

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, December 28 - Guest Preacher, Walter Teter

- 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School Offered
- 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (One Service)
- 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - Youth Gathering at the Church

Monday, December 29 through Tuesday, December 30

Rev. Doughton and Family will be away visiting his mother in Tennessee. The Church will be on abbreviated hours in preparation for 2026. Please call for an appointment if you would like to give an end of the year contribution.

Thursday, January 1, 2026

The Church office will be closed.

Sunday, January 4 - Incoming Church Officers will be Ordained and Installed at 10:00 a.m.

The Lord's Supper will be observed at both Worship Services

- 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School Offered
- 10:00 a.m. - Worship Service (One Service)
- 4:00 p.m. - Dismantle and store the Decorations

Monday, January 5

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 6

- 9:15 a.m. - Presbyterian Women's Morning Circle in the Crossroads Class
 - 7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women's Night Circle in the Crossroads Class
- Please bring a covered dish to share

Wednesday, January 7

- 7:00 p.m. - Service of Healing and Wholeness in the sanctuary
- 7:40 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 11

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Monday, January 12

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 13

- 7:00 p.m. - Christian Education Committee in the Crossroads Classroom
- 7:15 p.m. - Worship Committee will meet in the Enquiry Classroom

Wednesday, January 14

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 18

- 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Monday, January 19

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers Rehearsal

Tuesday, January 20

7:15 p.m. - Joint Officers Stated Meeting - side room of Wilbanks Hall

Wednesday, January 21

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 25

- 7:30 a.m. - Men's Council Breakfast
 - 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Worship Service
 - 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
 - 6:00 p.m. - Annual Congregational Dinner & Meeting
- This is a called meeting and your presence has been requested. Please bring a meat, salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

Monday, January 26

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 28

- 12:00 p.m. - East Dallas County Cluster Meeting in Wilbanks Hall
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal



The Ladies Who Love the Lord (LWLT) have started their next mission project. They will be collecting new or gently used hoodies and jackets. All sizes are welcomed. These donations will be given to *Inspired Vision Compassion Center* for disbursement. The last day to donate will be Saturday, January 17, 2026.



This is the first announcement of the Annual Congregational Dinner and Meeting which has been called for Sunday, January 25 at 6:00 p.m. Each of you are cordially invited and encouraged to attend. We will enjoy a good meal, fellowship, and hear reports from each of the committees. Please bring your favorite dish to share.



THE CHALLENGE

The 100 Can Challenge continues as we collect can goods and other non-perishable items. The donated items will be given to Sharing Life, as they feed those in need in our community. Our total items collected thus far in December is **120 items**.

Thank you to all who contribute!

THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
Ryoji Shimpo, Director of Music Ministries/Organist & Pianist
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 28, 2025

10:00 a.m.

About the Cover Picture

Look up to the Star. We will acknowledge the Wise Men and the Star they followed on January 6, 2026. Based on the text in Matthew we know it took some time. In a sense, this Sunday, the First Sunday of Christmas, acknowledges that journey. It is a process of discovery. Next Sunday, January 4, we will Ordain and Install new officers. Let us pray for our officers as they give leadership to First Presbyterian for the year ahead.



ONLINE GIVING OPTION

Have you ever thought of giving online? If you would like to give online you may scan the QR Code, this will take you to the giving button on our website.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Good King Wenceslas* arr. Noreen Lienhard

INTROIT 106 (v.3) *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Hope Publishing
Fling wide Your gates, O Zion; Your Savior's rule embrace,
and tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.
All lands will bow rejoicing, their adoration voicing,
O blest is Christ Who came in God's most holy name.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2; Isaiah 60:1, Titus 2:11*
Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
And also to you.

Arise, shine: for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. The grace of God has dawned upon the world and healing for all humankind.

*HYMN 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, You sent a star to guide the wise men to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not searched for signs of Your love in the world, or trusted Your Good News to be good. We have failed to praise Your Son's birth, and refused His peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE (Hymn 581)

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. A—men. A—men.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS #

ANTHEM *Still a Bach Christmas* arr. Jay Althouse
Duet by Brenda Greer and Paula Kusewitt, vocalists
Silent is the night, And all the world is filled with joy.
Love is all around us ev'rywhere and peace is with us in the air.
On the night when we celebrate the baby boy.
Still, still, still, on a night that is filled with joy.
All my heart this night rejoices, Soft and sweet the angel voices.
Still, still, still, when we celebrate the baby boy.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

Almighty and All-Knowing God-as we seek Your light at this time, open our minds that we may find Your Hope, open our spirit that we may find Your peace, open our hearts that we might find Your love, open our wills that we might find Your joy as Your Word is read and preached in Jesus Name, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Malachi 2:17*

You have wearied the Lord with your words. Yet you say, "How have we wearied him?" By saying, "All who do evil are good in the sight of the Lord, and He delights in them." Or by asking, "Where is the God of justice?"

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *John 3:13-21*

No one has ascended into heaven except the One Who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life." Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Those who believe in Him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

The Children and Youth are asked to come forward at this time.

*HYMN 146 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

SERMON *The Light that Saves* Walter Teter

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Once in Royal David's City* Henry G Gauntlets
Ryoji Shimpo, pianist

*DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

**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 DEDICATION †

*HYMN 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 109 (v.3) *Blest be the God of Israel* Hal H. Hopson
On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace,
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!

POSTLUDE *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* arr. L. Larson
Please be seated for the Postlude.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elders #- Brenda Greer
Deacon/Ushers † - Sharon Condarco, Nick Scholl,
Linda Fricke, and Kenzie Aynes

The Guest Preacher's Bio:

I am Walter Teter, the Director of Discipleship at Hackberry Creek Church in Irving, Texas. I have been at Hackberry for 2 1/2 years. I love it! Before Hackberry, I was at Highland Park Presbyterian Church for twenty-three years. I have been married to my wife Amy for almost 25 years. We met and got married at Highland Park Presbyterian Church. We have two children: Ellie, 21, and Jack, 19. We love doing life together and are thankful that God brought us together as a family.