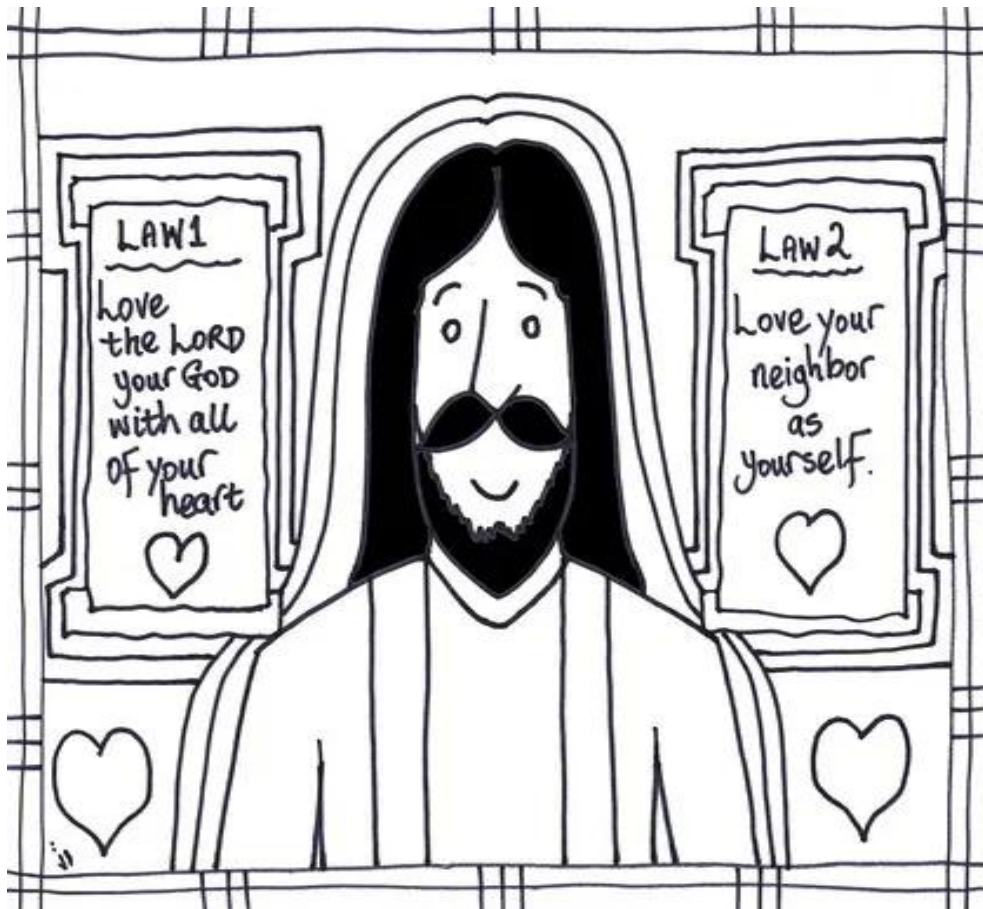




First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
October 25, 2026

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](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianelcampo)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 25, 2026 11:00 am 22nd Sunday after Pentecost, Reformation Sunday

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *The Gift of Love* arr. Charles E. Walz, 2015

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: We are called to be the people of God's kingdom.

All: In God's realm we will find healing and hope.

One: We are called to be people who love as God has loved us.

All: In God's world, we will reach out with God's love to all God's people.

One: We are called to be those who would serve.

All: Lord, be with us as we serve you by helping those in need.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #275 *A Mighty Fortress is Our God

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

Merciful God, it isn't easy for us to follow the commandments of loving. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God and to love our neighbors. But we have allowed misunderstanding, fear, hatred, and prejudice to cloud our spirits, turning us away from those who need our love. Please forgive us. Give us the courage to be people who will care for others. Let us dedicate our lives to your service, always aware of your awesome love for us. This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

The Gift of Love – This arrangement by Charles E. Walz is based on the English folk tune O WALY WALY, which will be familiar to most congregations. Its gentle lyricism provides a reflective opening to worship and recalls the scriptural theme that love is the greatest gift. (see #693 in GtG)

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God – The sturdy tune EIN' FESTE BURG, composed by Martin Luther, has become one of the best-known musical symbols of the Reformation. Its bold melodic shape reflects the hymn's enduring message of confidence in God's strength and protection.

*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.**

HEARING OF THE WORD OF GOD

CONVERSATIONS WITH CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. Instead, we were like young children among you. Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well.

**One: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

The Lord's Prayer

Albert Hay Malotte, 1935

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:34-46

When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

The Lord's Prayer
– Albert Hay Malotte (1895–1964) was an American organist, composer and educator. He worked for Walt Disney from 1935 to 1938, composing the scores for such award-winning cartoons as "Ferdinand the Bull" and "The Ugly Duckling." In 1935, he wrote a musical version of the Lord's Prayer that truly captured the flow and emotion of Christ's words. The piece became a standard staple for church services, weddings, funerals and special performances worldwide.

He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

Studying with Jesus

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #726 *Will You Come and Follow Me*

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

Will You Come and Follow Me – The Scottish tune KELVINGROVE originally appeared as a folk melody before being paired with John Bell's text *The Summons*. Its graceful contours complement the hymn's invitation to faithful discipleship and service.

OFFERTORY *Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels*
arr. Mark Hayes, 2016

***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.**

***OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)**

What a joy it is to have something to give! Thank you, God, for granting us choices in the use of all you have placed on earth for our use. We have chosen this portion to dedicate for the ministry of the church in our community and in outreach throughout the world. Make us aware of the needy at our doors as well as the lost everywhere who long for the bread of life. Amen.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH The Scots Confession of Faith 1560
Chapter 1 – Of God**

We confess and acknowledge one only God, to whom only we must cleave, whom only we must serve, whom only we must worship, and in whom only we must put our trust; who is eternal, infinite, unmeasurable, incomprehensible, omnipotent, invisible: one in substance, and yet distinct in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost: By whom we confess and believe all things in heaven and in earth, as well visible as invisible, to have been created, to be retained in their being, and to be ruled and guided by his inscrutable Providence, to such end as his eternal wisdom, goodness, and justice has appointed them, to the manifestation of his own glory.

CLOSING HYMN #645 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

CLOSING PRAYER (responsive)

One: Guide us, O God, by the law given by your Spirit that our way may be blameless and pure.

All: Help us always seek to please you rather than the favor of others.

Not for Tongues of Heaven's Angels – Mark Hayes' arrangement draws upon the hymn inspired by 1 Corinthians 13, reminding worshipers that eloquence, knowledge, and faith find their true meaning in love. The music offers a thoughtful meditation during the collection of our offerings.

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above – The German tune MIT FREUDEN ZART dates from the sixteenth century and has long been associated with hymns of thanksgiving and praise. Its flowing phrases and joyful character beautifully support this hymn's celebration of God's goodness.

One: Make us gentle and compassionate, humble and forgiving, just
and holy in all our relationships.

All: Help us be like Christ in whom we believe.

***BENEDICTION**

***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** *Ye Servants of God* arr. Joseph Newell, 1950

*Ye Servants of
God* – The tune
HANOVER first
appeared in the
early eighteenth
century and
remains one of the
great hymn tunes
of the church.
Joseph Newell's
energetic
arrangement sends
the congregation
forth with a spirit
of joyful praise
and confident
service.

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor, Kristine Shultis

Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Arlette Pustejovsky & Mark Latapie, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please sign up in the church narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Today

12:30 p.m - Session Meeting

Monday, October 26th

6:00 p.m.- Finance Comm. Meeting

Sunday, November 1st

11:00 a.m. – Worship Service/

Communion

****Daylight Saving Time**

ends – Fall Back 1 Hour**

UP COMING:

Wednesday, Nov. 4th

6:00 p.m. - MOSAIC – Baptism
(open to all, families encouraged to attend)
Bring a dish to share.

Sunday, Nov. 15th

– Annual Congregational Meeting immediately
following worship service.
Fellowship Dinner following meeting.

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

MOSAIC

Welcome to MOSAIC: Multigenerational Opportunities Serving All In Christ

We are a vibrant and inclusive community dedicated to bringing people of all ages together in the spirit of faith, service, and mutual support. We are the body that connects the Presbyterian Church, POW, and the Presbyterian Preschool together. Our mission is to create a mosaic of diverse experiences and perspectives, united by our shared commitment to Christ's teachings.

At MOSAIC, we believe that every generation has something valuable to offer, and we strive to foster an environment where young and old can learn from one another, grow together, and make a meaningful impact in our community. Whether through collaborative projects or shared worship and fellowship, we are here to support each other and celebrate the rich tapestry of life that each person contributes.

Join us as we work to build a more connected and compassionate church and world, rooted in the love and grace of Christ. Together, we can make a difference and create a legacy of faith and service that transcends generations.

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

203 W. Calhoun St., El Campo, Texas 77437

979-543-3658

www.firstpresbyterianelcampo.org

Facebook: firstpresbyterianelcampo