device, please ask an usher. We also have 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. Contact the church office at (254) 752-1665 for more information.

+ Please
rise in
body or in
spirit.

Scan the
QR code
to chat
with the
Zoom
room!

8:30 AM



10:30 AM



Greetings and Announcements

Prelude: (8:30)	<i>God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen</i>	Bober
(10:30)	<i>The Old Year Now Hath Passed Away</i>	J. S. Bach

+ Call to Worship: (Job 37:24-33)

One: Praise the works of the Lord, which we celebrate in song.
Many: Surely God is great and infinite, beyond what we can know.
One: God draws water into clouds and brings rain upon the earth.
Many: God fills the air with thunder and splashes the sky with lightning.
One: By these things God governs and gives abundantly. Amen.

+ Hymn #152	<i>What Star Is This, With Beams So Bright</i>	NASCITUR
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Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

God of truth and peace, we confess that we often avoid conflict, fearing its discomfort. We choose silence over honesty, and distance over the hard work of reconciliation. In our desire for harmony, we neglect the deeper healing You offer. Forgive us for confusing peace with avoidance, and for resisting the refining fire of Your Spirit in our relationships. Give us courage to speak truth in love, patience to listen without defense, and humility to seek understanding before victory. May our lives bear witness to the peace that comes through honest love. 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

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: Job 42:7-10 (pew Bible OT pg.488)

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

Anthem

Prayer for Peace

Cherwin

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: John 1:9-18 (pew Bible NT pg. 91)

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: The Problem of Friendship

Taylor Holleyman, Ph.D

+ 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)

Twos in the Moon of Wintertime

McNair

+ 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) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Tonioli

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.

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



+ Prayer of 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 #459

O World of God Incarnate

MUNICH

+ Charge & Benediction

+ Closing Response: (10:30) #450 V.1 *Be Thou My Vision*

SLANE

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

The Holly and the Ivy
How Brightly Shines the Morning Star

McLean
Burkhardt

Scan and
register your
attendance.



Sanctuary Flowers

In celebration of the new year and all the possibilities and hope that it may offer.

Given by: John & Brenda Stephens



Parlor Plants

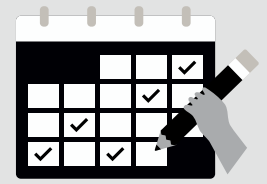
In honor of our church staff and their dedication to FPC and its congregation.

Given by: John & Brenda Stephens

**Thank you to
Sam Parler &
Becky Lou
for hosting
Coffee
Fellowship!**



UPCOMING THIS WEEK



SUN

4

8:30 A.M.
9:15 A.M.
10:30 A.M.
11:30 A.M.

Worship Service - Hybrid
Christian Formation Classes for all ages
Worship Service - Hybrid
Coffee Fellowship

TUE

6

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

5:30 P.M.

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

WED

7

9:30 A.M.
6:00 P.M.
6:00 P.M.
7:00 P.M.

Jesus and John Wayne Book Review
In the Wings Youth Programming
St. Cecilia Bell Choir Practice - Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary

THU

8

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

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

SAT

10

9:00 - 1:00 P.M.

Carter Blood Drive - Franklin Parking Lot

SUN

11

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

FIRST PRES NEWS

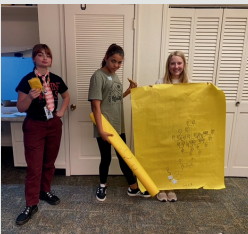
OUR HYBRID HOUSE

Our Hybrid House is the newest committee of the Diaconate, focusing on enriching our environment for hybrid worship and 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 meetings on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 5:00 P.M. **January 11th's question is: What are you hoping to accomplish in the new year?**



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS BACK IN JANUARY

Your youth programming team of Leslie, Taylor, Amy Goodman, Jeremy Mercer, Scott Wagner, Katherine Ehlers, and Rebecca Melton has worked hard to provide 8 weeks of programming this Fall! The youth worked hard after busy school days to get back into the heart of Waco and attend to scripture and life. We are looking forward to the spring semester, which will begin on January 7th. Our theme will be In the Wings!



HOSTING COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

We're grateful to everyone who hosted Coffee Fellowship in 2025! As we look to the new year, we're now accepting 2026 sign-ups. Hosts provide light snacks in Foundation Parlor after the 10:30 service on their chosen date. Please scan the QR code to register.



FAITH ON TAP

Join us for Faith on Tap Tuesday, January 13th at 6:00 P.M. We will meet at One Day Bar located at:
618 Columbus Ave STE B, Waco, TX 76701



FIRST PRES BLOOD DRIVE

Join us for the Carter BloodCare Blood Drive on Saturday, January 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Franklin Lot. Help save lives by giving blood—sign-up times are available now. Simply scan the QR code to reserve your spot!



FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH VISIT OUR WEBSITE 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	Sondra Dubowsky, James Karney, Amanda Lassetter, Thomas Munn, Adam Redmer, Mike Vale
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 Sommerville, Sherry Cragen, Mary Lynn Klingman and Sue Young
Sanctuary Guild	Sherry Cragen, Leigh Marcus
Sanctuary Flowers	Brenda Stephens, Susan Somerville, Kathy Jones
Celebration Way	Cary DuPuy

Session Committee Members

Administration Committee	Charlie Olson, Mike Morrison
Christian Formation Committee	Jamie Jackson, Shannon Field, Anita Karney
Congregational Life Committee	Sharon Stern
Facilities Committee	Mark Anderson, Christine Miller, James Hill, Bob Cragen
Finance Committee	Phil Hering, Chip Somerville, Lyndon Olson
Outreach Committee	Sam Parler, Brenda Stephens, Matthew Malavanti
Personnel Committee	Mike Harper, Todd Ehlers, Elouise Frazier
Worship Committee	Jamie Delk, Meredith Palm

Diaconate Committee Members

Diaconate Moderator/Vice Moderator	Malorie Montoya, Bricker Bruner
Diaconate Secretary	Bricker Bruner, Kitty Huneke
Agape Committee	All Deacons
Our Hybrid House	Helen Harris, Christine Dennis, Dave Reagan, Jen Ferretter, Avery Kerley, Cynthia Perry, Zdzislaw Wieckowski, George Ahrens
Power of the Pen	Helen Harris, Peggy Graham, Michelle Plaskett, Parker Adamson
Prayer Committee	Sarah Davis, Toni Percivill, John Jovicich, Kathy Jones
Stork Committee	Drew Risinger, 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
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

