



DECEMBER 14, 2025
3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Annunciation by Woonbo Kim Ki-chang 1950's

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.

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude: (8:30) *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Wolaver
(10:30) *Toccata* Gigout

Lighters of the Advent candles

8:30 Mike Farr and Patsy Norman
10:30 Virginia and LaRaine DuPuy

+ Call to Worship:

One: It has been sung that "life is but a dream".

Many: To be sure, dreams fill our nights and days.

One: We examine our dreams to see our world's meaning.

Many: We look into our dreams to catch a glimpse of divine purpose.

One: Life is more than a dream; it receives the mystery of incarnation and strength....come what may. Amen.

+ Hymn #82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRDOL

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

We confess what it means to "carry" for self and for others. We confess that we often struggle to know how to carry worry, hope, or action-oriented concern. We struggle to pray as we ought. How we long to "carry" our concerns with a confidence in ourselves and others. How we long to be present even when we cannot fix the circumstances to a preferred place. Honoring the way Mary and Joseph carried, we offer each prayer. Amen.

Moment of Silence

Response Hymn #89 (10:30) *For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits*
For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

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

Riley's Rescue

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.

Special thanks to Baylor Music Student, Sadam Trejo, for his special gift of the organ Prelude in today's service.

+ Please rise in body or in spirit.

Scan the QR code to chat with the Zoom room!

8:30 AM



10:30 AM



**We are
grateful for
last
week's
giving of
\$31,524.28.**

Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Daniel 4:10-24 (pew Bible OT pg.823)

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

Anthem

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit and always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought:

I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

+ Gospel Scripture Reading: Luke 1:16-31/Matthew 1:18-21 (pew Bible NT pg. 58 & 1)

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: Stations of Incarnation: Carriers

Leslie King, D. Min

+ Affirmation of Faith

We affirm the stations of incarnation. We affirm the arrival of Christ into the heart and mind of each person. We affirm that each person, a sort of station themselves, has a part to play in the journey of Christ arriving into the human experience. We affirm that our sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper impart the essence of Christ and kindle our awareness. We affirm that scripture tells the Old Old Story not only for nostalgia but so that we can live our part in that story today. We affirm nativity, novelty, and God's inbreaking into unlikely circumstances. Amen.

Offering (10:30)

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Rotermund

+ 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.

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



**Scan and
register your
attendance.**



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 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 #129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

+ Charge & Benediction

+ Closing Response: (10:30) #110

Love Has Come

BRING A TORCH

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

Away in a Manger
Ding Dong Merrily on High

Deford
Lasky

**Thank you to
Deedie and
Phil Hering
for hosting
Coffee
Fellowship!**



Parlor Plants

In joyful celebration of my family,
both near and far.

Given by: Sarah Lieber



Caroling & Soup

Join us on Saturday, December 20, at 3:00 p.m. as we carol for our homebound and assisted-living members, then return to the church at 5:00 p.m. for warm soups and desserts. Special thanks to our choir for leading the way!

UPCOMING THIS WEEK



SUN

14

8:30 A.M.
9:15 A.M.
10:30 A.M.
11:30 A.M.
5:00 P.M.
5:30 P.M.

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

TUE

16

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

Meals on Wheels - For more information
contact Charlotte Henderson - (254) 744-3305
Final Day to receive FAB tree items

WED

17

6:00 P.M.

Bell Choir & Choir Christmas Party - Foundation Parlor

THU

18

8:30 - 11:30 A.M.

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

FRI

19

7:30 A.M.

Men's Breakfast - Fellowship Hall

SAT

20

3:00 P.M.

Caroling & Soup

SUN

21

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.



CAROLING & SOUP

Join us for Caroling & Soup on Saturday, December 20, at 3:00 p.m.! We'll visit our homebound and assisted-living members with joyful caroling, then return to the church at 5:00 p.m. for warm soups and delicious desserts. Special thanks to our choir for helping lead the way!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Join us on Christmas Eve for worship at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. The 5:00 service includes communion, candlelight, and carols, and the 7:00 service features candlelight and carols. Both services will also be available on Zoom.



POSADA

Join us for Posada at First Presbyterian on Sunday, December 14, at 5:30 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)
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

