



**First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas**

October 4, 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 4, 2026

11:00 a.m.

World Communion Sunday

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *For the Beauty of the Earth* Joseph Newell, 1950

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.

Many: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

One: What do we find at today's table?

Many: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

One: What is not at today's table?

Many: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

One: Let us repent, and give thanks to God's power to bring salvation to all who believe.

Many: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.

All: Let us worship together the true God, who makes us one.

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN #265 *Jesus Shall Reign

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

Loving God, we are invited to reflect on the wrongs we have done, and the good we have neglected and the motives that underlie our behavior. We spend little time in communion with you and then begin to doubt your presence. You seem far away and unavailable. We create barriers among ourselves that separate us from one another and from you. Teach us to trust in you alone; through Jesus Christ, our true redeemer. Amen.

For the Beauty of the Earth – Newell's setting of DIX opens the service with a graceful, thankful spirit, inviting worshippers to notice the beauty woven through creation. The familiar melody is treated with gentle ornamentation, giving it both freshness and reverence. Its global theme of gratitude makes it an apt prelude for World Communion Sunday, where the Church celebrates the gifts of God shared across cultures.

Jesus Shall Reign – A sturdy, global hymn of Christ's reign, DUKE STREET carries a confident, forward-leaning energy that fits World Communion Sunday beautifully. Its text imagines praise rising from "shore to shore," echoing the day's theme of worldwide unity in worship.

*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.**

CONVERSATIONS WITH OUR CHILDREN

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 80:7-15

Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved. You transplanted a vine from Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it, and it took root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. Its branches reached as far as the Sea, its shoots as far as the River. Why have you broken down its walls so that all who pass by pick its grapes? Boars from the forest ravage it, and insects from the fields feed on it. Return to us, God Almighty! Look down from heaven and see! Watch over this vine, the root your right hand has planted, the son you have raised up for yourself.

**The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM

Walk with Me, Lord
Kristine Shultis, Oboe

Douglas Wagner, 2010

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall

Walk with Me, Lord
– Wagner’s arrangement brings a warm, gospel-inflected plea for God’s companionship, enriched this morning by the unexpected presence of an oboe. The instrument’s plaintive tone adds depth to the final section, weaving a lyrical line between choir and piano. Its expressive color heightens the anthem’s quiet sincerity, offering a musical prayer well suited to World Communion Sunday.

be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

God always blesses the reading and hearing of Holy Scripture.
Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Fruit from the Vineyard

HYMN OF RESPONSE #739 *O for a Closer Walk with God*

A SIMPLE CREED (Responsive)

One: We believe in God, the Root of all living; creator of all things.

All: We live in Christ Jesus, God's Son, who loved all people and who makes us one in his love. He suffered and died and was raised to new life. In his death and resurrection, we are also raised to life that is transformed. Christ is our Vine, and we are his branches, and without him, we cannot live.

One: We live by the Holy Spirit, flowing through us so that we may bear fruit for God, the fruit of love. In the Spirit, we are one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world.

All: We trust in the one holy church, the community of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the mystery of resurrection, and the Grace of eternal life. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

One: God of all grace, you are...

All: hear our prayer.

One: God of creation, you plant...

All: hear our prayer.

One: God of all earth, you desire...

All: hear our prayer.

One: God of all compassion, in Christ, as the cornerstone...

All: hear our prayer.

One: God of all steadfastness, you set Christ...

All: hear our prayer.

O for a Closer Walk with God – CAITHNESS offers a quiet, introspective moment within the service, its simplicity mirroring Isaiah's call to return to faithfulness. The hymn's yearning for renewed closeness with God provides a gentle counterpoint to the more expansive selections around it.

The Church's One Foundation – The hymn tune AURELIA anchors the service with a strong, architectural hymn of ecclesial unity. Its global vision of the Church – *one faith, one Lord, one hope* – resonates deeply on a Sunday dedicated to worldwide fellowship.

One: God of all hope, the saints...

All: hear our prayer.

One: Gracious God, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace we pray the prayer Jesus taught his disciples:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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

OFFERTORY *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* arr. Marty Parks, 2019

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Loving Gardener, we offer ourselves into your nurturing hands. Receive the devotions of our labors, the fruits of our vines, and all that we are and know, that we may make a difference: in our homes, in our communities, and in our world. Receive these gifts, as a pledge to live our beliefs, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee – Parks' arrangement blends traditional gospel warmth with a reflective, prayerful tone. The lightly rhythmic accompaniment supports the hymn's quiet plea for guidance and companionship. Its simplicity allows the traditional American melody to speak clearly, offering a moment of calm trust before Communion.

One Bread, One Body – This modern classic draws the congregation into the heart of Communion, emphasizing unity across nations, cultures, and traditions. Its refrain reinforces the shared identity of Christ's people – *many gifts, many callings, yet one table.*

One: Let us pray. We remember you, O God, creating the world...And so, with all our ancestors of faith in ever time and place, we proclaim:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. The whole world is filled with your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in your name.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION HYMN #530 *One Bread, One Body*

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The bread will now be distributed to you by the elders. Please hold the bread until everyone has been served, so that we may eat together as one body. The Bread of Life, given for all.

The cup will now be distributed. As you receive the cup, you may drink it individually as an act of personal faith and devotion. The Cup of Blessing, shared for all.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION (in unison)

We thank you, O God, for this meal that proclaims the peace and healing of the nations. We thank you for this meal where a little is enough to change our lives; where a little is more than enough to feed those whose hearts yearn for communion in community. May this bread and fruit of the vine nourish us so that we may grow in the faith and knowledge that in you, we are one. Send us from this table as people of Christ's peace. One body. One Spirit. One Lord. One faith. One hope. One table. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #321 *The Church's One Foundation*

CLOSING PRAYER

March in C Major
– This march comes from a collection of voluntaries and assorted pieces Clark wrote for organ or harmonium, published in England for the modest price of three shillings. Its ABA structure sets a bright, confident march theme on either side of a lighter contrasting section in F major. The piece's clear form and cheerful character make it an engaging and dignified conclusion to the service.

BENEDICTION

The blessing of the holy, triune God, who was and is and is to come — first and last, beginning and end, Alpha and Omega — be with you now and always. **Alleluia!** Go in peace to love the Lord your God with heart and soul and mind and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

March in C Major

Scotson Clark, 1876

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis

Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director

Ted Lashley, Music Director

Christi and Shawn Beechwood, Ushers

Shawn & Porter Beechwood, BJ Swenson, Donnie Clapp, Communion Servers

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Sunday, October 11th

10:00 a.m. — Choir Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. — Worship Service

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

The family of Austin Stallman

Remembering Those We Love

Throughout the month of October, you are invited to bring a photo of a loved one who has died to the church as we prepare for **All Saints Sunday**.

The photos will be displayed in the sanctuary as a visible reminder of the people we have loved and who have shaped our lives and our faith. Your loved one does not need to have been a member of First Presbyterian Church. You are welcome to bring a photo of a family member, friend, pet, or anyone whose life you would like to remember.

On **All Saints Sunday**, we will gather in worship to remember those who have gone before us. We will light candles, offer prayers of thanksgiving and remembrance, and give thanks for the promise that in life and in death, we belong to God.

Please bring your photos to the church anytime during October. Be sure to put your name on the back so that we can return them to you following All Saints Sunday.

Come and help us surround our worship with the faces and memories of the saints who have touched our lives.

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

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