

# First Presbyterian Church

## January 5, 2025



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Communion Sunday

First Presbyterian Church of Conroe Welcomes You!



If you are interested in learning more about our church, or wish to become active in our ministry teams and activities, please visit our website at [fpcConroe.org](http://fpcConroe.org). There you can fill out the visitor form online, or you can do so now by visiting our welcome desk.

We appreciate you joining us for services today.

***~ Good Things to Know ~***

***Today's Worship Leader***

Carly Hart

***Today's Flowers***

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Yvonne Rose, in memory of her dear departed loved ones.

***Last Week's Attendance, December 29***

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - No Service

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 173

Online Worship Attendance - 33

**Total Attendance – 206**

## **8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION**

### *Preparing to Receive God's Word*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.

The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

The darkness that surrounds us is gone!

Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others.

\*Hymn #66

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1. We three kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light!

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign. (Refrain)
3. Frankincense to offer have I:  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising we are raising,  
Worshipping God Most High. (Refrain)

\*Please stand if able.

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)

5. Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

God is making all things new. Anyone who is in Christ is a brand-new creation; the old life is gone, and the new life is here.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!**

\*Gloria Patri

### The Word

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 31: 7-14; Ephesians 1: 3-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**"Well Begun"**

*Rev. Gregory Han*

### Responding to the Word

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

**The Lord's Prayer**

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn #28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow,  
And He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

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"Christmas Grace" by Ruth Elaine Schram

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## **11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

### *Preparing to Receive God's Word*

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit (Hymn #41)      *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Call to Worship

The Magi waited and watched, knowing something wondrous would be happening.

We waited for the birth of Jesus; now something wondrous is about to take root.

The darkness that invaded all lives was banished by the light of that star.

The darkness that surrounds us is gone!

Let us celebrate the bright shining of God's love in our lives.

Let us become those who will bring the light of God's love to others.

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Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)
5. Glorious now behold Him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia  
Sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

God is making all things new. Anyone who is in Christ is a brand-new creation; the old life is gone, and the new life is here.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

**Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!**

\*Gloria Patri

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Choral Response

### The Word

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 31: 7-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem

*Christmas Grace*

*Schram*

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1: 3-14

Sermon

**“Well Begun”**

*Rev. Gregory Han*

### Responding to the Word

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And He is in the manger now.  
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Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Choral Response

Shine, Jesus, Shine

1. Lord, the light of Your love is shining,  
In the midst of the darkness shining;  
Jesus, Light of the world, shine upon us,  
Set us free by the truth You now bring us;  
Shine on me, Shine on me.

Refrain:

**Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory.**  
Blaze, Spirit blaze, set our hearts on fire.  
Flow, river flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy.  
Send forth Your word, Lord, and let there be light.

\*Postlude

## ***This Week's Scripture Readings***

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### Jeremiah 31:7-14

<sup>7</sup> For thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, **"Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel."** <sup>8</sup> See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor together: a great company, they shall return here.

<sup>9</sup> With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back; I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path where they shall not stumble, for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, **"He who scattered Israel will gather him and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."** <sup>11</sup> For the Lord has ransomed Jacob and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. <sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. <sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow. <sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

### Ephesians 1: 3-14

<sup>3</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup> just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup> He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup> to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup> he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup> In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup> so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>13</sup> In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup> this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.



### *Called Congregational Meeting January 19*

The session has approved calling a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 19, 2025 during the 11:00 a.m. service. This is for the purpose of the 2024 Officer Nominating Committee presenting a candidate for the position of Trustee for the Class of 2027.

### *Reception for Rev. Callie Candee*

On January 12, following the 11:00 service, please plan to attend a reception **for Rev. Callie Candee. During FPC's pastoral transition, Rev. Candee was able** and willing to step up and help out where needed. Most notably, she has handled Pastoral Care for our congregation since May 2023. Callie has prayed with members and their families before surgery, been there by phone or in person to talk with those in need, and coordinate care with the Care & Prayer team and Stephen ministry. She has led Wednesday Night Live classes and been a spiritual guide. Rev. Candee was also available to preach on Sundays, and when needed, officiate funeral services. We wish to thank her for her role in seeing us through some of our most challenging times. God has indeed blessed FPC-Conroe with Callie's loving service to our church.

### *Wednesday Night Live Resumes in January*



Wednesday Night Live will resume on January 8, 2025 with a kick-off event, **Tacos & Trivia**, with Pastor Seth. Please join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the FLC gym.

After that, we'll have eight weeks of studies, ending with our pancake supper on Ash Wednesday, March 5. If you're interested in leading a bible study, small group or other event during that time, please contact Dena Sowden [DSowden@FPCConroe.org](mailto:DSowden@FPCConroe.org)

## *Fellowship Sunday School Class*

**Fellowship Sunday School class plans to remain together after Cara Wood's** move to the Texas panhandle and would welcome new members. Debra Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms plan to take turns teaching. We meet at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays, in Room 204. **As we enter into the New Year, we'll be** looking for ideas for the upcoming studies. On January 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> **we'll explore** possible curriculum options. Please join us in Room 204 to help decide our path. This is a great opportunity to get plugged in and participate in our Sunday morning classes. Please contact Glenn Elms at [geatelms80@consolidated.net](mailto:geatelms80@consolidated.net). Hope to see you soon!

## *Sunday Greeters Needed*

FPC Conroe is in need of more greeters, so we are asking Sunday school classes to provide 2+ greeters one Sunday a month. The schedule is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Seekers Bible Study

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Bereans Class

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Fellowship Class

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Exploring Our Faith

If you do not attend a Sunday school class, but would like to volunteer, please contact Judy Weinburger at (713) 202-8458, or by email at [garyjudyweinburger@gmail.com](mailto:garyjudyweinburger@gmail.com). Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to welcome all people to our church. May the Lord be with each of you.

## *Fourteenth Annual Sew-a-thon*

*Sew Much Love*, the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Sew-a-thon, will be held 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 22, 2025, in the Family Life Center of First Presbyterian Church of Conroe. At this all-day event, participants will make children's quilts for Bags of Love. The bags are given to children in Montgomery County who are removed from their homes by Child Protective Services. These bags contain a quilt, stuffed animal, age/gender appropriate books, games and toiletry items. Don't sew? No problem, we have a special place for you, such as ironing or tying quilts.

A delicious lunch, prepared by Shirley Dukes and her team, will be served at 12:30 to all volunteers.

Registration for this event will begin on February 2<sup>nd</sup>  
and end on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Prayer List

Members: The family of Don Myers, Roy Kessler, Judy Weinburger, Ruth Masters, Paula Shepherd, Kyle Walker, Glenna Lang, Joe Clark, Jeannene Wendt, Reed Watson, John Lancaster, Nedra Murphy, Kari Elliott, Tildon Hebert, David Green, Ron Bailey, Joanne Deaver, Alice Helms, Polly Miller, Jean Ball, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: Jerry W., Lisa W. (Webb), Celia G. (Hernandez-Garcia), Richard R. (Rose), George G., Karl W. (Watt), Ted M. (Rose), Wes K. (Yates), Alicia I., James I., and Ron S. (Bailey), Susie K. (Davis), Anna and Wendy C. (Harshbarger), Brooke J., Danielle S. & kids, Kelly D., Stephanie R. (Riggs-Harpur), Blade B., Judy N. (Dukes), Bonnie L., Michael R. (Dwyer), Tom J. & family, Bill M. (Browder), Tony N. (Spinks), Aimee L. (Amoneno), Buddy H. (Hayter), Amanda N. (Bosse), Brenda H. (Cannon), Scott P. (Peterson), Linda S., Larry B., Janie M. (Harrison), Lindsey W. (Walker), Lisa J. (Miller), Shannon L. (Diamond), Rick J., Sydney H. and Martha K. (Juhl), Joe T. Sr and caregivers, Harry S., Jr. and family (Havens), Steve T., Lonnie H. and Vivian M. (Hammonds), Kim H. (Ganek), John R. (Hethershaw), James M., Patty M., Enrique E. (Moore), William W. (Weinburger), Jeffrey H. & Leah H. (Heasley), Katie B. (Pohla), Wendy S. (Adamson), Sherry M. (Garrison), Lee H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Gerald H. (Roberts), Tucker H. (Hudson)

## Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>January 5</i></p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)            9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105)            Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.            9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (Rm. 204) Max Lucado study series "What Happens Next - A Traveler's Guide Through the End of This Age."            9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)  <b>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton</b> (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians  <b>9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School</b> (Rm. 203)            10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)            10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary)            11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live <a href="http://www.com/fpcConroe">www.com/fpcConroe</a> or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)            12:30 p.m. Committee Meetings            5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>January 6</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> <i>January 7</i></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>January 8</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Martha Circle (Parlor)            9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)            5:30 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Kickoff: <b>Tacos &amp; Trivia</b> (FLC)</p>



<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>January 12</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (Rm. 204) Max Lucado study series "What Happens Next - A Traveler's Guide Through the End of This Age."</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton</b> (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School</b> (Rm. 203)</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live <a href="http://www.com/fpcConroe">www.com/fpcConroe</a> or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Reception for Rev. Callie Candee (Narthex)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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## Save the Date

January 7	PDS classes resume
January 8	Tacos & Trivia with Pastor Saathoff
January 12	Reception for Rev. Callie Candee
January 19	Called Congregational Meeting
January 20	PDS/CISD Holiday (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
February 2	Annual Chili Cookoff
February 17	<b>PDS/CISD Holiday (President's Day)</b>
February 22	14 <sup>th</sup> Annual Sew-a-thon Go Texan Parade
February 23	Gospel Music Sunday

## Staff and Church Information

### Staff

Rev. Seth Saathoff, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Callie Candee, Pastoral Care  
Dena Sowden, Director of Christian Education  
Sharon VanSchuyver, Director of Communications  
Yvonne Rose, Office Manager  
Bonnie Hernandez, Music Director  
Rolethial McKelvey, Accompanist  
Jackye Cannon and Jane Corbit, Bookkeeping  
Shirley Dukes, Parish Nurse



### First Presbyterian Church

#### *Physical Address:*

2727 N. Loop 336 W., Conroe, TX 77304  
Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842  
Website: [www.fpcConroe.org](http://www.fpcConroe.org)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

#### *Mailing Address:*

2257 N Loop 336 W  
Suite 140, # 349, Conroe, TX 77304