



First Presbyterian Church El Campo, Texas February 8, 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.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org Facebook: firstpresbyterianelcampo
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

February 8, 2026

11:00 am

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Sweet Hour of Prayer
arr. Patricia Lou Harris, 1999

WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Lord, we come into your sanctuary with eagerness.
All: May we hear your call and speak your truth.
One: Lord, we come to abide with you in love.
All: Gather us in honest and faithful community.
One: Lord, prepare us to be people of hope and grace.
**All: Kindle in us courage to live
as brave and faithful disciples.**
One: Let us worship our God together in this holy place.
All: Alleluia. Amen.

***HYMN #664**

Morning Has Broken

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Merciful God, we come before you in confession.
You have showered us with blessings,
but we hoard those gifts,
refusing to share with our neighbors in need.
You have given us freedom to live justly,
but we choose to oppress and judge others.
You have called us to live in peaceful community,
but we sow discord and breed fear among ourselves.
Forgive us.
Soften our hearts and open our minds to hear your call.
Inspire us to act justly, love fiercely, and walk in your way
each and every day. Amen**

**Please stand in body or spirit*

Sweet Hour of Prayer – This gentle setting of the beloved hymn tune invites worshipers into a spirit of quiet reflection. Patricia Lou Harris's arrangement highlights the melody with warmth and simplicity, allowing its message of trust and communion with God to shine. A peaceful beginning to the service, it prepares the heart for prayer and praise.

Morning Has Broken – This beloved hymn celebrates creation renewed each day, inviting us to greet the morning with gratitude. Eleanor Farjeon wrote the text in 1931, pairing it with the older Gaelic tune BUNESSAN. A simple hymn of praise, it opens worship with joy and freshness, setting a bright tone for the service.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

One: The mercy of the Lord is deeper than the depths of the sea
and wider than the whole of the earth.

Believe in God, friends!

Believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

*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.

HEARING OF THE WORD OF GOD

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 15

O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly,

and do what is right,

and speak the truth from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue,

and do no evil to their friends,

nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;

in whose eyes the wicked are despised,

but who honor those who fear the Lord;

who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest,

and do not take a bribe against the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be moved.

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *Peace Like a River / Amen!* Douglas E Wagner, 1980

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning
I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Peace Like a River / Amen! – Douglas E. Wagner's 1980 arrangement blends two traditional spirituals into a joyful, rhythmically vibrant setting. Syncopated accompaniment and a steady, buoyant pulse give the piece an irresistible forward motion. The music's warmth and energy reflect the deep resilience and hope carried in these spirituals. It becomes a lively affirmation of God's peace -- not quiet or subdued but spirited and overflowing. After each spiritual is introduced, the choir sings both -- at the same time!

SERMON Spirituality and Wisdom Rev. Jim DeMent
1 Corinthians 1:25: For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Silence, stillness, and prayer

*HYMN #450 *Be Thou My Vision* (stanzas 1,2,4)

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO GIVE

OFFERTORY *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* arr. Gregg Sewell, 2011

***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 DEDICATION**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Confession of 1967*

**We believe:
The life, death, resurrection,
and promised coming of Jesus Christ
has set the pattern for the church's mission.
His human life involves the church
in the common life of all people.
His service to men and women
commits the church to work
for every form of human well-being.
His suffering makes the church
sensitive to all human suffering
so that it sees the face of Christ
in the faces of persons in every kind of need.
His crucifixion discloses to the church
God's judgment on the inhumanity
that marks human relations,**

Be Thou My Vision – Rooted in an early Irish prayer from around the 8th century, this hymn expresses a longing for God's guidance and clarity. The tune SLANE, first published in 1919, carries the text with quiet strength. Its prayer for true wisdom reflects Paul's reminder in 1 Corinthians 1:25 that God's wisdom surpasses all human understanding.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory – This arrangement by Gregg Sewell unfolds in a gentle crescendo, beginning with a lyrical, mezzo-piano meditation on the hymn's opening stanza. The music grows in warmth and strength through the second verse, building toward a bold final stanza whose fortissimo chords proclaim Christ's victory over death and the redeeming power of the cross. The piece becomes a musical journey from quiet devotion to triumphant hope.

and the awful consequences
of the church's own complicity in injustice.
In the power of the risen Christ
and the hope of his coming,
the church sees the promise of God's renewal
of human life in society
and of God's victory over all wrong.
The church follows this pattern
in the form of its life and in the method of its action.
So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord. Amen.

PRAYER CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

*HYMN #263 *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (stanzas 1,3,4)

*CHARGE

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL 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

Recessional March

Edouard Batiste, 1902

All Hail the Power of Jesus'
Name – This 1779
text summons all
creation to praise
Christ as Lord.
Oliver Holden
composed the tune
CORONATION in
1793, giving the
hymn its bold,
triumphant
character. Its
proclamation of
Christ's majesty
mirrors Paul's
declaration that
Christ alone is our
righteousness and
redemption

Recessional
March – Batiste's
festive march,
composed in 1902,
sends the
congregation forth
with energy and
confidence. Its
bright themes and
steady rhythmic
drive create a joyful
conclusion to
worship, echoing the
spirit of praise that
carries us into the
week ahead. Batiste
was a professor of
harmony and organ
at the Paris
Conservatoire, and
organist at the
Church of St.
Eustache.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Sign up calendar is in the narthex

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, Feb. 15

11:00 a.m.–Worship & Fellowship Luncheon

WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. James DeMent, Interim Pastor

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Derek and Katie Treybig, Ushers

PRAYER LIST

Dr. Bill & Deida Bourne

Charlie Van Eman

Esther Bender

Steve Porter

Colby Hauser

Scott Mollnar

Kin & Carol Halamicek

Suzanne Hauser

Cindy Kovar

Sue Zanne Urbis

Bro. Rick DuBroc

Adam Catete

Avely Miller

Linda Collins



**POW HAS RESUMED AND
THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING IS UNDERWAY!**

This Sunday is the last day for you to make gifts, in kind or by check, to support POW in their drive to round up canned goods, cereals, and other non-perishable items for Mission Presbytery's 2026 *Souper Bowl of Caring* competition. Please help the youth recapture their title as Souper Bowl champions by contributing generously, with gifts in kind or in cash, to their efforts.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2026
FOLLOWING THE 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Pursuant to a call by the Session, notice is hereby given of a Congregational Meeting of the members of First Presbyterian Church of El Campo to be held at the conclusion of the 11:00 a.m. Worship Service on Sunday, February 8, 2026.

The purposes of the Meeting will be to consider a report from the Session regarding (a) nominations of two persons, namely, B.J. Swenson and Debra Hamman, to fill vacancies on the church's Nominating Committee (Class of 2027) and nomination of a person, namely, Doug Vackar, to fill a vacancy that has occurred on the Board of Trustees for the Class of 2027, (b) to elect, in accordance with the will of a majority of the Congregation present, persons to serve in the vacancies that have occurred on the Nominating Committee and the Board of Trustees, and (c) to dismiss, with the heartfelt thanks of all the members of our church, the Pastor Nominating Committee.

PASTOR'S NOTE

Most every pastor, when introduced as a minister in some social situation, has heard the remark, "Oh, I'm not (very) religious, but I am spiritual." Sometimes the remark sounds defensive ("so don't ask me why I don't attend church"), and sometimes it comes across as a boast ("I have found something better than organized religion"). If I ever had the chance to engage in meaningful dialogue on such occasions, I would ask, "What do you believe sets spirituality apart from religion?" For, indeed, many religious people constantly engage in spiritual practices (prayer, meditation, journaling, and the like).

Social scientists tell us that, in their opinion, religion is about belonging, community, shared values, shared rituals, and mutual support. Spirituality, in contrast, is the subjective, individual experience of relating in meaningful ways to one's world, which can manifest itself variously as curiosity, wonder, gratitude, justice, humility, and love. Spirituality is about living life without a net, forever surrendered to reality.

Paul warns us that relying on our subjective, individual experience is just another way of depending on our human wisdom to find answers to the deepest existential questions of life. Faithful Christians know that such wisdom is foolishness when we consider the gift that God has given us in Jesus Christ. We do not need to climb the mountain, relying on our own frail human capabilities, to find God. God has reached down from heaven to embrace us. Through his Son, God sent us the Good News of his love and of our salvation. We do not boast of our own efforts to find "meaning in life" through our limited wisdom and inadequate abilities; we boast that we are heirs to God's wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption (1 Cor 1:30-31).