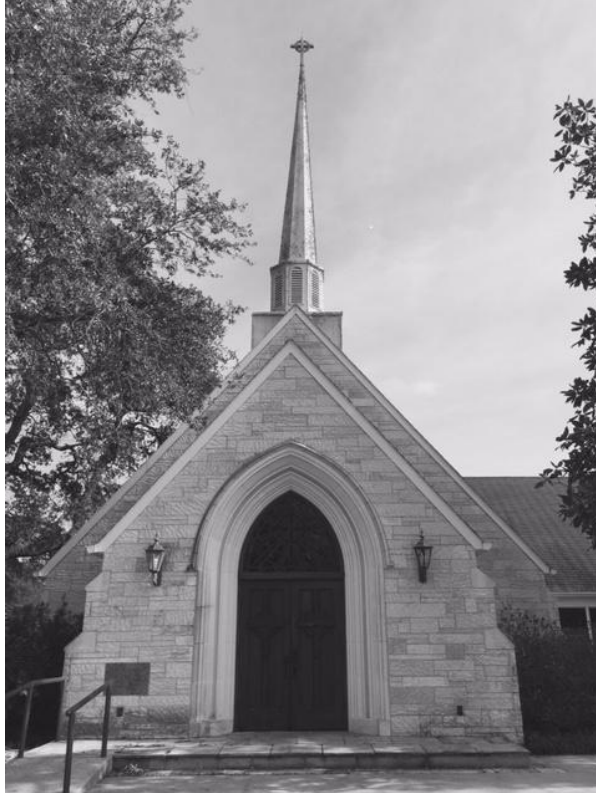




First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
August 23, 2026

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 23, 2026

11:00 am

13th Sunday after Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Lord, Be Glorified* arr. Douglas E. Wagner, 2017

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: All heaven and earth proclaim the majesty of God's creative power!

All: Praise God for the amazing and awesome beauty.

One: God has given to us codes by which to live together in harmony and peace.

All: In these commandments, God has summed up the ways we must respect one another.

One: Rejoice in the goodness of God.

All: Praise God for God's complete and steadfast love for us.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

O God, we admit that all is not well with us. We are easily angered and slow to forgive. We speak without listening and pretend to listen without really hearing. Our tongues become weapons rather than instruments of healing. We do not live in harmony with one another. We are often more critical than helpful. Turn us around so that we can accept your forgiveness and learn to love our neighbors as Jesus taught. Amen.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Lord, Be Glorified – Douglas Wagner's setting of this contemporary chorus offers a gentle, prayerful opening to worship. The arrangement uses clear, uncluttered lines that allow the melody's simple petition to shine. Its quiet dignity prepares the congregation to hear the epistles' call to humility and unity. The prelude becomes a musical invocation: "*Be glorified in Your church today.*"

For the Beauty of the Earth – Written by Folliott Pierpoint in 1864, this hymn's lyrics began as a meditation on gratitude during a walk through the English countryside. Its refrain of offering thanks to God aligns with the epistle call to humility and shared purpose.

*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

Philippians 2:1-4
New International Version

Imitating Christ's Humility

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 4:1-6
New International Version

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM *Create In Me a Heart of Love* Tracey McKibben, 2018

Create In Me a Heart of Love – Tracey McKibben's writing blends lyrical warmth with gentle harmonic turns that evoke a prayerful openness. The piece reflects the spirit of her own short verse, asking God to cleanse, renew, and make the heart whole again. Its steady, tender flow invites listeners into the humility and compassion echoed in today's epistles. A quiet moment of musical self-examination that prepares the heart for worship.

THIRD SCRIPTURE READING

Romans 12:4-18

New International Version

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

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*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Children of the Heavenly Father*
arr. Cindy Berry, 2005

*Children of the
Heavenly Father* –
Berry's

arrangement treats the hymn's four brief stanzas as miniature variations, each with its own expressive color. The third stanza moves into a minor key, deepening the sense of vulnerability before a modulation lifts the music into a brief, triumphant *forte* for the final stanza. That strength quickly softens, however, and the closing measures seem to float heavenward in quiet assurance. The offertory becomes a meditation on the tender, sheltering love that holds God's children together as one family in Christ.

*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)

**God of all peoples and God of all places, we present these offerings,
that they may be used to extend your peace and harmony
throughout the world. With them we offer our varied ministries,
that each of us may be a part of your answer to the cries of the
world. Amen.**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (responsive)

One: We believe God is the Composer of all creation.

**All: The heavens declare God's glory, and all creation sings
God's praise.**

One: We believe Jesus Christ is God's living Word, whose life
revealed the melody of grace, mercy, and hope.

**All: In Christ we hear the song of redemption and the promise
of new life.**

One: We believe the Holy Spirit fills the Church with many gifts.

**All: Though we are many, we are one body, called to sing God's
love in harmony.**

One: We believe our lives are an offering of thanksgiving to God.

**All: May our words, our actions, and our songs bear witness to
God's steadfast love that endures forever. Amen.**

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.**

*In the Bulb There
Is a Flower* –
Natalie Sleeth's
1985 text explores
God's quiet work
of transformation,
where hidden
potential becomes
new life. Its
imagery of seeds,
cocoon, and dawn
mirrors the
epistles' insistence
that Christ forms
us into something
more than we can
see. The hymn's
hopeful arc offers
a tender
counterpoint to the
call for unity and
service.

*Called as Partners
in Christ's
Service* – This
hymn text, written
by Jane Parker
Huber in 1981,
emphasizes shared
ministry rooted in
compassion,
justice, and mutual
care. Its text
resonates directly
with Philippians 2
and Romans 12,
urging believers to
use their gifts for
the common good.
Set to the familiar
BEECHER tune, it
carries a sturdy,
confident energy
befitting its call to
action.

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee – Burton's postlude captures the exuberance of Beethoven's famous theme with bright registrations and rhythmic vitality. The arrangement sends the congregation out with energy and confidence, embodying the joy that arises from shared purpose in Christ. Its forward momentum mirrors Romans 12's call to active, wholehearted service. A jubilant conclusion to worship.

*CLOSING HYMN #761 *Called as Partners in Christ's Service*

*CLOSING PRAYER

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*
arr. Daniel Burton, 2020

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis
Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Gerry and Mauri Couey, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please sign up in the church narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, August 30th 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	Carole Roades
Colter Kresta	Richard Urbis	

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

Dear FPCEC Family,

One of the greatest blessings of worship at First Presbyterian Church is our music ministry. Week after week, our choir and musicians help lead us into God's presence, enrich our worship, and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through music. Their gifts inspire us, comfort us, and help us lift our voices together in praise.

As many of you know, for the past three years the Session has budgeted \$10,000 toward the choir director's salary. In addition, several generous members have quietly contributed the remaining \$10,000 needed each year beyond their regular pledges. We are deeply grateful for their faithful support.

This year, rather than relying on just a few individuals, we would like to invite our entire church family to share in supporting this important ministry.

If the music ministry has touched your life, strengthened your worship, or helped make First Presbyterian Church feel like home, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a special gift toward our goal of raising the remaining \$10,000. We ask that these gifts be made in addition to your regular pledge so they will provide additional support for this ministry.

Gifts may be mailed, delivered to the church office, or dropped into the offering plate on Sunday marked **"FPC Music Program."** Every contribution will make a meaningful difference, and together we can ensure that our ministry continues to enrich our worship for years to come.

Our hope is that as our congregation continues to grow and our financial position becomes stronger; this annual special appeal will no longer be necessary. Until then, we are grateful for the generosity, faithfulness, and shared commitment of this congregation.

We are encouraged by the new life and renewed participation we are seeing at FPC, and we believe investing in vibrant worship is an important part of that future."

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your partnership in the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Grace and peace, The Session
First Presbyterian Church