



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 at left. You will have the ability to share if others from your household worshipped with you as well.

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.

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.

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



The Peace and Global Witness offering is one of four special offerings within the Presbyterian Church. It enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 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.



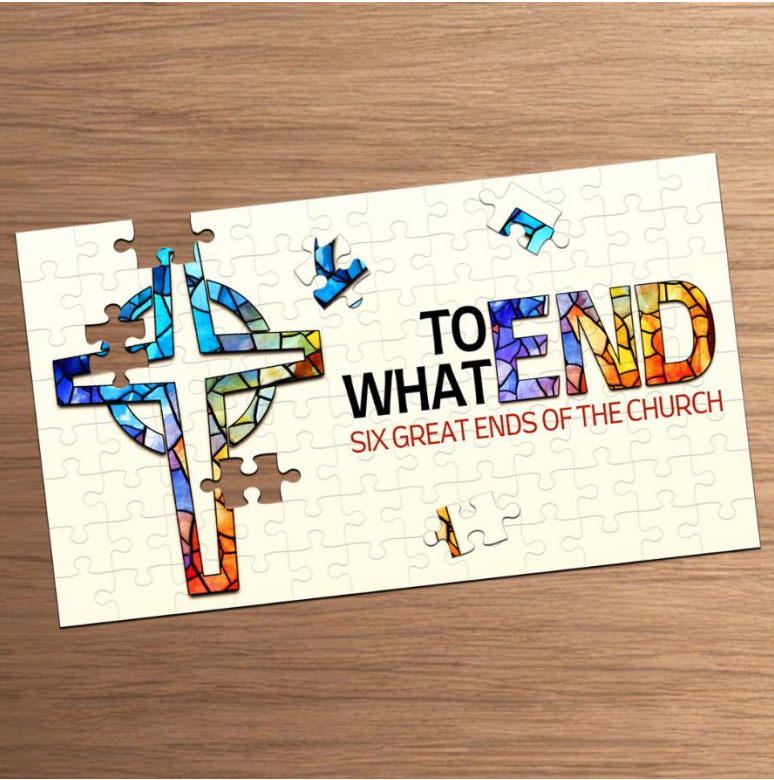
You're invited to the annual First Pres Habitat Build on **Saturday, October 25 from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Garden Springs Development in Fort Worth. Please note: the build date was postponed from October 4 due to permitting delays. **All participants - including those previously registered - must register again at vhub.at/1stpresbyterianchurch.** We're also looking for a group or individuals to provide lunch for 30 volunteers from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. If you're interested in helping with lunch, contact Robyn (robynm@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231).

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 |
| Director of Young Adult Ministry | Eric Varnon |
| Senior Director of Engagement & Programs | Chris Bartley |
| Parish Visitor | Matt McGraw |
| Parish Visitor | The Rev. Lynda Dinsdale |
| Digital Content Producer | Felix Oyola |
| Audio/Video Engineer | Tristan Medina |
| Liturgist | Vance Laminack |
| <i>Ministers: The Entire Congregation</i> | |
| <i>Partner Congregation in Fort Worth: Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church</i> | |
| <i>Partner Congregations in Cuba: Buen Pastor, Resurrection, and Cidra Presbyterian Churches</i> | |

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Sunday, September 21, 2025 | 9 a.m.



Gathering in God’s Name

PreludeWho Can I Turn ToAnthony Newley
Jazz Ensemble

Welcome, Greeting and AnnouncementsJosh Stewart

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.

*Call to WorshipVance Laminack

Bless the Lord, O people, sing!
**Let the sound of praise ring out.
Come and hear what the Lord has done,
The Lord who has made everything!
Let us worship God.

*Song of GatheringImmortal, Invisible,God Only Wise12

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of Truth, we confess that we often bow down before the
gods of convenience and division; we have turned our hearts
away from you. Our worship of work and devotion to power
disorders our love of you and each other.

Forgive us, God, and mend in us what is broken. Show us how
to be your Church, turning away from all that lures us from
your gifts of reconciliation and unity. By your loving mercy,
help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the
sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

We continue with a moment for silent prayers and personal confession.

*Assurance of Pardon

God who is just and merciful offers the grace of repentance and
frees us to live as God’s beloved children.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!
May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

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

*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.”

*Sung ResponseGlory to God,Whose Goodness Shines on Me582
(verse 1)

Encountering God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lessons

Deuteronomy 31.9-13
Then Moses wrote down this law and gave it to the priests, the
sons of Levi, who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and to
all the elders of Israel. Moses commanded them, “Every seventh year,
in the scheduled year of remission, during the Festival of Booths,
when all Israel comes to appear before the Lord your God at the
place that he will choose, you shall read this law before all Israel in
their hearing. Assemble the people—men, women, and children, as
well as the aliens residing in your towns—so that they may hear and
learn to fear the Lord your God and to observe diligently all the
words of this law and so that their children, who have not known it,
may hear and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as you live in
the land that you are crossing over the Jordan to possess.”

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

John 1.14-18

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen
his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.
(John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He
who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’ ”)
From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law
indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through
Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself
God, who is close to the Father’s hear who has made him known.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SermonTO WHAT ENDBrian Coulter
“preservation of the truth”

Responding to God’s Word

*SongCome and Seek the Ways of Wisdom174

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s PrayerAshley 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

OffertoryA Sower Came from Ancient HillsH.G. Stuempfle, Jr.
and John D. Horman

*DoxologyPraise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow606

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

*Closing SongThy Word Is a Lamp unto My Feet458
(sung twice)

*Benediction

PostludeSeptember in the RainHarry Warren