

First Presbyterian Church

February 23, 2025



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Gospel Music Sunday

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

Chloe Folts

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Judy Weinburger, to honor all who believe in Christ.

Last Week's Attendance, February 16

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 24

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 139

Online Worship Attendance - 34

Total Attendance – 197

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

From everlasting to everlasting, you are our God. Your Word brings life, and we meditate on it day and night.

Happy are those who walk in the ways of the Lord!

You are the living water, and we would be planted by your streams.

Happy are those who walk in the ways of the Lord!

You bring forth fruit in due season and bless our work.

Happy are those who walk in the ways of the Lord!

Apart from you we are nothing, but with you we will flourish.

Happy are those who walk in the ways of the Lord!

*Hymn

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Refrain:

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.

1. I looked over Jordan, and what did I see
Coming for to carry me home.
A band of angels coming after me,
Coming for to carry me home. O, [Refrain]

2. If you get there before I do,
Coming for to carry me home.
Tell all my friends I'm coming too,
Coming for to carry me home. O, [Refrain]

3. The brightest day that ever I saw
Coming for to carry me home.
When Jesus washed my sins away,
Coming for to carry me home. O, [Refrain]

*Please stand if able.

4. I'm sometimes up and sometimes down,
Coming for to carry me home.
But still my soul feels heav'nly bound,
Coming for to carry me home. O, [Refrain]

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

We are all sinners; this is true. And the wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 1; Luke 6:17-26

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“#Blessed”

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

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain when my God spoke,
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
All around me, it looked so shine,
I asked my Lord if all was mine. [Refrain]

2. 'Ol Jordan River, chilly and cold,
It chills the body, but not the soul.
There ain't but one train that's on this track,
It runs to heaven and runs right back. [Refrain]

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *When the Saints Go Marching In*

Call to Worship

From everlasting to everlasting, you are our God. Your Word brings life, and we meditate on it day and night.

Happy are those who walk in the ways of the Lord!

You are the living water, and we would be planted by your streams.

Happy are those who walk in the ways of the Lord!

You bring forth fruit in due season and bless our work.

Happy are those who walk in the ways of the Lord!

Apart from you we are nothing, but with you we will flourish.

Happy are those who walk in the ways of the Lord!

*Hymn

Down to the River to Pray

As I went down to the river to pray,

studyin' about that good ol' way

and who shall wear the starry crown.

Good Lord, show me the way.

O sisters, let's go down,

let's go down, come on down,

O sisters, let's go down,

down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray,

studyin' about that good ol' way

and who shall wear the robe and crown.

Good Lord, show me the way.

O brothers, let's go down,

let's go down, come on down,

Come on brothers, let's go down,

down to the river to pray.

*Please stand if able.

As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown.
Good Lord, show me the way.
O fathers, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down,
O fathers, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the robe and crown.
Good Lord, show me the way.
O mothers, let's go down,
come on down, don't-cha wanna go down.
Come on mothers, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown.
Good Lord, show me the way.
O sinners, let's go down,
let's go down, come on down,
O sinners, let's go down,
down to the river to pray.

As I went down to the river to pray,
studyin' about that good ol' way
and who shall wear the starry crown.
Good Lord, show me the way.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

O Lord, in our worship we are bold to proclaim that Christ has risen from the dead and that anyone who is in Christ is raised to new life. But in our everyday lives we often live as if there is no resurrection. We continue to fall into our old patterns of living. We continue to orient our lives as if nothing has changed at all. We say that Christ is Lord, but we continue to be ruled by our own ambitions and desires. We proclaim empty words that we ourselves are not even sure we believe. We expect little and hope for even less.

Help us, O merciful God, to believe the good news. Help us, day by day, to believe in and become the new creation that you already say we are. By your Spirit, make us so bold as to worship, pray, work, and live as resurrection people so that all our lives may be living testimonies to the crucified and risen Lord.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

We are all sinners; this is true. And the wages of sin is death. But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 and The Lord's Prayer**

*Choral Response

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem

Fly Away to Glory

Hart

Scripture Reading

Psalm 1

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Refrain:

Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.
Swing low, sweet chariot,
Coming for to carry me home.

1. I looked over Jordan, and what did I see
Coming for to carry me home.
A band of angels coming after me,
Coming for to carry me home. O, [Refrain]
2. If you get there before I do,
Coming for to carry me home.
Tell all my friends I'm coming too,
Coming for to carry me home. O, [Refrain]
3. The brightest day that ever I saw
Coming for to carry me home.
When Jesus washed my sins away,
Coming for to carry me home. O, [Refrain]
4. **I'm sometimes up and sometimes down,**
Coming for to carry me home.
But still my soul feels heav'nly bound,
Coming for to carry me home. O, [Refrain]

Scripture Reading

Luke 6:17-26

Sermon

“#Blessed”

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

*Hymn

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

Refrain:

Every time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart, I will pray.
Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit
moving in my heart I will pray.

1. Upon the mountain when my God spoke,
Out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.
All around me, it looked so shine,
I asked my Lord if all was mine. [Refrain]

2. 'Ol Jordan River, chilly and cold,
It chills the body, but not the soul.
There ain't but one train that's on this track,
It runs to heaven and runs right back. [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 1

¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked or take the path that sinners tread or sit in the seat of scoffers, ² but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. ³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away. ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous, ⁶ for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Luke 6:17-26

¹⁷ He came down with them and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

²² “Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³ Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ **“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.**

²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

Notes



Your Weekly Connection

February 23,
2025

What's For Dinner?

Wednesday Night Live meals are as follows:

February 26 Chicken fajitas

March 5 Pancake supper

Annual Meeting of the Congregation March 2

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on March 2nd 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.

Sunday, March 2 – Lunch is Served!



Lunch will be provided for the congregation following the **11:00 service on Sunday, March 2. Raising Cane's** chicken will be served, along with sides and dessert.

The lunch is provided to kick off our Capital Campaign to raise funds to reduce our building debt. By doing so, our church can use funds we now pay for debt service (about 25% of our budget) toward church outreach, education, and staff.

You are invited to join us for lunch to find out about the Capital Campaign and how you can be part of this opportunity. We hope to see you there!

Ash Wednesday Meal and Worship March 5

On March 5th we will have our final Wednesday Night Live of the season. Our traditional pancake supper will be served at 5:00 p.m., followed by our Ash Wednesday worship service at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. We hope to see you there.

Prayer Workshop: Fasting and Feasting on the Word During Lent

Rev. Callie Candee will be hosting a Prayer Session for Lenten Practices on March 8, from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

In the season of Lent we are called to the discipline of fasting as one of ways we demonstrate our love for Christ as He heads to Jerusalem to offer himself up for us. Fasting is commonly held up as the physical act of refraining from food, but fasting can also include the conscious decision to refrain from attitudes and behaviors that block us from God and from one another. Feasting on **God's Word and engaging in loving and compassionate words and deeds affirms our joy in this season.** I've chosen **Isaiah 58: 1-12** for our contemplation and I encourage you to begin to sit with this text as the workshop approaches. A sign up sheet will be available soon; also, feel free to contact me via email at calliecandee@yahoo.com.

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. She can be reached at CallieCandee@yahoo.com.

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 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.

Annual Background Checks

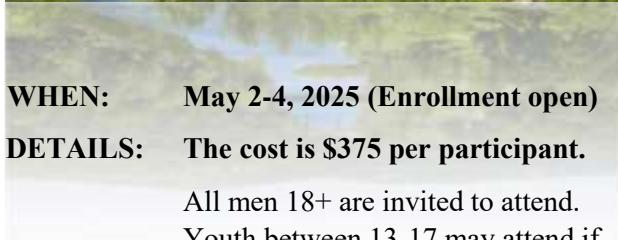
It is time for annual background checks. If you are a volunteer working with children under the age of 18, in any capacity, and have not completed a background check in the last year, please go to the following link to complete a background check form <https://ciaresearch.com/ec=FPCBasic>. If you need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

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.



73rd Annual Men's Conference at Mo Ranch



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@fpcconroe.org.

Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> February 23</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>
<p><i>Monday</i> February 24</p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> February 26</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>

*Sunday
March 2*

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. Lunch is Served! (See page 13 for details)
12:30 p.m. Committee Meetings
5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)

Save the Date

March 2 Annual Meeting of the Congregation

March 5 Ash Wednesday Service
and Pancake Supper



March 9 Daylight Saving Time begins

March 15 Installation of Rev. Saathoff

March 10-14 PDS/CISD Spring Break



March 28 Life Line Screenings at FPC

Prayer List

Members: The family of Joe Clark, 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

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Website: www.fpcConroe.org

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Suite 140, # 349, Conroe, TX 77304