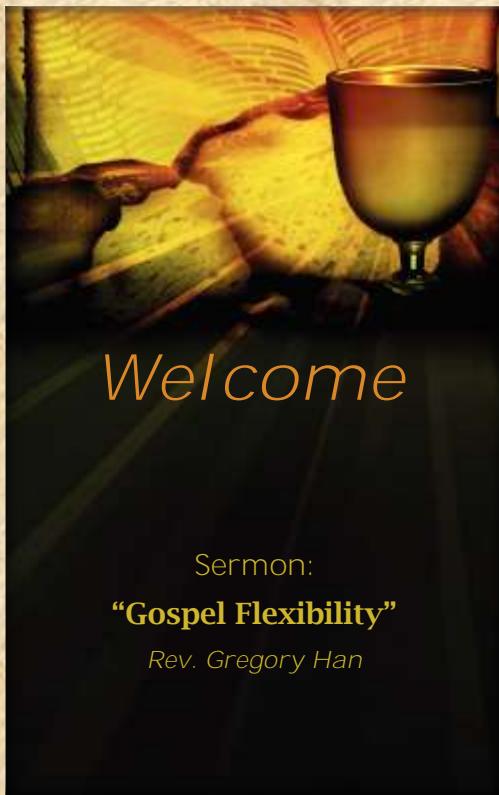


First Presbyterian Church

February 4, 2024



Sermon:
“Gospel Flexibility”

Rev. Gregory Han

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Communion Sunday

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparation

Prelude

Adoration

Call to Worship

*Hymn #305

Jesus, Our Divine Companion

1. Jesus, our divine Companion, By your lowly human birth
You have come to join the workers, Burden bearers of the earth.
You, the carpenter of Nazareth, Toiling for Your daily food,
By Your patience and Your courage You have taught us work is good.
2. Where the many toil together, There You are among Your own;
Where the solitary labor, You are there with them alone,
You, the peace that passes knowledge, Dwelling in the daily strife;
You, the Bread of heaven, are broken In the sacrament of life.

Confession

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven.

May the God of mercy,
who forgives us all our sins,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life.

AMEN.

*Gloria Patri

Welcome and Announcements

Proclamation

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Sermon

“Gospel Flexibility”
Rev. Gregory Han

Dedication

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn #191

God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

1. God is our refuge and our strength,
Our ever-present aid,
And therefore, though the earth remove,
We will not be afraid.
2. Though hills amid the seas be cast,
Though foaming waters roar,
Yea, thought the mighty billows shake
The mountains on the shore.
3. Where God abides a river flows;
That city will rejoice.
But nations fear and kingdoms shake
Before God’s thundering voice.
4. Since God is in the midst of it,
The city walls shall stand,
Secure and safe with God’s sure help,
When trouble is at hand.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

*Please stand if able.

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†

"How Lovely, Lord" Text and Music: Words copyright © 1986 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL, 60188.
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"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"
Music: Arrangement © by the estate of Wendell Whalum.
Used by permission.

Visitors, Welcome to FPC

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, on page 17 of this bulletin. We appreciate you joining us for services today, whether online or in person.

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparation

Opening Music

Adoration

Introit *How Lovely, Lord*

Call to Worship

Leader: Everyone who serves God come and offer thanks.

People: Thank you God for your love for us.

Leader: Everyone who has gathered in this place, lift your hands and praise God!

People: Thank you God for your love in this place.

Leader: Shout praises to God for you are God's servants, so shout praises!

People: Thank you God for your love to others.

Leader: All who serve in this place, who serve our God, come and shout praises.

People: Thank you God for your love that we can share.

Leader: Praise the name of our God who is kind and good.

People: Thank you God for your love endures forever.

*Hymn #305 *Jesus, Our Divine Companion*

1. Jesus, our divine Companion, By your lowly human birth
You have come to join the workers, Burden bearers of the earth.
You, the carpenter of Nazareth, Toiling for Your daily food,
By Your patience and Your courage You have taught us work is good.
2. Where the many toil together, There You are among Your own;
Where the solitary labor, You are there with them alone,
You, the peace that passes knowledge, Dwelling in the daily strife;
You, the Bread of heaven, are broken In the sacrament of life.

Confession

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty God,
you love us, but we do not love you fully.
You call, but we do not always listen.
We often walk away from neighbors in need,
wrapped in our own concerns.
We often condone evil, hatred, warfare, and greed.

God of grace,
help us to admit our sin,
so that as you move toward us in mercy,
we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting.
I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
we are forgiven.

May the God of mercy,
who forgives us all our sins,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit
keep us in eternal life.

AMEN.

*Gloria Patri

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication and the Lord's Prayer**

*Choral Response

Proclamation

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31
1 Corinthians 9:16-23

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

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God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

1. God is our refuge and our strength,
Our ever-present aid,
And therefore, though the earth remove,
We will not be afraid.
2. Though hills amid the seas be cast,
Though foaming waters roar,
Yea, thought the mighty billows shake
The mountains on the shore.
3. Where God abides a river flows;
That city will rejoice.
But nations fear and kingdoms shake
Before God’s thundering voice.
4. Since God is in the midst of it,
The city walls shall stand,
Secure and safe with God’s sure help,
When trouble is at hand.

*Charge and Benediction

*Closing Response

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me

Anywhere, Lord, any time! (any time!)

I'm gonna live so (live so) God can use me

Anywhere, Lord, any time! (any time!)

*Postlude

*Please stand if able.

Notes

This Week's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹ Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them like a tent to live in, ²³ who brings princes to naught and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵ To whom, then, will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint and strengthens the powerless. ³⁰ Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted, ³¹ but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

¹⁶ If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! ¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a wage, but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. ¹⁸ What then is my wage? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

¹⁹ For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might gain all the more. ²⁰ To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to gain Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might gain those under the law. ²¹ To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not outside God's law but am within Christ's law) so that I might gain those outside the law. ²² To the weak I became weak, so that I might gain the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. ²³ I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I might become a partner in it.



Ash Wednesday Meal and Worship

On February 14th, we will have our final Wednesday Night Live of the season. Dinner will be served at 5:00, followed by our 6:00 p.m. worship service in the sanctuary. We hope to see you there.

March 3 Volunteer Sunday

On March 3rd, FPC will host Volunteer Sunday, in the Family Life Center. This venue allows committees and groups of the church to provide information about their functions and goals, as they talk with potential volunteers that are interested. Snacks will be provided. More information will be available next week.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation March 17

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on March 17th at the **11:00 worship service. There we will learn of the church's projected budget, as well as going over highlights of the many committees at FPC. Annual Reports will be provided at that time.**

For Your Attention

Over the past couple of years, a significant number of our members, who mail their donation checks to the church, have had checks stolen. Giving online via credit card is one convenient way to avoid stolen checks. However, there is a small fee involved in this option. The church now has another option for avoiding stolen checks that has no fee associated with it. This option would be the **electronic fund transfer of money from your bank directly to the church's bank.** It can be set up on either a one-time or recurring basis. If you are interested in giving to the church via this method, please contact Fred Kate by email fhkate@yahoo.com or telephone (936) 521-9428 for details.

PDS Open Enrollment Available Now

PDS is currently offering open enrollment. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a quality child care program, please call the PDS office (936) 756-3990.

**It's finally here...
what we've all been waiting for...
the 14th Annual Chili Cookoff**

Need a little spice in your life?

Chili with all the fixin's

Amazing desserts



A little friendly competition

Live Music

FREE Admission

**Join us tonight, from 5:00-7:00 PM, in the FLC Gym,
for a rousing good time!**



There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings go beyond your regular checkup to identify dangerous plaque buildup or blockage, a major risk factor for stroke and heart disease. The screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on Friday, March 1, 2024 at First Presbyterian Church Conroe to conduct these valuable screenings.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has held its initial meeting following its commissioning this past Sunday. We are laying out a process and timeline that we trust will guide us toward finding a pastor that is the best fit for FPC Conroe. Our goal is to be both thorough and efficient as we proceed. As part of this process, we will engage the congregation with a brief survey in which all members and guests are invited to participate. This will occur in the next two weeks. The survey will be available in a hard-copy format inserted into our worship bulletin on February 11, as well as electronically to ensure maximum participation. This survey will give us important information as we develop a Ministry Discernment Profile (i.e., position description), which is part of the PCUSA call process. Please complete the survey as soon as possible when it is made available.

Also, to streamline communication with the PNC, we are creating a dedicated email address for the PNC members. If you have any feedback, comments or ideas, this will be the best way to communicate with the PNC. This email address is pnc@fpcconroe.org. We welcome your input!

Finally, we ask for your prayers upon the PNC and this process, as well as our church, as we search for our next pastor.

Sincerely,

Your PNC: Dana Corbit, Shirley Dukes, Jay Hammonds, Pat Hudson, Roy Kessler, Charline Muller, Janet Pohla, Steve Scheffler, Mark Sowden

Family Promise Thanks

Our Mission Ministry would like to thank all our members who volunteered to help prepare dinners, host the dinners, and spend the night for both the August 27th and November 5th weeks. Thank you for making the families feel more comfortable and welcome. Nearly all the following names listed volunteered for both weeks: Danny and Jean Ball, Penny Bell, Betty Blott, Susan Buckley, Audrey Christie, Karen Clark, Tom and Elaine Coltharp, Marty Craig, Diane Davis, Shirley Dukes, Bobby Ezell, Robbie Ganek, Wayne and Deborah Geddes, Martha Haines, Mary Ann Hoskins, Pat Hudson, Judy Hughes, Ann Johnson, Donna Kattner, Liz Kessler, B.C. Linton, Tom and Joan Lowery, Judy Lucas, Charlene Muller, David and Cheryl Nichol, Steve and Catherine Scheffler, Paula Shepherd, Don and Marilyn Stewart, Marty Taylor, Pat Voorhees, Mary Watrous, Tom and Susan Young, and the WNL group.

Our next Family Promise Week is scheduled for February 4th.

Wednesday Night Live Menu - February 7th

Cowboy cornbread topped with BBQ beef

Waldorf salad

S'mores

Registration for the 13th Annual Sew-a-thon February 4-18



Registration begins today for the 13th Annual Sew-a-thon, which will be held on February 24th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Family Life Center. Stop by the registration table, located in the Narthex, and sign up to participate. The purpose of the Sew-a-thon is to

make as many children's quilts as possible in one day. The quilts are donated to the Bags of Love organization, which is sponsored by the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The quilts, along with age/gender appropriate books, games, toys, and toiletry items, go in the Bags of Love which are given to children in Montgomery County who are removed from their homes by Children's Protective Services. If you don't sew, there are other ways you can participate, such as ironing and tying quilts. If you are unavailable on the 24th, 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 may 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.



Items Needed for the Bags of Love

Stuffed animals

Coloring books

Crayons

Books – all ages

Toddler toys

Boy toys – all ages

Baby rattles

Baby teething rings

Kids toothpaste

Kids toothbrush

Baby 3 in 1

Notebooks

Kids 3 in 1 (body wash, shampoo, conditioner) Calculators

*Items should be small enough to fit in Bags of Love

Calendar of Weekly Events

Sunday February 4	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Fellowship (Bistro)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Praise band (Gym)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105): "The Book of Habakkuk - A Very Different Prophet."</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class with Cara Wood (Rm. 204) "Knowing the Bible – A Study of Romans", by Jared Wilson</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Rm. 207) "Micah: Social Injustice and the Covenant Community"</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 www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Committee Meetings</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. Chili Cookoff (Gym)</p>
Monday February 5	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)

Save the Date

February 14	Ash Wednesday Service
February 17	Go Texan Parade in Downtown Conroe
February 19	PDS & CISD Holiday (President's Day)
February 24	Sew-a-Thon
March 1	Life Line Screenings
March 3	Volunteer Sunday
March 17	Annual Meeting

<i>Tuesday</i> <i>February 6</i>	10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>February 7</i>	9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105) 3:30 p.m. Bible Study with Gordon Juhl: <i>Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life</i> (Rm. 206) 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal (Gym) 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 6:00 p.m. Bible Study with Rev. Candee: <i>Fasting & Feasting In This Season Of Lent</i> (Rm. 207) 6:00 p.m. Bible Study with Ron Massey: <i>Faith and Prayer</i> (Rm. 206) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)
<i>Sunday</i> <i>February 11</i>	8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary) 9:00 a.m. Fellowship (Bistro) 9:00 a.m. Praise band (Gym) 9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105): “The Book of Habakkuk - A Very Different Prophet.” 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class with Cara Wood (Rm. 204) <i>Knowing the Bible – A Study of Romans</i> , by Jared Wilson 9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) 9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Rm. 207) “Micah: Social Injustice and the Covenant Community” 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)

Prayer List

Members: Karen Hethershaw, Jo Miller, Reed Watson, John Lancaster, Nedra Murphy, Kari Elliott, Tildon Hebert, David Green, Ron Bailey, Joanne Deaver, Alice Helms, Polly Miller, Jean Ball, Roy Kessler, Mary Hudson, Flem Keathley, Paul Ivison, Don Myer, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: Marie J. (Das), Tom J. & family, Bill M. (Browder), Lee family (Corbit), Byer family and Tony N. (Spinks), Gloria L. and Merri H. (Amoneno), Buddy H. (Hayter), Amanda N. (Bosse), Brenda H. (Cannon), Scott P. (Peterson), Mary T. (Nichols), Linda S., Larry B., Janie M. (Harrison), Genevieve W. (Morton), Lindsey W. (Walker), Karl W. (Watt), Lisa J. (Miller), Shannon L. (Diamond), Rick J., Sydney H. and Martha K. (Juhl), Michael R. (Dwyer), Harry S., Jr. and family (Havens), Joy D. (Rose), Beth D. (Davis), Lynn G. (Shepherd), Steve T., Lonnie H. and Vivian M. (Hammonds), Wendy C. (Harshbarger), Wendy C., Christy V. (Massey), Cherlyn R., Carrie U., Gloria S. (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), Judy N. (Dukes), Sherry M. (Garrison), Lee H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Gerald H. (Roberts), Tucker H. (Hudson)

Good Things to Know

Attendance

Sunday, January 28th

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 22

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 123

Online Worship Attendance - 28

Total Attendance - 173

Today's Worship Leader

Mark Sowden / FP Youth

Visitor Form

Thank you for coming! We would love to get to know you.

Please complete this form by tearing it off and dropping it in the offertory plate. Or, if you would prefer to complete this form online, please visit our website at www.fpcConroe.org.

Contact Information

Name(s): _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Children's Information

Children's Names (Please indicate last name if different):

Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Getting Involved in the Life of the Church

(Please check all that apply)

- I would like more information about membership.
- I would like information about baptism.
- I would like to be contacted by a Stephen Minister.
- Contact me about getting involved in the church.

Please contact me regarding:

Adult Sunday School Bible Studies

Children & Nursery Men's groups

Women's groups Greeters

Handbells Choir

Other:

How did you first hear about us? (Please circle one)

Facebook

Drive by

Website

Friend/Family

Other

Ministry Leaders

Administration	Cheryl Nichols (2025, Chair)
Building & Grounds	Bill Harshbarger (2026, Chair)
Care-Prayer	Bob Shepherd (2024, Chair)
Discipleship	Mark Sowden (2024, Chair)
	Dena Sowden (2024)
	Alex Williams (2024)
	Masen Stuntz (2025)
Fellowship	TBD
Membership	Steve Scheffler (2025)
Missions	Bobby Ezell (2024, Chair)
	Catherine Scheffler (2025)
PDS	Sharon Walker (2025, Chair)
Worship	Randy Blanton and Mike Wisda (2026, Co-chairs)

For Pastoral Care, Contact Rev. Callie Candee

Greetings from Reverend Callie Candee! I'm so grateful to have been asked to assist with pastoral care duties here at First Presbyterian Church-Conroe. I'll be available for phone and home visits. I'm carrying the church's emergency phone and can be contacted directly at (936) 290-4535.



Staff and Church Information

Staff

Rev. Callie Candee, Pastoral Care
Rev. Greg Han, Temporary Pulpit Pastor
Dena Sowden, Director of Christian Education
Sharon VanSchuyver, Director of Communications
Stephanie Cooke, Music Director
Rolethial McKelvey, Accompanist
Jackye Cannon and Jane Corbit, Bookkeeping
Yvonne Rose, Office Manager
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

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Mailing Address:

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