



First Presbyterian Church
El Campo, Texas
October 18, 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 18, 2026

11:00 am

21st Sunday after Pentecost

All Are Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church!

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE

Sun of My Soul arr. Joseph Newell, 1950

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The earth has its kings, but God is ruler of all.

All: Praise God above all, the giver of life!

One: The mountains may tremble, the oceans may roar,

All: but God's presence is more powerful than the earth itself.

One: Come into God's presence, for God is among us now.

All: O God, show us your glory; we seek your ways.

One: Come to the Rock, the God of life, for God is present now.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN #307 *God of Grace and God of Glory

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

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

We are so easily pulled this way and that way by those who would promise instant fixes for all the world's woes. We want to have everything be whole and happy, and we don't know what to do, so we pay attention to those voices that cry the loudest, whether they are voices of blame or promise. In our anguish, we seek instant answers from sources that are very unreliable. Lord, help us. Turn us around. Help us know that you are our Lord and you have provided much for us. Heal and restore our spirits, Lord. Help us truly place our trust in you. This prayer we offer in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

Sun of My Soul – This hymn, based on a Protestant French Huguenot melody and first published in 1774, has long been cherished for its calm trust in God's nearness. Newell's mid-century arrangement brings a warm, reflective character to the tune, allowing its serenity to unfold with understated grace through melodic variations.

God of Grace and God of Glory – Born out of the social upheaval of the early 20th century, this hymn prays for courage, wisdom, and moral clarity in a world that often feels frayed at the edges. The hymn's petition for "*strength for today*" feels as timely now as when it was written.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON/DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

All: Thanks be to God!

***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

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

Thanksgiving for the Thessalonians' Faith

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

One: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Even Here
Ronda Paoletti, Soloist

Mark A. Miller, 2014

Even Here – The words of this 2014 sacred song reflect the conviction that God accompanies us through uncertainty, change, and the places where life feels unsettled – a theme that resonates with both today's scriptures and the lived experience of faith. The solo's warm, reflective character invites the congregation to rest in the truth that God's grace holds us not only in moments of clarity and strength, but also in the fragile spaces where we most need reassurance.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 22:15-22

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*HYMN OF RESPONSE #697 *Take My Life*

RESPONDING TO THE WORD OF GOD

READER'S THEATRE

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.

CALL TO OFFERING

Take My Life – Frances Havergal's text is a quiet offering of the whole self – hands, voice, heart, and will – placed in God's service. The gentle tune HENDON supports this devotion with simplicity rather than drama, allowing the words to speak plainly. It's a hymn of consecration that invites us to live our faith in the small, daily choices that shape a life.

OFFERTORY *How Firm a Foundation* arr. John Purifoy, 2002

***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**

O God, the offerings we receive as a church are not for our private benefit or to buy services for ourselves. Instead, we dedicate the gifts you have provided to extend a helping hand and joyous welcome to all people. May our efforts be blessed. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

One: We have gathered in community to worship God. Now our service of praise continues in the world.

All: We have been equipped with the gospel message. God empowers our outreach wherever we go.

One: God has forgiven and blessed us in this gathering. Now we scatter to forgive and bless others.

All: Here, the Holy Spirit has deepened our convictions. Now God calls to let our faith be known in other places.

One: We serve a true and living God, everywhere present. We are blessed to be God's own people.

All: We will give our energy this week for God's children. Then we will return here to strengthen one another. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #634 *To God Be the Glory

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
And his righteousness,
And all these things
shall be added unto you,
Allelu, alleluia!**

How Firm a Foundation – The sturdy American tune FOUNDATION has anchored congregations for generations with its message of God's steadfast support. John Purifoy's arrangement highlights the hymn's strength while adding gentle harmonic color, giving the familiar melody a fresh, contemplative voice. It is music that reassures us that God's promises remain firm beneath every step we take. (see #463 in *GtG*)

To God Be the Glory – This beloved gospel hymn celebrates the wideness of God's mercy and the joy of redemption. Its refrain lifts the congregation into a shared declaration of praise, rooted in the conviction that God's love reaches every corner of human experience. The tune's bright energy mirrors the hymn's confidence in grace that restores and renews.

**Ask and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and the door
shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

POSTLUDE *March in D* Alfred Seymour, ca. 1898

One License A-736067; CCLI #11514120 & 2046772

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Kristine Shultis
Ronda Paoletti, Choir Director
Ted Lashley, Music Director
Arlette Pustejovsky and Mark Latapie, Ushers

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please sign up in the church narthex.

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

Monday, October 19	FPC+EC serving Manna Meals
Sunday, October 25	11:00 a.m. – Worship Service

March in D – This 1898 Victorian march offers cheerful dignity – in a style written for the church organs of its day. Its bright, steady character makes it a charming recessional, carrying the congregation outward with a sense of uplift. Though the composer is little known, the piece reflects the practical craftsmanship of English church music from the era.

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

Something New Is Coming! MOSAIC & Youth Ministry

We are excited to kick off our MOSAIC and youth programs in November!

MOSAIC (Multigenerational Opportunities Serving All In Christ) is for everyone—from preschoolers to grandparents and everyone in between! Join us on the **first Wednesday of each month, beginning November 4, from 6:00–7:30 p.m.** for a themed potluck supper, fellowship, faith exploration, and fun activities for all ages. Our first gathering will focus on **Baptism: We Belong to God**, and our potluck theme is **Family Favorites**. Bring a favorite dish to share!

Presbyterians on Wednesdays (POW) is also beginning for our high school youth! We'll gather on selected Wednesday evenings for fellowship, Bible study, prayer, and opportunities to grow in faith. Confirmation will also be offered this year. The schedule will be sent out this week.

Everyone has a place in these programs! Whether you're a young person, a parent, a grandparent, or someone who simply enjoys sharing faith and friendship across generations, we hope you'll join us.

Questions or interested in volunteering? Contact Pastor Kris at pastorkrisshultis@gmail.com or call the church office at [979-543-3658](tel:979-543-3658).

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.

Dear FPC Members,

Come join us for Manna Meals! Serving is a deeply fulfilling experience where you can support your community, build meaningful friendships with fellow church members, and connect with the diverse individuals who visit us—many of whom are hungry, lonely, or simply in need of a hot meal and community.

Here is our service schedule through January 2027:

- Monday, October 19
- Monday, November 23
- Note: We do not serve in December.
- Monday, January 18, 2027

We hope you will join us!

In His Service,

Mary Ann Kainer

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

Pastor – Kristine Shultis

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