



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 celebration of Legacy Sunday and in honor of members of fifty or more years, by the Congregational Care Committee.

The World Communion Offering is one of three special offerings within the Presbyterian Church. It enables the church to focus on the atonement and reconciliation that happens around the Table and to experience and participate in the grace that comes from reconciling all peoples from all nations around the corner and around the globe through the ministry of this offering.



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

New Prayer Groups this Fall: October 1 - November 23

Experience God’s presence through prayer this fall. Three weekly small groups will meet for eight weeks in Room 239 (limited to 10 participants per group) to practice contemplative prayer, engage Scripture, and pray for others. Lectio Divina (Mondays at 9 a.m.) focuses on slow, prayerful reading of Scripture using the upcoming Sunday’s worship text. Centering Prayer (Thursdays at 10 a.m.) offers a contemplative practice of silence and stillness to become more aware of God’s presence. Intercessory Prayer (Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.) gathers participants to pray on behalf of others and their needs. Learn more and sign up at fpcfw.org/upcomingevents.

Border Ministry Update with Rev. Dr. John Nelsen: October 4

Gain a deeper understanding of the realities of immigration and border ministry through the lens of faith on Saturday, October 4, with presentations at 10 a.m. in Room 235 and 3 p.m. in Room 237. Rev. Dr. John Nelsen, Partner Coordinator for Tres Rios Presbytery Border Ministry and former pastor of University Presbyterian Church in El Paso, will share current realities at the border, address common misconceptions about immigration, and explore how faith communities can respond through meaningful ministry and engagement.

Staff & Worship Participants

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
Young Adult Ministry Coordinator	Laura Catherine Davidson
A/V Engineer	Russ Knight
Digital Content Producer	Felix Oyola
Liturgist	Beverly Howard

*Ministers: The Entire Congregation
Partner Congregations in Cuba: Buen Pastor, Resurrection,
and Cidra Presbyterian Churches*

18TH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
Sunday, September 27, 2026 | 11 a.m.



Gathering in God’s Name

Prelude	Spring Song	Ira Wilson
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	Michael Waschevski	
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 Worship	Beverly Howard	
God calls us, even when we have gone our own way. **God meets us with mercy and calls us again. God’s word can find us wherever we are. We worship the God of second chances with full hearts.		
*Hymn	The Church of Christ in Every Age	320
*Call to Confession		
*Prayer of Confession		
Merciful God, You call us to love, and we turn away. You call us to courage, and sometimes fear holds us back. You call us to compassion, and sometimes we would rather judge than understand. Forgive us for the ways we have run from your call. Give us the courage to begin again. Open our hearts to people we would rather avoid. Teach us to see others with the mercy you have shown to us as we trust you with our lives. Amen.		
Kyrie	Lord, Prepare Me	701
*Assurance of Pardon		
Hear the good news: God's mercy is wider than our failures. God's grace is greater than our mistakes. In Christ, we are forgiven, made new, and invited to begin again. 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

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

Encountering God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination		
First Lesson	(page 860, Old Testament)	Jonah 3
Children’s Moment		
This morning we celebrate the 2nd graders receiving Bibles.		
Jesus Loves Me!		188
Second Lesson	(page 166, New Testament)	1 Corinthians 2.1-5
Sermon	“Jonah’s preaching”	Robyn Michalove

Responding to God’s Word

*Hymn	O God of Every Nation	756
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A Celebration of Commitment and Legacy

Today we honor those who have been members of the church for 50 or more years.		
A Celebration of Commitment and Legacy	Ashley Drake Mertz and Brian Coulter	
Almighty God, you have raised up your servants and saints to be the church. For our spiritual forebears, the founders of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth in 1873, who were inspired by your Spirit, we give you thanks.		
Incarnate One, you have busied us with your holy work of inspiring disciples and engaging the world for over 150 years. For ministry in this place, to be able to glorify and enjoy you in it, we give you thanks.		
Sanctifying Spirit, you continue to call and equip us to be your people, sending us into homes, communities, and your world to share the love of Christ. For the women and men who have been faithful members for 50 years or more, we give you thanks.		
For those new to the faith who have joined us on this journey, we give you thanks.		
For the old who dream dreams, we give you thanks.		
For the young who have visions, we give you thanks.		

For new beginnings in a traditioned place, we give you thanks.		
For a long obedience in the same direction, we give you thanks.		
Holy Trinity, bless our memories, bless this moment, bless each member of this congregation, and bless what is yet to come. Amen!		
Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer	Josh Stewart	
(The Lord’s Prayer text is found in <i>Glory to God</i> page 35)		

Offering of God’s Tithes and Our Offerings		
Offertory	Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	arr. Mack Wilberg Chancel Choir
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul praise Him, for He is they health and salvation! Join the great throng, psaltery, organ, and song, sounding in glad adoration! Praise to the Lord! Over all things He gloriously reigneth. Borne as on eagle wings, safely His saints He sustaineth. Hast thou not seen how all thou needest hath been granted in what He ordaineth? Praise to the Lord! Who doth prosper thy way and defend thee. Surely His goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do, who with His love doth befriend thee. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath breath, join with Abraham’s seed to adore Him! Let the ‘amen’ sum all our praises again, now as we worship before Him.		

*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	Called as Partners in Christ’s Service	761
*Benediction		
*Sung Amen		
Postlude	Festival March	Arthur E. James