



**First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
April 26, 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

April 26, 2026

11:00 am

4th Sunday Of Easter

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Pastorale

Domenico Zipoli, 1716

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: Loving Shepherd, you know our names;

All: you care for us.

One: When we face darkness and death,

All: we walk beside you.

One: When we hunger for your love,

All: fill us with your presence.

One: When we are fearful,

All: feed us at your table.

One: May we dwell in the house of goodness and mercy

All: all the days of our lives.

OPENING PRAYER

*HYMN #187 *Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

O God, we do not want to admit that our possessions possess us. Yet we do seem captive to all the things we have acquired and all the things we want. We are reluctant to share too much, lest we be deprived of the comforts we cherish. We do not want to suffer for our faith. There are limits on our willingness to follow Jesus. O God, help us trust you beyond these limits. Amen.

Pastorale – Domenico Zipoli, an Italian Baroque composer who later served as a Jesuit missionary musician in South America, wrote this gentle Pastorale in 1716. Its flowing lines and calm harmonies evoke the peaceful landscapes often associated with shepherd imagery. The piece sets a reflective tone as we enter worship on Good Shepherd Sunday.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us – This beloved 19th-century hymn draws on the tender imagery of Christ as our shepherd, guiding and sustaining us. Its gentle melody and prayerful text invite us to rest in God's care as we begin worship.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

*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 THE CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: **Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

For the Beauty of the Earth John Rutter, 1980
Ronda and Karl Paoletti, duet

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 10:1-10

The Good Shepherd and His Sheep

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the

For the Beauty of the Earth – John Rutter’s setting of this classic hymn text celebrates the gifts of creation and the joy of community. Written in 1980, the piece is known for its graceful melodies and luminous harmonies. This morning, it widens our focus from the pastoral imagery of Scripture to the broader beauty of God’s world.

gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers. Jesus used this figure of sheep with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #802 *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Shepherd Serenade* Tracey C. McKibben, 2023
A Meditation on Psalm 23

*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)

Thank you, God, for the abundant life we enjoy, not in the things we possess but in the relationships you offer and the opportunities for sharing that you provide. May all that we here dedicate to you be distributed in ways that meet human need and offer praise to you. Extend our outreach beyond our vision, that we may live in awe and wonder before you. Amen.

*The King of Love
My Shepherd Is* –
Based on Psalm 23,
this hymn
expresses deep
trust in God’s
guidance through
every season of
life. The traditional
Irish tune ST.
COLUMBA gives
the text a quiet,
contemplative
beauty.

*Shepherd
Serenade* – This
contemporary
piano meditation
reflects on the
comforting words
of Psalm 23, in
which we see the
comforting image
of God as
shepherd. Tracey
McKibben’s music
is known for its
lyrical warmth and
quiet
expressiveness, and
this piece offers a
moment of stillness
during the offering.
It invites us to rest
in the Shepherd’s
presence and care.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (responsive) – Copyright 2002 Bruce D Prewer

One: I believe I need a shepherd.

All: Because I am sometimes timid and other times overconfident.

One: Because I often don't know the best path yet pretend I do,

All: Because I rush into dead ends or lead others into hazardous places,

One: Because my brightest ideas are seamed with darkness,

All: Because the things I crave may not be what is good for me, I need a shepherd.

All: I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd;

One: His wisdom leads me to the best opportunities,

All: His word comforts me when I'm anxious or afraid,

One: His arm steadies me when I feel weary and heavy-laden.

All: His wounded body displays the cost of my rescue.

One: I believe in Jesus, the best possible shepherd.

All: I believe that I do not find him but he finds me,

One: That I am under his care by virtue of cheer grace,

All: The love he gives me is to be shared with others,

One: That he treasures my name and prepares a place for me,

All: That his fold transfixes earth and heaven.

I trust Jesus, the good shepherd. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in 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.

CLOSING PRAYER

Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia – This joyful Easter hymn comes from the Lutheran Church in Tanzania and celebrates the risen Christ with vibrant, rhythmic energy. Its repeated "Alleluia" reminds us that the Shepherd who leads us is alive and victorious.

One: You have been claimed by God, our Good Shepherd. Know God, not as a stranger, but as a friend.

All: God is our shepherd; we shall not want. God leads us daily and restores our souls.

One: Easter continues, for Christ lives in us. Jesus came that we might have abundant life.

All: Daily we receive God's goodness and mercy. Our cups overflow with God's generosity.

One: Let us devote ourselves to the apostles' teachings. Let us pray and worship together.

All: We find our lives when we give them to others. In Christ, we discover the joy of service. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN #251 *Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia*

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE HYMN #80 *You Shall Go Out with Joy*
(3x)

POSTLUDE *Concluding Voluntary* William M. Hutchison, 1872

Concluding Voluntary – English composer William M. Hutchison's *Concluding Voluntary* comes from the five-volume 1872 collection *The Abbey Voluntaries*. Bright and confident, its cheerful character provides a joyful close to our Good Shepherd Sunday worship.

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis

Dr. Karl Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Jeff and Mindi Snyder, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please sign up in the church narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Thursday, April 30th

Sunday, May 3rd

FPC+EC Serving Manna Meals

11:00 a.m. – Worship/Communion

Prayer List

Esther Bender

Scott Mollnar

Avely Miller

Kin & Carol Halamicek

Colby Hauser

Suzanne Hauser

Linda Collins

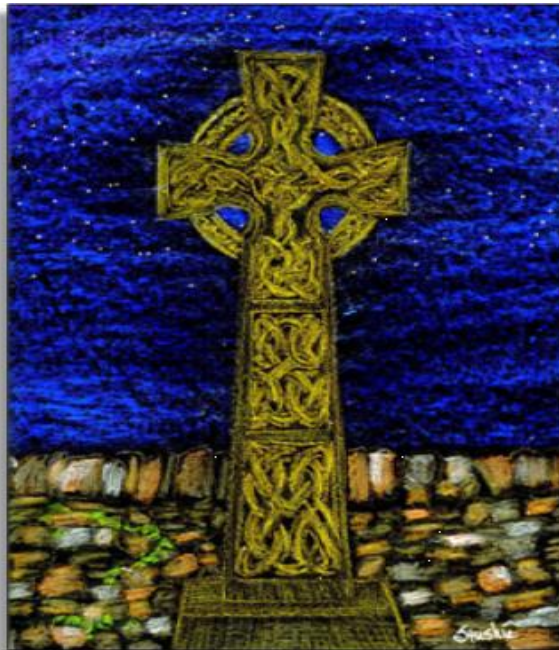
James Socha

Dee Wilbeck

Sue Zanne Urbis

Bronson Harfst

Ardis Bacak



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 – Karl Paoletti
Adult Music Director – Ted Lashley
Financial and Administrative Assistant – Diane Barger
Communications Assistant – Leigh Ann Neel
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