



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 Mr. and Mrs. E.B. (Mac and Corinne) McCoy from Greg McCoy.



Offerings can be given by using the envelopes provided in the worship spaces and placing your gift in the offering plate, or by 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.



On August 23 from 4:30-6 p.m., we'll welcome Meredith Miller, author of *Woven*, for a special evening of dinner and conversation around raising our kids in faith. All parents and grandparents are encouraged to attend. Childcare will be provided for ages 6 weeks - 5 years old and volunteer led activities will be available for Kindergarteners - 3rd graders. Scan the QR code here to register.



Staff & Worship Participants

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|--|---------------------------------|
| Pastor/Head of Staff | The Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter |
| Senior Associate Pastor | The Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski |
| Associate Pastor | The Rev. Dr. Robyn Michalove |
| Associate Pastor for Youth | The Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart |
| Parish Associate for Pastoral Care | The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz |
| Director of Music/Organist | Dr. Ahreum Han Congdon |
| Music Associates | Rebecca Sawyer, Laura Collins |
| Associate Organist & Choral Assistant | Brent McCartney |
| Director of Children's Ministry | Ann Nielsen |
| Engagement Coordinator | Eric Varnon |
| Senior Director of Engagement & Programs | Chris Bartley |
| Parish Visitor | Matt McGraw |
| A/V Engineer | Russ Knight |
| Digital Content Producer | Felix Oyola |
| Liturgist | Susan Maxwell Campbell |

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

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, August 2, 2026 | 11 a.m.

P A R A B L E S REVEAL + DISRUPT



Hochhalter, Cara B. *A Parable - The Mustard Seed*, from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

Gathering in God’s Name

Prelude ‘Stride Dance’ from *Fiesta* Iain Farrington

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 book down your row
and back to the aisle during worship in order to greet one another by name.

Minute for Mission Presbyterian Foundation Rev. Josh Kerr
Ministry Relations Officer

*Call to Worship Susan Maxwell Campbell

The kingdom of God grows in ways we cannot always explain.
****Like seeds beneath the soil, grace is quietly taking root.**
Those who sow in tears shall reap with songs of joy.
We come to worship the One who brings life from hidden places.

*Hymn *Let All Things Now Living* 37

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of patient growth, we confess that we have often measured your work by what we can see. We become discouraged when change is slow and overlook the quiet ways your Spirit is moving among us. You call us to sow seeds of love, justice, mercy, and hope. Yet we sometimes grow tired of doing good. We cling to control instead of trusting your timing, and we forget that every act of faithfulness matters in your kingdom.
Forgive us, O God. Plant within us renewed hope. Teach us to trust your unseen work, to remain faithful in small acts of love, and to rejoice in the harvest that belongs to you. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

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

Kyrie *Lord, Have Mercy* 579

*Assurance of Pardon

Even when we cannot see it, grace is already at work within us. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our hope is renewed, and we are invited to join in God's growing kingdom. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are 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 *Glory Be to the Father* 581

Encountering God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson (page 572, Old Testament) Psalm 126

Children’s Moment Ann Nielsen

Jesus Loves Me! 188

***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.

Second Lesson (page 38, New Testament) Mark 4.26-29

Sermon “the growing seed” Brian Coulter

Responding to God’s Word

*Hymn *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* 250

Prayers of the People and 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.**

Offering of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory ‘Lord God of Abraham’ from *Elijah* F. Mendelssohn
Michael Daugherty, soloist

*Doxology *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* 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 *Live into Hope* 772

*Benediction

*Sung Amen 601

Postlude ‘Celebration’ from *Fiesta* Iain Farrington