



First Presbyterian Church El Campo, Texas

April 2, 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

www.firstpresbyterielcampo.org Facebook: [firstpresbyterielcampo](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterielcampo)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

INVOCATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On the night he was betrayed, Jesus broke bread and shared the cup, saying, "Do this in remembrance of me."

All: We gather to remember the bread of life, broken at the table of love.

One: Jesus knelt to wash his disciples' feet, showing us what love looks like in action.

All: We gather to remember the Prince of Peace who chose humility over domination.

One: Jesus shared his life and love with the world, inviting us to be nourished and transformed.

All: The bread of life has come to sustain us. Believing this promise, let us worship together!

OPENING PRAYER

**HYMN # 202 An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

God of compassion, we confess we have allowed the distractions of life to cloud our memories of your love. We have failed to reflect your kindness in our actions and have neglected your command to

serve one another. Forgive us, Lord. Stir our hearts and bring to mind the joy and purpose we find in Jesus' life and resurrection. Remind us that we are yours and empower us to live as your people. Amen.

A moment of silence for personal reflection.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Siblings in Christ, remember this good news: The same one who humbled himself in service to his friends offers us forgiveness and grace, too. Receive the liberating love of Jesus and be at peace. Amen.

***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.**

THE LORD'S SUPPER

This congregation welcomes all who trust in Jesus Christ and seek to follow him to share in the Lord's Supper. This is not a Presbyterian table, but the Lord's table. All are welcome to receive the bread and cup, regardless of church membership, if they come in faith, repentance, and love. We also welcome children who have been baptized and are being nurtured in the faith, at the discretion of their families.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, eternal God, our creator. You have given us life and second birth in your Spirit. Once we were no people, but now we are your people. You claimed Israel as your chosen nation and raised up the

church as a witness to the resurrection, breathing into it your life and power. From worlds apart, you gathered us together. When we go astray, you welcome us home. Always, your love has been steadfast. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with the choirs of heaven and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: Creator God, we give you thanks for the gift of life and the abundance of the earth. From the beginning, you have fed us with the bread of your creation and the overflowing cup of your love. Through Jesus Christ, you showed us how to live with compassion and grace, sharing meals with sinners and outcasts, and calling all people to your table of grace. Pour out your Spirit on this bread and this cup, O God. Make them for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be nourished for the journey of faith and empowered to live as his body in the world. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

One: The Lord Jesus ...

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Living God, we thank you for this holy meal, through which we have been nourished by the body and blood of Christ. In this sacrament, we have been reminded of your boundless love and divine generosity. Strengthen us to live as servants of peace, extending grace and compassion to all we encounter. May this meal sustain us, transforming our hearts to reflect Christ's love. Amen.

The Placing and the Lighting of the Candles – The communion table is cleared of the elements. The candles are brought forward and placed on the communion table. The Christ candle is lit followed by eight black candles.

BEHOLD THE DARKNESS A TENEBRAE SERVICE

By Benjamin Harlan with service elements adapted from Mary Kay Beall

The Shadow of Betrayal - A Reading from Matthew 26:20-25 (GNT)
The first candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Desertion- A Reading from Matthew 26:31-35 (GNT)
The second candle is extinguished.

Choir – *What Wonderous Love is This*

The Shadow of Lethargy – A Reading from Mark 14:32-41 (GNT)
The third candle is extinguished.

Choir – *Go to Dark Gethsemane*

The Shadow of Violence – A Reading from Matthew 26:47-52
The fourth candle is extinguished.

Choir – *Ah, Holy Jesus*

The Shadow of Denial – A Reading from Luke 22:54-62 (GNT)
The fifth candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Cynicism – A Reading from John 18:33-38 (GNT)
The sixth candle is extinguished.

Choir – *O Love Divine*

The Shadow of Irresponsibility – A Reading from Matthew 27:20-26 (GNT)
The seventh candle is extinguished.

The Shadow of Mockery – A Reading from Mark 15:16-20
The eighth candle is extinguished.

Choir – *Were You There?*

CLOSING PRAYER (responsive)

One: For the gift and grace of Jesus Christ, our Savior,

All: we give thanks.

One: For the blessing and expansiveness of God's great love toward us,

All: we give thanks.

One: For the challenge and comfort of the cross,

All: we give thanks.

One: For the power and presence of God's abiding Spirit,

All: we give thanks.

The communion table is draped in black cloth. The Christ candle is relit.

BENEDICTION

Choir – *Behold the Savior*

Depart in Silence – *We end this service in silence and darkness, acknowledging the sadness and fear of the disciples. Jesus will be crucified. The light of the world will be extinguished. Hope will die. As we leave in reverence, let us contemplate what the world would be like, **what our lives would be like**, if this were the end of the story.*

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Liz Rasmussen, Mindi Snyder, and Arlette Pustejovsky, Communion Servers

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, April 5

11:00 a.m. – Easter Worship Service

Beginning on Sunday, April 12 – 11:00 a.m. – After Easter, A Journey to Pentecost
Sermon Series

Prayer List

Charlie Van Eman

Esther Bender

Colby Hauser

Scott Mollnar

Suzanne Hauser

Sue Zanne Urbis

Avely Miller

Linda Collins

Kin & Carol Halamicek

James Socha

CHURCH OFFICERS

Class of 2025

Jessica Erwin
Kim Mickelson
Jackson Clapp – Youth Elder

Lance Lurker
Layton Raun

Class of 2026

Jimmy Barger
Donnie Kainer

Donnie Clapp
Mindi Snyder

Class of 2027

John Kalina
Elizabeth Rasmussen

Ester Latapie
Madge Vackar

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – Kristine Shultis

Choir Director – Dr. Karl Paoletti

Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley

Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger

Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel

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