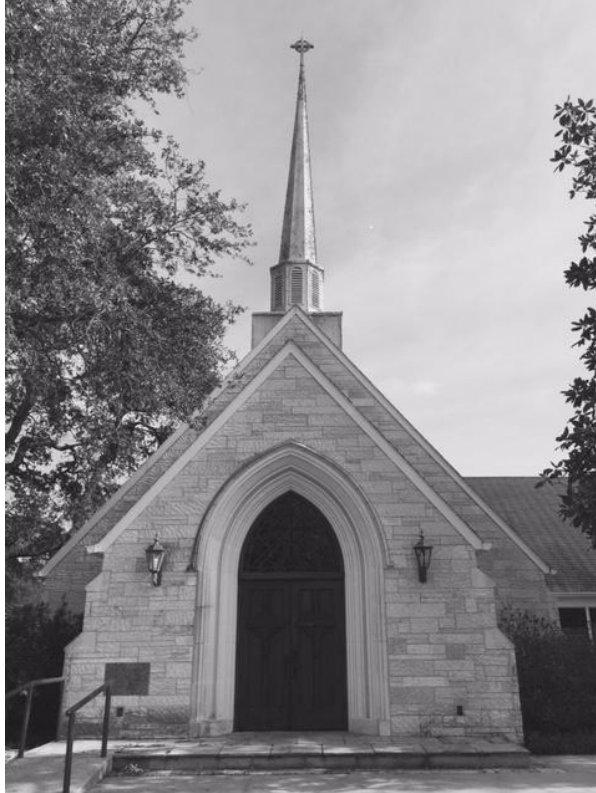




First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
August 16, 2026

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 16, 2026

11:00 am

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*
arr. John Behnke, 1999

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: I waited patiently for GOD; who turned to me and heard my cry,
who lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; and
set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand.

**All: We sing a new song! Our mouths are full of the praise of
God.**

One: Blessed are we when we make the Lord our trust; when we do
not turn aside to false gods.

**All: We sing of all your many wonders, O God, too many to
declare them all.**

One: Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but our ears you have
pierced and a body you have prepared for us.

**All: We sing, "Here I am, I have come— I desire to do your will,
O my God; your law is in my heart."**

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #395 *Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

**O God, we confess that we have lived so comfortably in the
abundance of our times that we have made things our gods. We
spend our days dreaming of and working for possessions that do
not satisfy us. The pursuit of riches replaces the quest for faith
and faithful relationships. We do not know you, God, and our**

*Let Us Talents and
Tongues Employ –
This prelude opens
with the bright,
lilting melody of
LINSTEAD, a
tune that moves
with joyful ease.
Its Caribbean
character reminds
us that God's
music is not
confined to one
style or tradition.
As the melody
dances through the
arrangement, we
hear the invitation
to use our gifts
with gladness. The
piece sets a tone of
lively gratitude as
worship begins.*

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

relationships with others are superficial at best. Redeem us, we pray, from our self-destructive ways and bring us into community with you and all creation. Amen.

A moment of silence for personal reflection.

***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

2 Chronicles 5:13

The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang: "He is good; his love endures forever."

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

*How Can I Keep
from Singing –
The offertory's
flowing melody
rises with a sense
of wonder,
echoing the
hymn's message
that God's
presence gives us
reason to sing. Its
phrases move with
gentle confidence,
even through
moments of
tension. As the
tune unfolds, we
hear the assurance
that God's melody
continues through
every season of
life. We offer our
gifts with gratitude
and hope.*

ANTHEM *God Is So Good (with You Are Always Good)*
arr. Faye López, 2024

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #645 *Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God,
 the Lord alone.

All: **You shall love the Lord your God
 with all your heart,
 and with all your soul,
 and with all your might.
Deut. 6:4-5**

One: Let the same mind be in you
 that was in Christ Jesus,
 who, though he was in the form of God,
 did not regard equality with God
 as something to be exploited,
 but emptied himself,
 taking the form of a slave,
 being born in human likeness.

God Is So Good (with You Are Always Good)
– In this piano solo, Faye López weaves together two gentle melodies, each expressing trust in God’s steady goodness. The simplicity of *God Is So Good* meets the reflective lines of *You Are Always Good*, creating a musical conversation of faith and assurance. The melody moves with quiet warmth, reminding us that God’s kindness is both constant and personal.

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above – The lively, confident melody of MIT FREUDEN ZART has long been cherished by church musicians and sacred music composers. Its motion encourages us to lift our voices boldly, trusting that God’s music steadies us even in life’s uncertainties. In singing, we join the long tradition of believers who, for more than 460 years, have found courage in this tune.

**All: And being found in human form
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death –
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Phil. 2:5-11**

ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One:

Eternal God, we thank you today for your goodness. You have given us beautiful days. You bless us richly with goodness daily. We thank you and praise you.

We live in a time of considerable confusion. We ask today for your wisdom as Solomon asked for wisdom.

We are often fearful as was Solomon. We live in a time of peril, war, and world unrest. Different and competing interests strive for our attention and loyalty. Help us, O God, to pray for wise and discerning spirits.

- Give us wisdom to know good from evil.
- Give us wisdom to assess the clamoring voices and concerns with which we are daily bombarded.
- Give us wisdom so that we might learn to be accepting of all the diverse people you have created.
- Give us wisdom to be peacemakers and mediators of understanding where there is conflict.
- Give us wisdom when we are in conflict to make it possible both for us and for those with whom we differ to save face and win and move forward hand in hand.

*Lord, Dismiss Us
with Your
Blessing* – Written
by English pastor
John Fawcett and
first published in
1773, this hymn
has long served as
a benediction at
the close of
worship. Its tune,
SICILIAN
MARINERS,
comes from an
anonymous
European folk
melody first
printed in 1792,
valued for its
clear, lilting
motion. Sung with
a confident,
forward-moving
tempo, the tune's
bright lift gives the
congregation a
strong and joyful
footing for the
closing words.

- Give us wisdom not to violate any of your creatures by discriminating against them.
- Give us wisdom to discern what is of ultimate value for our souls and to make wise choices.

All:

O God, give us wisdom.

O God, give us discernment.

O God, give us the will to be faithful.

O God, give us the power to love. Amen.

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY *How Can I Keep from Singing*
arr. Tracey McKibben, 2021

*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.

*PRAYER OF BLESSING FOR OUR OFFERING (in unison)

O God, we recognize that we have been blessed with great abundance. In offering these gifts, may we be strengthened to proclaim your faithfulness and your salvation this day and always. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

How Can I Keep from Singing – The offertory's flowing melody rises with a sense of wonder, echoing the hymn's message that God's presence gives us reason to sing. Its phrases move with gentle confidence, even through moments of tension. As the tune unfolds, we hear the assurance that God's melody continues through every season of life. We offer our gifts with gratitude and hope.

CLOSING PRAYER

One: Love God, sing and dance to demonstrate your love. Let your worship continue throughout the coming week.

All: We will remember God's love every day. We will keep a melody in our hearts. We seek to know and live God's love.

One: Live in awe before God, praising God with harp and lyre, tambourine and trumpet. Praise God with song and dance.

All: God has put a new song into our hearts. We will look for God in all creation. We will see God's face in all the people we meet.

One: The mercy and grace of God go with you today. God will be with you now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #546 *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *There's Within My Heart a Melody* Luther Bridgers, 1910

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: Placed by Ester Latapie.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Monday, August 17th 6:15 p.m. – Session Meeting

Sunday, August 23rd 11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

Prayer List

Esther Bender

Scott Mollner

Suzanne Hauser

Gerald Grogan

Colter Kresta

Colby Hauser

Avely Miller

John Minkert

Willie Bender

Richard Urbis

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 – 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

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