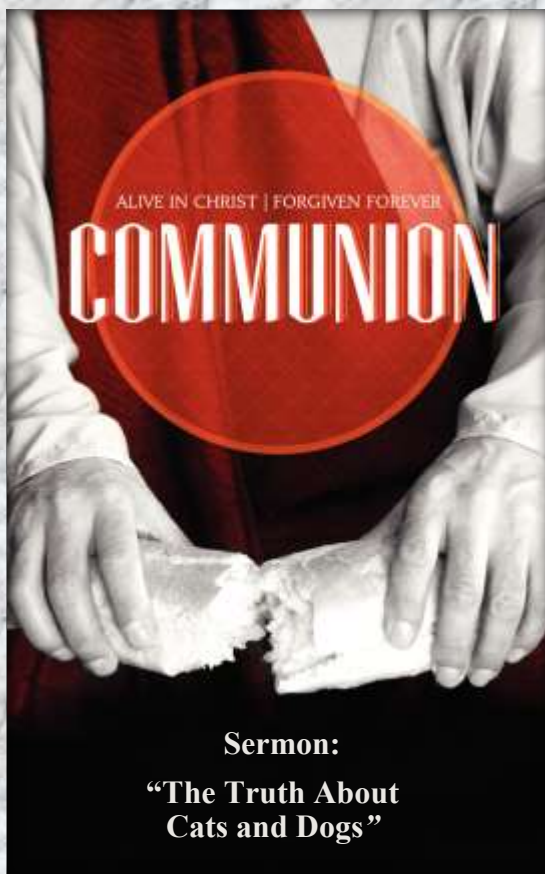


First Presbyterian Church

February 2, 2025



Sermon:

**“The Truth About
Cats and Dogs”**

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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. 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

Martha Haines

Today's Flowers

There is no flower dedication today.

Last Week's Attendance, January 26

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 17

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 147

Online Worship Attendance - 35

Total Attendance – 199

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

We have come to worship God, the living God,
Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.
We have come to praise God, the almighty God,
Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.
We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,
Who chooses even you and me to receive and carry the Word of life
and hope.

*Hymn #260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

*Please stand if able.

4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! God has promised that when we call upon the name of the Lord, God will answer. When we fall short, God will be there to pick us back up. When we sin, God is ready to forgive.

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 1:4-10; Luke 4:14-30

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"The Truth About Cats and Dogs"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

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 #426

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou has sought, so let me seek
Thine erring children lost and lone.
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious things Thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.
4. O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,
Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Copyright Information

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"Here I Am, Lord"

Arr. by Craig Courtney

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11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Wonderful Words of Life*

Call to Worship

We have come to worship God, the living God,
Who calls prophets and teachers to bear witness.
We have come to praise God, the almighty God,
Who answers the forces of hatred and hurt with the power of grace.
We have come to worship God, all-gracious God,
Who chooses even you and me to receive and carry the Word of life
and hope.

*Hymn #260

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Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.
3. And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:
The prince of darkness grim, we tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

*Please stand if able.

4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, and in forgetting your love.

Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive our sins and help us walk in the light of your truth, that we may be faithful and true disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! God has promised that when we call upon the name of the Lord, God will answer. When we fall short, God will be there to pick us back up. When we sin, God is ready to forgive.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*Gloria Patri

Minute for Mission

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *Here I Am, Lord*

Courtney

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Choral Response

The Word

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 1:4-10; Luke 4:14-30

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Truth About Cats and Dogs”

Rev. Seth Saathoff

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 #426

Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

1. Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou has sought, so let me seek
Thine erring children lost and lone.
3. O teach me, Lord, that I may teach
The precious things Thou dost impart;
And wing my words, that they may reach
The hidden depths of many a heart.
4. O fill me with Thy fullness, Lord,
Until my very heart o'erflow
In kindling thought and glowing word,
Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

He Leadeth Me

1. He leadeth me! O blessed thought!
O words with heav'nly comfort fraught!
What e're I do, where'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Refrain:

He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
By His own hand He leadeth me;
His faithful foll'wer I would be,
For by His hand He leadeth me.

*Postlude

This Week's Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 1:4-10

⁴ Now the word of the Lord came to me saying,

⁵ **"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations."**

⁶ Then I said, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." ⁷ But the Lord said to me,

"Do not say, 'I am only a boy,' for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord."

⁹ Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the Lord said to me,

"Now I have put my words in your mouth. ¹⁰ See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Luke 4:14-30

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Gallilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ **"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."**

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

²¹ Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is this not Joseph's son?" ²³ He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.' " ²⁴ And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months and there was a severe famine over all the land, ²⁶ yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ There were also many with a skin disease in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except **Naaman the Syrian.**" ²⁸ When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹ They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Notes



What's For Dinner?

Wednesday Night Live meals are as follows:

February 5	Ham, macaroni and cheese
February 12	Chicken spaghetti
February 19	Creamy vegetable soup
February 26	Chicken and dumpling casserole
March 5	Pancake supper



WHEN: May 2-4, 2025 (Enrollment open)

DETAILS: The cost is \$375 per participant.

All men 18+ are invited to attend.
Youth between 13-17 may attend if they register with an accompanying adult sponsor. *If we get a large enough group we can take the church bus.*

If you are interested in attending, please contact Rev. Seth Saathoff at ssaathoff@fpconroe.org.

Fellowship Sunday School Class

The Fellowship Sunday School class invites you to join their study each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. They are presently conducting a short study on Moses, after which they will start a study on the Parables.

If anyone would like to join via Zoom, that is also an option. The link is:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84167943834?pwd=AdkAvynUbFSDwwusry9kmEgidSwHvG.1>

Spiritual Direction with Rev. Callie Candee

Christians have sought out silent prayer retreats for centuries; driven by a hunger for closer communion with God, we choose times of silence, of meditation **of Scripture, to hear God more clearly and to follow Jesus' invitation to 'come away with me to a quiet place and rest.'** In our ever too busy world, such an **invitation is a blessing, as we enter stillness, reflection upon God's Word, and open ourselves to hearing more fully God's response to us.** Rev. Callie Candee is offering one-on-one Spiritual Direction sessions for our congregation. Please contact the church office to schedule a session with her at (936) 756-8884.

2025 Flower Calendar

Please keep in mind that our 2025 flower calendar is now on the Welcome Desk. Be sure to write in your dedications for the times of year that are significant to you and your loved ones. Flower arrangements are \$45.

Life Line Screening Event March 28, 2025

We have great news, FPC will be hosting a Life Line Screening event on 3/28/2025. Life Line Screening is the premier provider of stroke and cardiovascular disease risk screenings since 1993. As the host of the event, Life Line Screening is extending a special offer to all of our (organization name) members for a screening package that enables you to get peace of mind or early detection.

To make an appointment, go to WWW.LLSA.SOCIAL/HSCA or call 888-814-0466 to schedule your appointment! A simple screening can be worth a lifetime.

FPC Hosting Family Promise in March

FPC will be hosting Family Promise March 10-14. If you are able to help with this, please sign the signup sheet, which will be available through mid-February.

Youth Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, February 2, 2025

5-7 pm

Family Life Center

BRING THE HEAT!

Think you make the best chili this side of the Pecos??

Then bring your best chili recipe and fixins

and let us decide!

Trophies for 1st-3rd Place

&

People's Choice Best Table

Not a chef but like to eat??

Bring your appetite and plenty of \$\$ for voting ~ Each vote is \$1

Vote early and vote often!

(Padding your friend's voting bucket is highly encouraged!)

For more information visit FPCCConroe.Org

Proceeds support our FPC Youth Missions and Activities

First Presbyterian Church of Conroe

Dena Sowden

Director of Christian Education

Cell 979-255-2096

DSowden@FPCCConroe.Org



Fourteenth Annual Sew-a-thon

Sew Much Love, the 14th 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.

If you are unavailable on the 22nd, you can still help by contributing some of the items that go in the Bags of Love. You will find a list of needed items below. You can also make a monetary contribution to the project by writing a check to FPC, with a notation Bags of Love. Items (new or gently used) are also needed for the Silent Auction. Proceeds from the Silent Auction fund the work of the Mission Sewing Group. If you have questions or want more information, call Liz Kessler (713) 818-1006 or Linda Harshbarger (281) 610-6162.

Registration for this event will begin on February 2nd
and end on February 16th.

Items Needed for the Bags of Love

Stuffed animals	Books - all ages	Baby rattles
Calculators	Coloring books	Toddler toys
Baby teething rings	Baby 3 in 1	Crayons
Boy toys - all ages	Notebooks	
Kids toothbrushes and toothpaste		
Kids 3 in 1 (body wash, shampoo, conditioner)		

+ Items should be small enough to fit in Bags of Love.

Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>February 2</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) Study of Moses, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms. 9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) 9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians 9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School (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 www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe) 12:00 p.m. Committee Meetings 5:00-7:00 p.m. Annual Chili Cookoff (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>February 3</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> <i>February 4</i></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>February 5</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105) 4:00 p.m. Small Group Study with Gordon Juhl. Studying Timothy Keller's devotional "God's Wisdom for Navigating Life". 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal (FLC) 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 6:00 p.m. Bible Study with Rev. Saathoff (Rm. 105) 6:00 p.m. "Jesus and Me" for Youth (Youth Commons area) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>February 9</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) Study of Moses, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms. 9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) 9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians 9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School (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 www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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Save the Date

February 17 PDS/CISD Holiday (President's Day)

February 22 14th Annual Sew-a-thon
Go Texan Parade in Conroe



February 23 🎵 Gospel Music Sunday 🎵

March 2 Annual Congregational Meeting

March 5 Ash Wednesday Service
and Pancake Supper



March 10-14 PDS/CISD Spring Break

Prayer List

Members: The Spinks family, Jackye Cannon, Joe Clark, 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), Vera T. (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)

Ministry Leaders

Administration	Cheryl Nichols (2025, Chair) Stephan Tibbetts (2025)
Building & Grounds	Bill Harshbarger (2026, Chair)
Care-Prayer	Ron Massey (2027, Chair)
Discipleship	Mark Sowden (2025, Chair) Dena Sowden (2025) Masen Stuntz (2025) Sean Morton (2027)
Fellowship	Debbie Morse (2027, Chair)
Membership	Steve Scheffler (2025)
Missions	Catherine Scheffler (2025, Chair) Kyle Walker (2027)
PDS	Pat Hudson (2025)
Worship	Randy Blanton and Mike Wisda (2026, Co-chairs)
Trustees	Charline Muller (2025) David Nichols (2026) Fred Kate (2027)

Staff and Church Information

Staff

Rev. Seth Saathoff, Senior Pastor
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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Mailing Address:

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