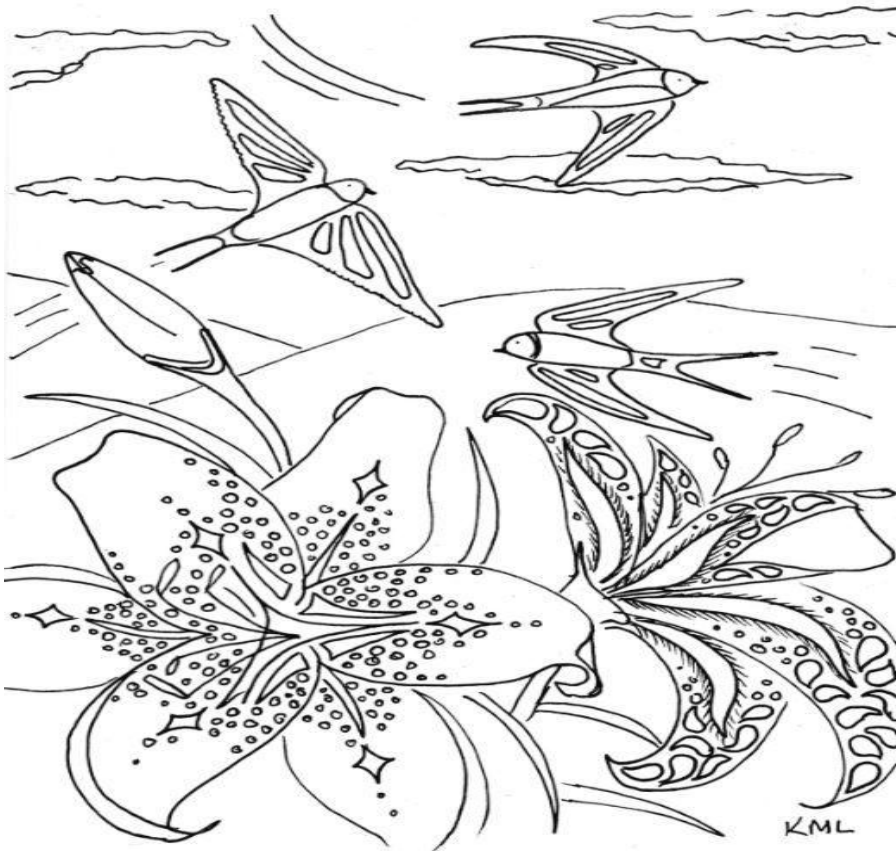




First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
October 11, 2026

First Presbyterian Church seeks to provide a spiritual home that proclaims God's presence and love to all people by creating a welcoming environment for Christian spiritual growth through worship, fellowship, and education, joyfully celebrating God's love as disciples serving the community and the world.

203 W. Calhoun El Campo, Texas 979-543-3658
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 11, 2026

11:00 am

20th Sunday after Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *All People That on Earth Do Dwell* arr. Lani Smith, 2015

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, Holy Spirit, and focus our minds on things that are true and just.

All: Focus our minds on things that are pure and pleasing.

One: Focus our minds on things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

All: Come, Holy Spirit, and focus our hearts on you!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #39 *Great is Thy Faithfulness

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

Loving God, walk with us that we might always have perspective about what is truly important in life. Give us purpose and the assurance that we are not alone as we make decisions and face difficult times and situations. Be the road beneath our feet when we stray and our companion who shows us the way. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***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.

All People That on Earth Do Dwell – Lani Smith's setting of the classic hymn tune OLD HUNDREDTH brings a bright, confident spirit to the opening of worship. The arrangement highlights the melody's strength while adding fresh harmonic color. Its joyful character prepares us to enter the service with gratitude and praise.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness – This beloved hymn anchors us in God's steady presence through every season of life. Its text, drawn from Lamentations, reminds us that divine mercy renews itself daily, even when circumstances shift. Singing it together affirms trust in God's constancy.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

HEARING OF THE WORD OF GOD

A TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Philippians 4:1-9

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

Let Music Fill This Place

Joseph M. Martin, 2007

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 6:25-34

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes

Let Music Fill This Place – Joseph Martin’s anthem invites the congregation into a space shaped by praise, beauty, and shared worship. Its flowing lines and warm harmonies echo the Psalmist’s call to offer thanksgiving with song. The text celebrates music as a gift that opens hearts to God’s presence. As the choir sings this celebratory anthem, we join in the prayer for grace to fill this place.

the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

One: God always blesses the reading
and hearing of Holy Scripture.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON “God is Near”

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #821 *My Life Flows On*

PRAYER – Praise to Our God by Lavon Bayler (Responsive)
Praise to our God who is near and forgiving.

Praise for the promises we have received.

Love that is steadfast surrounds all our living.

Granting more wonders than we have believed.

God has delivered a people from bondage,

Guiding their footsteps through pathways unknown.

Yet they create other objects for homage,

Worshipping idols no god would condone.

God is the host who invites to a banquet

All of earth’s children, life’s riches to share.

Yet there are many without robe or basket,

Empty and hopeless with no one to care.

We are the ones who forget our Creator,

We are the people who revel in sin,

Living as if we were merely spectators

Rather than servants, new ways to begin.

Therefore, beloved, my sisters and brothers,

Be of one mind in the gospel each day.

Put aside worry while praying for others,

Letting God’s peace guard your hearts in Christ’s way.

My Life Flows On
– This hymn
expresses a quiet
confidence that
God’s song
continues beneath
life’s storms. Its
imagery of inner
music reflects the
peace Christ gives
even when the
world feels
unsettled. The
refrain lifts our
voices in gratitude
for that sustaining
joy.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Be Thou My Vision* arr. Roussaki & Seidel, 1996

*THE DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF BLESSING OF OUR OFFERING (in unison)

With a joyful heart and praise, we return what we have been given to the Lord. Let these gifts be used to bring joy to those who sorrow and peace to those who worry. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN #80 *You Shall Go Out with Joy* (sing 2x)

*BENEDICTION

Be Thou My Vision
– This arrangement weaves the beloved Irish tune through the quiet, contemplative style of Eric Satie's *Gymnopédie No. 1*. Its gentle rhythms and spacious harmonies create a sense of stillness that invites deep reflection. The offertory's music becomes a prayer for God's wisdom and guiding presence, carried on a serene and timeless simplicity.

You Shall Go Out with Joy – Rooted in Isaiah's promise, this lively chorus celebrates God's liberating work among the people. Its rhythmic energy mirrors the prophet's vision of creation rejoicing. We sing it as a reminder that God's future is marked by joy and renewal.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And his righteousness,
And all these things
shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door
shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE *Theme from "Ballo del Granduca"* Jan Sweelinck, 1621

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis
Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Christi and Shawn Beechwood, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Placed today by Taylor and Meredith Martin.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, Oct. 18 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Prayer List

Esther Bender	Colby Hauser	Jimmy Barger
Scott Mollnar	Avely Miller	Greg Montello
Suzanne Hauser	John Minkert	Ruth McCauley
Gerald Grogan	Ruben Sabrsula	Kayleigh Newman

*Theme from "Ballo del Granduca" – Jan Sweelinck's theme brings a touch of Renaissance brilliance to the close of worship. The melody is drawn from Emilio de' Cavalieri's 1589 dance tune *O che nuovo miracolo*, which develops with lively rhythmic patterns and elegant variation. Sweelinck, a renown Dutch composer and organist, spent nearly his entire career – over 40 years – as the organist at Amsterdam's famous Old Church.*

Remembering Those We Love

Throughout the month of October, you are invited to bring a photo of a loved one who has died to the church as we prepare for **All Saints Sunday**.

The photos will be displayed in the sanctuary as a visible reminder of the people we have loved and who have shaped our lives and our faith. Your loved one does not need to have been a member of First Presbyterian Church. You are welcome to bring a photo of a family member, friend, pet, or anyone whose life you would like to remember.

On **All Saints Sunday**, we will gather in worship to remember those who have gone before us. We will light candles, offer prayers of thanksgiving and remembrance, and give thanks for the promise that in life and in death, we belong to God.

Please bring your photos to the church anytime during October. Be sure to put your name on the back so that we can return them to you following All Saints Sunday.

Come and help us surround our worship with the faces and memories of the saints who have touched our lives.

Dear FPC Members,

Come join us for Manna Meals! Serving is a deeply fulfilling experience where you can support your community, build meaningful friendships with fellow church members, and connect with the diverse individuals who visit us—many of whom are hungry, lonely, or simply in need of a hot meal and community.

Here is our service schedule through January 2027:

- Monday, October 19
- Monday, November 23
- Note: We do not serve in December.
- Monday, January 18, 2027

We hope you will join us!

In His Service,

Mary Ann Kainer

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger

Donnie Kainer

Youth Elder: Porter Beechwood

Donnie Clapp

Mindi Snyder

Class of 2027

John Kalina

Arlette Pustejovsky

Ester Latapie

Elizabeth Rasmussen

Class of 2028

Shawn Beechwood

Melba Clapp

Debra Hamman

B.J. Swenson

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Kristine Shultis

Choir Director – Ronda Paoletti

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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