

First Presbyterian Church

February 16, 2025

Welcome



Sermon:
“Going Off the Deep End”

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First Presbyterian Church of Conroe Welcomes You!



Visitors and Guests: We are excited you have chosen to worship with us today! As a small token of our appreciation, we invite you to stop by the Welcome Desk in the narthex to pick up a complimentary FPC Conroe bookmark and a church brochure. We hope to see you again soon!

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

Sean Morton

Today's Flowers

There is no flower dedication today.

Last Week's Attendance, February 9

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 22

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 105

Online Worship Attendance - 23

Total Attendance – 150

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

We gather to give thanks to you, O Lord.
With all our heart, we sing grateful praise.
We will sing your praises before all creation, O Lord.
And we rejoice in your steadfast love.
You have created us and called us, O Lord.
In you we live and move and have our being.

*Hymn

The Gift of Love

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain;
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Please stand if able.

*Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our sins from us.

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

Psalm 138; Luke 5:1-11

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Going Off the Deep End”

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

Because He Lives

1. God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy He gives.
But greater still the calm assurance,
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.
(Refrain)

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Copyright Information

†

"The Gift of Love" Text: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
Tune: GIFT OF LOVE, LM: Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933
© 1972. Hope Publishing Co.

"O Christ, the Great Foundation"
by Timothy Lew and Samuel Sebastian Wesley
trans. Mildred A. Wiant
Text © 1977 from Hymns of Universal Praise, revised edition. By the Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd., Hong Kong. CCL # 2714264

"Be Not Afraid"
By Taylor Davis
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"Because He Lives"
Text: Gloria Gaither, b. 1942, and William J. Gaither, b. 1936
Tune: RESSURECTION, 9 8 9 12 with refrain: William J. Gaither, b. 1936;

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 gather to give thanks to you, O Lord.
With all our heart, we sing grateful praise.
We will sing your praises before all creation, O Lord.
And we rejoice in your steadfast love.
You have created us and called us, O Lord.
In you we live and move and have our being.

*Hymn

The Gift of Love

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain;
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

*Call to Confession

*Please stand if able.

*Prayer of Confession

O Lord our God, you know who we are: a mixed bag with good consciences and bad; people who are content and people who are discontent; those who are certain and those who are unsure; those who believe, those who half-**believe, and those who don't know what they** believe.

You know who we are and from whence we have come: a circle of friends and loved ones or from great loneliness; from a life of relative comfort or from a life of confusion and distress; from a well-ordered home or from one that is disordered and under stress; from the inner pillars of the congregation or from its outer edges.

Whoever we are and wherever we have come from, we are all different, yet we are all in the wrong with you and with one another. We would all be lost without your grace, and we cannot make sense of our lives apart from your life made known to us in Jesus Christ. Forgive our sins this day and grant us the freedom to become the forgiven, reconciled, and beloved people you have made us to be in Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our sins from us.

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

*Doxology

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

*Choral Response

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem

Be Not Afraid

Davis

Scripture Reading

Psalm 138

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #443

O Christ, the Great Foundation

1. O Christ, the great foundation
On which your people stand
To preach Your true salvation
In every age and land:
Pour out Your Holy Spirit
To make us strong and pure,
To keep the faith unbroken
As long as worlds endure.
2. Baptized in one confession,
One church in all the earth,
We bear our Lord's impression,
The sign of second birth:
One holy people gathered
In love beyond our own,
By grace we were invited,
By grace we make You known.
4. This is the moment glorious
When He who once was dead
Shall lead His church victorious,
Their champion and their head.
The Lord of all creation
His heavenly kingdom brings,
The final consummation,
The glory of all things.

Scripture Reading

Luke 5:1-11

Sermon

"Going Off the Deep End"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

*Hymn

Because He Lives

1. God sent His son, they called Him Jesus
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, All fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
And feel the pride and joy He gives.
But greater still the calm assurance,
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.
(Refrain)

*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

Psalm 138

¹ I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; ² I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything. ³ On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul.

⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth. ⁵ They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. ⁶ For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly, but the haughty he perceives from far away.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me. ⁸ The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Luke 5:1-11

¹ Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, ² he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. ³ He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. ⁴ **When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch."** ⁵ Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I **will let down the nets.**" ⁶ When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. ⁷ So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. ⁸ But when Simon Peter saw it, **he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!"** ⁹ For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, ¹⁰ and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, **"Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people."** ¹¹ When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

Notes



What's For Dinner?

Wednesday Night Live meals are as follows:

February 19	Creamy vegetable soup
February 26	Chicken and dumpling casserole
March 5	Pancake supper

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.

Annual Background Checks

It is time for annual background checks. If you are a volunteer working with children under the age of 18, in any capacity, and have not completed a background check in the last year, please go to the following link to complete a background check form <https://ciaresearch.com/ec=FPCBasic>. If you need a background check with driving record (to drive the church bus), please contact Dena Sowden for that form at DSowden@FPCConroe.org.

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.

20's, 30's, 40's Group

For those who are in our young adult age range, please plan to join us at Tuscan Italian Grill (1259 Grand Central Parkway, Conroe 77304) on February 21, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. The church will provide complimentary babysitting during that time. Parents, please bring dinner for your children.

For questions, info, or to RSVP join in the GroupMe Chat at https://groupme.com/join_group/105432657/cAkhv1EM and include your child care needs, so we can plan accordingly. Can't wait to see you there!

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>

73rd Annual Men's Conference at Mo Ranch

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.

Quilt Raffle



The Mission Sewing Group will be holding a Quilt Raffle in conjunction with the upcoming Sew-a-Thon. Tickets will be for sale at the Sew-a-Thon Registration Table in the Narthex before and after the 11:00 Service for the next three Sundays, and during the Sew-a-Thon on February 22. Tickets are \$5 donation for one ticket and \$20 donation for 5 tickets. The drawing will be at 2:00 on February 22.

The Winner of the 2025 Quilt Raffle will choose either one quilt on display or one quilt from our "stash." **Winner's choice! Pictures can be seen below.** Proceeds will go to the FPC Forever Fund.



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.

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 16</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) 12:30 p.m. Session Meeting (Rm. 105) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>February 17</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>February 19</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>Saturday</i> <i>February 22</i></p>	<p>9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Annual Sew-a-Thon (FLC) 1:00 p.m. Go Texan Parade (Downtown Conroe)</p>

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Save the Date

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

February 21 Young Adult Dinner at Tuscany Italian Grill

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 family of Joe Clark, the Spinks family, Jackye Cannon, Roy Kessler, Judy Weinburger, Ruth Masters, Paula Shepherd, Kyle Walker, Glenna Lang, 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