



NOVEMBER 23, 2025
HANGING OF THE GREENS



MURAL DESIGN: ROBERT MINERVINI; PHOTO: JEANINE POLHAUS

WELCOME HOME, CHILDREN OF GOD



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.

Worship Service - November 23, 2025 - Hanging of the Greens

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude: (8:30) *America* Simon
(10:30) *Chorale Prelude on "Rejoice, Rejoice"* Miller

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

+ Call to Worship: Psalm 1:2-3

One: Happy are those who delight in stretching toward the wisdom of God.

Many: They are like trees planted by streams of water.

One: Happy are those who delight in learning throughout their human pilgrimage.

Many: They yield their fruit in season, and their leaves do not wither.

One: In their thriving they declare life to be good and God to be vast. Let us worship God. Amen.

+ Hymn #26 *Earth and All Stars!* EARTH AND ALL STARS

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

Creator God, we confess our conflicted experiences with shade. We enjoy the shade of a live oak or a front porch, taking in the environment while intensity is softened. We confess a dread when a shadow is cast by a difficult circumstance. We seek to be your people who can appreciate and be fortified in shade and shadows. May we extend our sheltering presence all people and all creation. We offer this confession and longing in and through Christ. Amen.

**Scan the
QR code
to chat
with the
Zoom
room!**

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.

8:30 AM

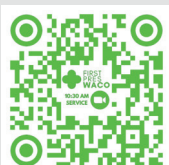
Declaration of Grace & Sharing of the Peace of Christ

+ 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



10:30 AM

Spirit Box Kynadie Montoya
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.



**We are
grateful for
last
week's
giving of
\$9,770.50.**

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



Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Jonah 4:4-11 (pew Bible OT pg.861)

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

Anthem

All the World is God's Own Field

Austin C. Lovelace

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto His praise to yield; whear and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown; first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear: Lord of harvest, grant that we, wholesome grain and pure may be. For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take His harvest home; from His fireld shall in that day all offenses purge away. Give His angels charge at last, in the fires the tares to cast, but the fruitful ears to store in His garner evermore.

Come, ye thankful people come, raise the song of harvest home: all is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin; God our maker doth provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God's own temple come, raise the song of harvest home.

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:31-32 (pew Bible NT pg.15)

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: Pardoning the Turkey: Rewilding Canopies

Leslie King, D. Min

+ 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)

We Gather Together

Burkhardt

+ 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) *Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart*

Smith

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.

+ 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 #36 *For the Fruit of All Creation* AR HYDY NOS

+ Charge & Benediction

+ Closing Response: (10:30) #713 *Touch the Earth Lightly* TENDERNESS

Postlude: (8:30) *We Gather Together* Baker
(10:30) *Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow* Leopold

Thank you to our guest liturgist, Charlie Stern.

After the 10:30 service, we invite you to stay for the Hanging of the Greens and enjoy savory bites from Foundation Parlor.

Scan and register your attendance.



Thank you to all who brought charcuterie boards.

Sanctuary Flowers

In appreciation of the U.S service men & Women stationed around the world who stand ready to do what is necessary to secure peace.

Given by: Sue & Pete Patrick

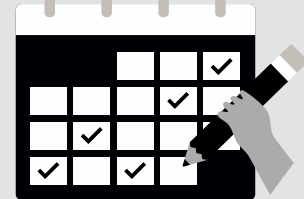


Parlor Plants

In memory of our mothers, Marie Adeline Bouffard McPhee & Margaret Inez Calcutt Woods Johnson.

Given by: Mike & Cathy McPhee

UPCOMING THIS WEEK



SUN

23

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 & Hanging of the Greens

MON

24

7:00 P.M.

Power of the Pen - Zoom

TUE

25

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

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

WED

26

12:30 P.M.

Office Holiday

THU

27

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

All Day

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

FRI

28

All Day

Office Holiday

SUN

30

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

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. **This month's topic is "Sharing a Favorite Christmas tradition, on December 14th."**



2025 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

This year's Christmas offering will go towards recovery and flood relief efforts in Kerr County. We will partner with the Kerr County Flood Relief Fund, organized through the Community Foundation of the Texas Hill Country, to support local organizations engaged in ongoing recovery efforts.



LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us on Friday, December 6, at 7:00 p.m. for a beautiful Service of Lessons and Carols celebrating the Advent season. Through scripture, music, and poetry, we'll reflect on the promise and wonder of Christ's coming. Come and share in this inspiring evening of worship and anticipation.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

Join us for the Youth Christmas Party on Tuesday, December 3rd, from 6:00–7:30 P.M. at The Cooper House, 1801 Austin Ave, Waco, TX 76701. We'll walk from the church to the Cooper House, tour the home, and learn about Madison Cooper, the Presbyterian who established a benevolent foundation for the Waco community. Enjoy an evening of Christmas fun, festive activities, a delicious holiday meal, and a white elephant gift exchange—bring a friend and celebrate the season with us!

POSADA

Join us for Posada at First Presbyterian on Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 p.m. Enjoy a meal, then join a candlelit procession with Mary and Joseph, ending in the sanctuary for prayer and reflection—a joyful celebration of hope and Christ's coming.



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)
Garland School of Social Work Intern	Peighton Pulley (peightonp@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 Assoc. 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

