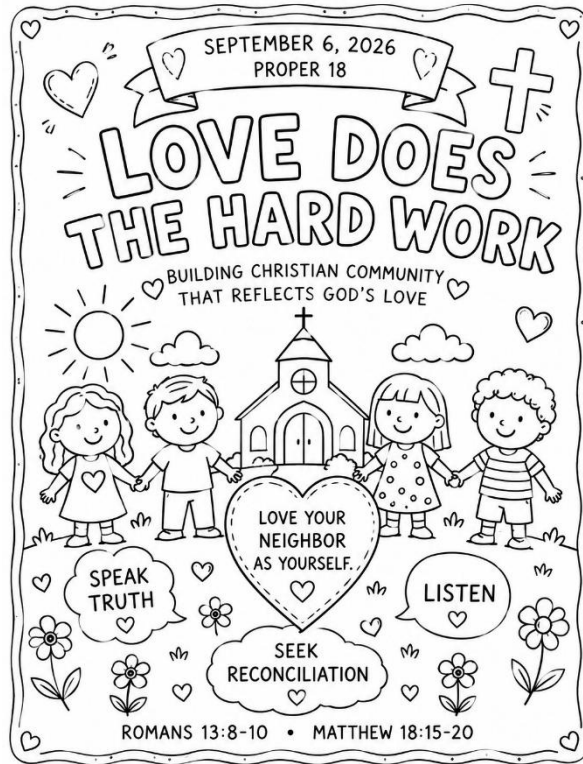




First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
September 6, 2026

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
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 6, 2026

11:00 a.m.

15th Sunday after Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Variations on HENDON* David Lasky, 2020

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Welcome to this community of faith.

All: We come seeking hope and courage for the future.

One; Here you will find peace, hope, love and joy.

All: We come weighed down by difficulties in our lives.

One: Here you will find Jesus who will take your burdens on himself.

All: Lord, we come to you this day in need of your mercy and love.

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN # 385 *All People That on Earth Do Dwell

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

Forgiving and loving God, our hearts are filled today with pain and concern for the future of humankind. Words of anger assail our airways — we cannot escape from the threats being thrown about. In our fear, we cry “Where are you, O Lord?” We wander around in the darkness of the spirit, seeking light and hope. Forgive us when we forget that you are always with us, through times of peace and times of war. Heal our souls. Help us to reach out to others with the assurance of your love and presence, for we ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

A moment of silence for personal reflection.

Variations on HENDON – Built on the beloved tune Take My Life, these variations offer a gentle call to consecration as worship begins. Lasky’s writing brings fresh color to the melody, allowing it to unfold with both simplicity and quiet elegance. The music sets a reflective tone that suits a Communion Sunday beautifully. (see #697 in GtG)

All People That on Earth Do Dwell – This classic metrical paraphrase of Psalm 100 calls the whole congregation into joyful praise, lifting our voices as one people before God. Its sturdy tune and confident text set a strong, unified beginning for worship. Singing it reminds us that gratitude is the foundation of Christian community.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*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.**

A TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 13: 8-10

Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

ANTHEM *Blest Be the Tie that Binds* arr. Sally DeFord, 2002

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:15-20

"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

SERMON

HYMN OF RESPONSE # 300 *We are One in the Spirit*

Blest Be the Tie That Binds – Sally DeFord's tender arrangement highlights the deep bonds of Christian fellowship and shared faith. The music's harmonies give the familiar tune a warm, expressive character that invites the congregation into a spirit of unity. And its gentle flow provides a fitting moment of reflection before we partake in the Lord's Supper. (see #306 in GtG)

We Are One in the Spirit – This hymn expresses the hope that Christ's love binds us together in unity and service. Its simple refrain echoes today's scriptures, reminding us that love is lived out in how we treat one another. It prepares our hearts for Communion by centering us on reconciliation and shared purpose.

READER'S THEATRE

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by they 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

OFFERTORY *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Thy Love* arr. John Carter, 2005

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR OUR OFFERING (in unison)

Loving God, unite us in a community of mutual caring in which differences are resolved as we listen to one another and seek to offer understanding. May the light of your love shine through all our efforts to share your good news. With this prayer we dedicate our gifts to you. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF 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...

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.

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Thy Love – Centered on Christ's example of humble service, this offertory calls us to embody compassion in our daily lives. Carter's setting brings out the tune's sincerity, allowing its message of love and servanthood to shine clearly. The music forms a natural bridge into Communion, inviting us to receive Christ's grace with open hearts. (see #203 in *GtG*)

One: God, our righteousness, you take pleasure in your people and so in love, you became human...

All: Christ died, facing death one-on-one.

Christ was raised, bringing new life for all.

Christ will come, when the time is right.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for the love that brings us food from heaven, gives us the life of our Savior, and assures us that we belong to the company of faithful people in heaven and on earth. Grant that, strengthened by this fellowship and by the power of the Holy Spirit, we may continue his work in the world, until we come to the glory of your eternal kingdom. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER (responsive)

One: Seek the presence we have known here every day.

God offers strength for every challenge we face.

All: We will give thanks and call on God's name.

We will open our eyes to see God's daily miracles.

One: God promises life in all its fullness, not earthly riches.

Life is fruitful when lived for others.

All: With mutual affection, we honor one another.

With hope and joy, we reach out helping hands.

One: Let worship continue as we pray for one another.

May God's will be done as we overcome evil with good.

All: Praise God for all the wonders of this life.

Praise God for opportunities to serve in Christ's name.

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN # 451 Open My Eyes, That I May See

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

William Doane, 1870

*Open My Eyes,
That I May See –
Offering a moment
of reflection after
Communion, this
hymn invites us to
carry Christ's
grace into our
daily lives. Its
prayerful text
helps us remain
attentive to God's
truth as we move
from the Lord's
table back into the
rhythms of the
week.*

*To God Be the
Glory – This joyful
postlude
celebrates God's
goodness with
bright energy and
confident praise.
Its lively character
lifts the
congregation after
Communion,
sending us out
with renewed
gratitude. The
music offers a
strong and hopeful
conclusion to the
service. (see #634
in GtG)*

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis

Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Elizabeth Rasmussen, Elder of the Month

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, September 13th

11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Prayer List

Esther Bender

Scott Mollnar

Suzanne Hauser

Gerald Grogan

Ruben Sabrsula

Colby Hauser

Avely Miller

John Minkert

Willie Bender

Jimmy Barger

Linda dale Raun

Carole Halamicek

Betty Harfst

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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