

WORSHIP



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of
RICHARDSON

AUGUST 10, 2025 | BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Responding to God's love and grace, we WORSHIP with joy, NURTURE with faith, and SERVE others with love.

At First Presbyterian Church of Richardson, we believe that God's love is for everyone—without exception. We welcome all people to worship, serve, and grow with us, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, marital status, or economic circumstance. We affirm the worth and dignity of every person as a beloved child of God, created in God's image. As a church rooted in God's grace, we seek to live with open hearts and open minds. We commit to being a safe and affirming space for all, especially those who have been hurt or excluded by the church in the past. In our worship, our leadership, our fellowship, and our service—we welcome you. We see you. We honor your full humanity.

You are welcome here. You are not alone. You are loved.

We Gather Around the Word

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY

“Children of Our Heavenly Father”

Dale Wood

Terry Metzger, Organ

*CALL TO WORSHIP | *Responsively*

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the convictions of things not seen.

**Like Abraham, let us follow God,
even when we don't know where we are going.**

By faith, let us look forward to the city that has foundations,
whose architect and builder is God.

Let us worship the God whose promises call and claim us

Julie Houtt

based on Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16

*OPENING HYMN | #305 “Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!”

CALL TO CONFESSION and PRAYER OF CONFESSION | *Unison*

God of Hope and Promise, we admit that our faith sometimes falters.

We acknowledge that our doubts and grievances often overwhelm.

We struggle to comprehend our own suffering and that of others.

Pardon us when we lose faith in you and in ourselves.

Guide us back to harmonious relationships.

Encourage us to stay engaged and committed

to meaningful dialogues filled with grace. Amen.

**Please stand in body or spirit*

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS | *Responsively*

God's grace is given freely. God's love is steadfast.

Receive the good news that you are forgiven,
and live liberated from sin to the glory of God.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*GLORIA PATRI | #582 "Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

TIME FOR TINY THEOLOGIANs *and* BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Children of all ages are welcome to join us up front for a brief children's lesson. Children between the ages of 0-kindergarten are then welcome to go to the nursery following the lesson, or return to their seats.

We Proclaim the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:1-5; 15-19

Philippians 2:1-16

NRSV OT Pg. 672

NRSV NT Pg. 197

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Rev. Katy Walters

We Respond to the Word

*HYMN OF RESPONSE | #264 “At the Name of Jesus”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH | *Unison*

from A Brief Statement of Faith)

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female,
of every race and people, to live as one community.
But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.
Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God’s condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.
Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *and* THE LORD’S PRAYER | *Unison*

**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.**

LIFE OF THE CHURCH

CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Do Not Be Afraid”

Philip W. J. Stopford

The Sanctuary Choir, Amanda Hollis, Director

Terry Metzger, Piano

Lyrics found in the scripture reading: Isaiah 43:1-2

*DOXOLOGY | #606 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

**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. Amen.**

We Are Sent Out to Bear the Word in the World

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION | *Unison*

**We give you thanks, O God,
for here at your Table you have transformed us
from individuals into the Body of Christ.
Now send us out into your broken and beautiful world
to bear your Good News of hope and joy for all. Amen.**

*SENDING HYMN | #295 "Go to the World!"

*BENEDICTION

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

"Bright and Glorious Is the Sky"

Dale Wood
Terry Metzger, Organ

MEET OUR GUEST PREACHER FOR AUGUST 10:

Rev. Katy Walters



A native of North Texas, Rev. Katy Walters recently returned to the area after many years spent in the Texas Hill Country. She is a graduate of Austin College in Sherman, Texas where she received a Bachelor of Arts in music, and then went on to earn her Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Practical Theology with a focus in Christian Education from Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, GA.

Rev. Walters has over 20 years of experience working primarily with children and youth, serving churches across the south, as well as working with the Girl Scouts of America. She recently wrapped up her Chaplain Resident year at UTSW Clements where she focused on caring for families and staff in the Neurology Units and Emergency Department. Beginning in August, she will be the NICU Staff Chaplain at Cook Children's in Fort Worth.

Every day Katy seeks to find some magic in the mundane: through walks with her pup Winston, making a delicious mess in the kitchen, busting out in show tunes or Disney songs, bird watching, reading books or crocheting tiny hearts. She is a coffee and cookie aficionado and enjoys spending time with her family.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH of
RICHARDSON
established 1870

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WEEK AT A GLANCE:

Sunday, August 10 - Blessing of the Backpacks

Coffee Class: 9 am, A110
Present Word: 9 am, A109
Nursery: 9-11:30 am, CE Building
Worship: 10:30 am, In-Person & Online
First Grace Community Church: 11 am-1 pm, Chapel, A111, A109
Presbyterian Church of East Africa: 11 am-2 pm, C203, C204B
United Fellowship Bible Church: 2-5 pm, Fellowship Hall

Monday, August 11

Faith Sharing: 1 pm, Library
Accolade Theatre Rehearsal: 5-10 pm, Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, August 12

Tuesday Morning Prayer Group: 6:30 am, Phone
Tuesday Morning Bible Study: 10 am, Library
UDCC Women's Group: 10 am, Room A109

Wednesday, August 13

Sometimes: 8-11 am
Accolade Theatre Rehearsal: 5-10 pm, Fellowship Hall
Choir Rehearsal: 7:30 pm

Thursday, August 14

Tai Chi: 10 am-12 pm, Fellowship Hall

Friday, August 15

Accolade Theatre Rehearsal: 5-10 pm, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, August 16

Accolade Theatre Callbacks: 10 am-3 pm, Fellowship Hall
Taiwanese Ministry Bible Study: 2-4 pm, Library
United Fellowship Bible Church: 4-7 pm, Chapel

Sunday, August 17 - Promotion Sunday

Nursery: 9-11:30 am, CE Building
Coffee Class: 9 am, A110
Present Word: 9 am, A109
Worship: 10:30 am, In-Person & Online
First Grace Community Church: 11 am-1 pm, Chapel, A111, A109
Presbyterian Church of East Africa: 11 am-2 pm, C203, C204B
Session Meeting: 12 pm, Library
United Fellowship Bible Church: 2-5 pm, Fellowship Hall
Book Club: 5 pm, Library



Promotion Sunday

Join us **August 17** for the beginning of Fall Sunday School and celebrate with our students starting a new grade.
See you then!



Bring your Plastic Free July Bingo Card back to church **on or before August 24** to participate in our prize drawing!

1 card = 1 entry.

Must be present in worship on Sunday, August 24 to win.

Don't forget to meet us under the porte-cochere after worship for a scoop from the ice cream truck!

