



Welcome to First Pres! We are so glad you are here today. First Pres is an exciting faith community in which to live out your Christian discipleship. If you are a first time visitor to First Presbyterian Church, please take a moment to see one of the greeters on your way out for a special visitor gift. They will also be glad to answer any questions you might have.



We celebrate your participation in worship today. Please take a moment to register your attendance using the QR code here.

Interested in Joining First Pres? If you are considering church membership, please speak with a minister following worship. You may also call the church office at 817.335.1231 to speak with Chris Bartley (Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

Children of all ages are a welcome blessing in worship! Children are invited to worship with their families. Parents, ask an usher for a worship bag full of activities to keep children engaged. Members, having children in worship is a gift and sign that our congregation is growing. Please welcome children and offer parents a smile of encouragement.

Stephen Ministry cares for people in crisis or transition. For more information, contact the Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz in the church office, 817.335.1231 ext. 264.

Large print bulletins and personal sound systems are available from an usher.

Our in-person and online congregations share worship together. This service may be livestreamed or recorded. Your image (photos and video) may appear on our Facebook page, YouTube channel, and our website. Questions about this policy? Please email communications@fpcfw.org.

The flowers in the Chancel are given in loving memory of Al Lewis, from Brenda Lewis and family.



Offerings can be given by using the envelopes in the worship spaces and placing your gift in the offering plate or using the QR code here to give online.



First Pres is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Learn more about our denomination by visiting www.pcusa.org.



First Sunday at First Pres

Sunday, September 7, marks the return of our full lineup of programming for all ages!

Children (2 yrs–5th grade)

- Church School: Sundays, 10–10:45 a.m. (2nd floor)
- Younger Choir (4 yrs–1st grade): During 11 a.m. worship
- Choir & Bells (2nd–5th grade): Sundays, Sept. 7–28, 12:15–2 p.m. (lunch included)
- Questions? Contact Ann (anielsen@fpcfw.org)

Youth

- Church School: Sundays, 10–10:45 a.m. (MS: Room 107, HS: Youth Center)
- Youth Group: MS 4:30–5:30 p.m., Dinner 5:30, HS 6–7 p.m.
- Music: MS Bells 3–3:30, Choir 3:30–4:30, HS Bells 4:30–5:30
- HS Bible Study: Wednesdays starting Sept. 10, 7:30–8:30 p.m. at Josh’s house
- Questions? Contact Josh (josh@fpcfw.org)

Adults

- Ten Church School classes meet Sundays, 10–10:45 a.m., covering Bible study, faith formation, and contemporary issues.
- Questions? Contact Michael (michaelw@fpcfw.org)

Staff & Worship Participants

Pastor/Head of Staff

Senior Associate Pastor

Associate Pastor

Associate Pastor for Youth

Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Director of Music/Organist

Music Associates

Associate Organist & Choral Assistant

Director of Children’s Ministry

Director of Young Adult Ministry

Senior Director of Engagement & Programs

Parish Visitor

Parish Visitor

Digital Content Producer

Audio/Video Engineer

Liturgist

The Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter

The Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski

The Rev. Dr. Robyn Michalove

The Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

Dr. Ahreum Han Congdon

Rebecca Sawyer, Laura Collins

Brent McCartney

Ann Nielsen

Eric Varnon

Chris Bartley

Matt McGraw

The Rev. Lynda Dinsdale

Felix Oyola

Tristan Medina

Margaret Sudderth

Ministers: The Entire Congregation

Partner Congregation in Fort Worth: Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church

Partner Congregations in Cuba: Buen Pastor, Resurrection, and Cidra Presbyterian Churches

11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, August 24, 2025 | 11 a.m.



summer
IN THE PSALMS

Gathering in God’s Name

Prelude	<i>Psalm VIII</i>	Walker Baylor
Use the prelude to make the transition from getting here to being here. Open yourself to the Spirit of God moving in our midst.		
Welcome, Greeting and Announcements		Robyn Michalove
Please pass the Ritual of Friendship down your row and back to the side aisle during worship in order to greet one another by name.		
Minute for Mission: UKirk Campus Ministry	Sarah Crowther-Dixon, UKirk Campus Minister at TCU	
*Call to Worship		Margaret Sudderth
The Lord is our shepherd, we shall not want. In green pastures, beside still waters, God restores our souls. Come, let us worship the God who never stops searching for us. We lift our voices in praise to our shepherd who leads us in love.		
*Hymn	<i>It Is Good to Sing Your Praises</i>	682
*Call to Confession		
*Prayer of Confession		
Merciful God, we confess that we stray like lost sheep. We follow our own paths, forgetting your guidance and ignoring your voice. We clutch what we have, failing to notice your abundance. We resist being carried, trying to make our own way. We neglect caring for your flock with justice and love. Forgive us.		
Seek us out. Find us again, O God, and bring us back to your fold and give us your courage and strength. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.		
We continue with a moment for silent prayers and personal confession.		

* The congregation may stand. ** Words in bold are read in unison.

*Kyrie	<i>Lord, Have Mercy</i>	551
*Assurance of Pardon		
Friends, hear the good news: The shepherd leaves the ninety-nine to find even one who is lost. The woman sweeps the house until the coin is restored to her hand. So there is joy in heaven when we turn back to God. In Jesus Christ, we are sought, found, and forgiven. Thanks be to God! May the peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.		
*The Peace		
Please share the peace with those around you by saying, “The peace of Christ be with you,” and responding, “And also with you.”		
*Gloria Patri	<i>Glory Be to the Father</i>	581
Encountering God’s Word		
Prayer for Illumination		
First Lesson	<i>(page 78, New Testament)</i>	Luke 15.1-10
Children’s Moment		Ann Nielsen
<i>Jesus Loves Me!</i>		
Jesus loves me! This I know, for the Bible tells me so. Little ones to him belong. They are weak, but he is strong.		
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.		
TEXT: Stanza 1, Anna Bartlett Warner, 1859; stanza 2, David Rutherford McGuire, 1971.		
Anthem	<i>Prelude on Psalm 23.2</i>	Charles Callahan
	Nancy O’Malley, flute	
Second Lesson	<i>(page 501, Old Testament)</i>	Psalm 23
Sermon	“Gotcha”	Josh Stewart

Responding to God’s Word

*Hymn	<i>O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee</i>	738
Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer		
Ashley Drake Mertz		
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.		
Offering of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings		
Offertory	<i>O Love</i>	Elaine Hagenberg
Chancel Choir with Devyn Woodruff and Kyle Baird, dancers		
<i>O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee; and give thee back the life I owe, that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.</i>		
<i>O Joy, that seeks me through the pain, I cannot close my heart to thee; I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.</i>		
*Doxology	<i>Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	606
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below; praise God above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.		
*Prayer of Dedication		
Going in God’s Name		
*Hymn	<i>My Shepherd Will Supply My Need</i>	803
*Benediction		
*Sung Amen		
601		
Postlude	<i>Trumpet Tune in D</i>	Wayne L. Wold