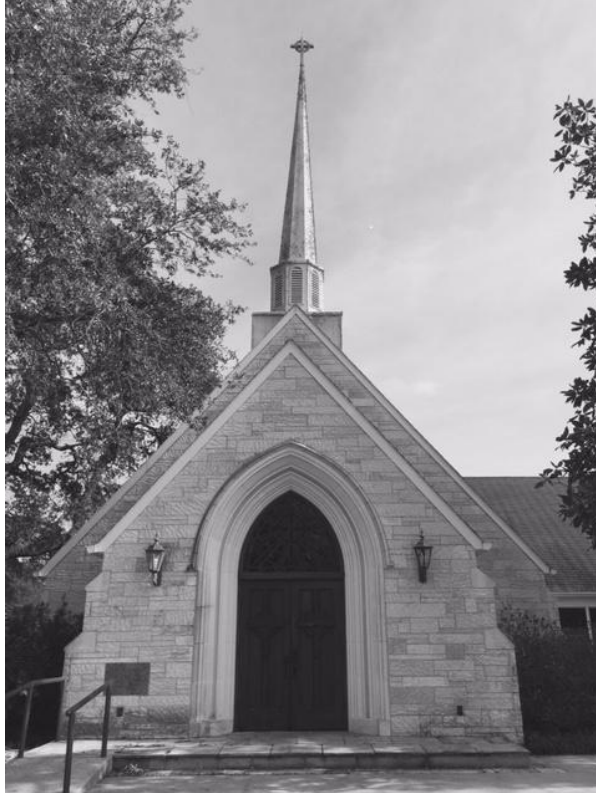




First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
August 9, 2026

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

August 9, 2026

11:00 am

10th Sunday after Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Partita on ST. ANNE

Theo Meurs, 2021

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Wait for the Lord; be strong!

All: The promises of God will never be broken.

One: With God as our light, what is there to fear?

All: The promises of God will never be broken.

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: The promises of God will never be broken.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #32 *I Sing the Mighty Power of God

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

O God, you are slow to anger and swift to have mercy; Forgive us when we treat time as a commodity or an enemy, when we abuse your gift of time. In our fastness and our slowness, help us to keep pace with you. Free us to live in your time, a new time, in which there is a time for everything under heaven, and slow is not too slow, and fast is not too fast. Transform us into people who see time as a gift and a friend, who live as if we have time, because we know that your time will never cease. Through Jesus we pray, Amen.

A moment of silence for personal reflection.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Partita on ST. ANNE – Theo Meurs’ partita explores the familiar ST. ANNE tune (*Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*) through varied textures and registrations, letting the melody appear in fresh light. Each movement offers a different facet – stately, contemplative, or bright – preparing the congregation to enter worship with steadiness and expectation. It’s a modern work shaped by deep respect for the historic hymn tradition. (#687 in *GtG*)

*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

A TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 27 Of David.

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation—
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life—
of whom shall I be afraid?

² When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes
who will stumble and fall.

³ Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me,
even then I will be confident.

⁴ One thing I ask from the Lord,
this only do I seek:
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord
and to seek him in his temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;
he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent
and set me high upon a rock.

⁶ Then my head will be exalted
above the enemies who surround me;
at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.

*I Sing the Mighty
Power of God* –
Isaac Watts wrote
this hymn in 1715
as part of his
landmark
collection *Divine
Songs for
Children*, giving
young singers a
clear, joyful vision
of God's creative
power. The tune
ELLACOMBE
first appeared in a
German hymnal in
1784 and later
became widely
associated with
springtime
processional
hymns. Together,
text and tune form
a bright, confident
pairing that has
anchored worship
for more than
three centuries.

- ⁷ Hear my voice when I call, Lord;
be merciful to me and answer me.
- ⁸ My heart says of you, "Seek his face!"
Your face, Lord, I will seek.
- ⁹ Do not hide your face from me,
do not turn your servant away in anger;
you have been my helper.
Do not reject me or forsake me,
God my Savior.
- ¹⁰ Though my father and mother forsake me,
the Lord will receive me.
- ¹¹ Teach me your way, Lord;
lead me in a straight path
because of my oppressors.
- ¹² Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me,
spouting malicious accusations.
- ¹³ I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
- ¹⁴ Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.
One: The Word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* arr. Ron Mallory, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah –
The setting of this well-known tune heard today brings a gentle rhythmic lift to the beloved Welsh hymn, balancing strength with lyric warmth. The piano line moves with a sense of pilgrimage, signified by steady steps, open harmonies, and moments of quiet assurance. It serves as a musical prayer for guidance before the next scripture readings. (#65 in *GtG*)

Romans 8:22-28

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #250 *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

PRAYER - Take Time to Be Funny (Responsive)

One: Take time to be funny, rejoice in the Lord

Let laughter explode and have fun with God's Word
For laughter is healing, gives strength to the weak
God loves to see smiles, for they lift up the meek.

All: Take time to be silly, it's good for the soul

Too many are somber, grabbing control.

Let go and let God's love wash over your soul

Heavenly transcendence can be your life's goal.

One: Old Sarah and Abraham – a child they lacked

But God's angels promised and she birthed Isaac

In Hebrew that's "laughter" - go check if you want

Genesis seventeen is where it is found.

In the Bulb There Is a Flower – Natalie Sleeth composed both text and tune in 1985, inspired by a sermon on resurrection and by her own reflections on quiet, unseen growth. Sleeth originally wrote the hymn for a friend facing illness, and it quickly became one of the most beloved modern hymns of hope. PROMISE's gentle melodic rise mirrors the text's theme of transformation emerging from hidden places.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing – Jaroslav Vajda penned this benediction hymn in 1983, drawing on his long career as a Lutheran pastor and poet to craft a text of tender, pastoral sending. The Welsh tune AR HYD Y NOS (*All Through the Night*), first published in 1784, brings a lullaby-like calm that beautifully supports Vajda's words. The pairing creates a blessing that feels both ancient and warmly personal.

**All: For humor is holy, it sanctifies life,
Replenishes hope and oft softens advice
It undercuts sorrow, deflates haughty pride
So, smile and hang on, and rejoice in life's ride.**

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (Responsive)

One: Summer is more than halfway over...

All: Hear our Prayer.

One: Bless the nations of the earth...

All: Hear our Prayer.

One: Bless the resources of the earth...

All: Hear our Prayer.

One: Lord, we know that you will ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Come, Thou Fount* arr. John Cheney, 2005

*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)

**Merciful God, in this time of offering, we come before you,
acknowledging your steadfast grace and boundless love. As we
present our gifts, may we also offer our repentant hearts,
recognizing the depth of our humanity and the need for your
healing touch. Grant us the courage to confront our failings and
the wisdom to seek reconciliation and renewal in your divine
presence. Amen.**

*Come, Thou
Fount* – Cheney's
2005 arrangement
offers a reflective,
flowing
interpretation of
NETTLETON,
letting the familiar
tune breathe with
fresh harmonic
color. The
arrangement leans
into gratitude and
grace, making the
offertory feel like a
moment of
personal devotion.
Its gentle pacing
invites the
congregation into a
posture of offering
and trust. (#475
in *GtG*)

CLOSING PRAYER (Responsive)

One: It's time to go.

All: Time to re-engage with the secular world.

One: Time to put our faith into deeds.

All: Time to practice uncalculating love.

One: Time to meet the Christ who waits for you.

All: Time to share his boundless hope.

One: You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 547 *Go, My Children, with My Blessing

*BENEDICTION

With the blessing of God, in your mind and heart, let each morning be a joy to you, each path be a joy to you, each neighbor be a joy to you. Now and always. **Amen!**

POSTLUDE

Festive Postlude

Richard A. Williamson, 2012

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis

Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Bill and John Bender and David Sabrsula, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please sign up in the church Narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, August 16th

11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Prayer List

Esther Bender

Colby Hauser

Jimmy Barger

Scott Mollner

Avely Miller

Linda dale Raun

Suzanne Hauser

John Minkert

Carole Halamicek

Gerald Grogan

Willie Bender

Betty Harfst

Clay & Taylor Fuechec Kresta and their newborn son Colter. Colter was born at 37 weeks and is in TEXAS children's.

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