

First Presbyterian Church

March 2, 2025



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Communion 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

Martha Haines

Today's Flowers

There is no flower dedication today.

Last Week's Attendance, February 23

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 21

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 147

Online Worship Attendance - 23

Total Attendance – 191

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Come, people of God, let us lift our hearts in worship.

We come to sing of God's grace, the streams of mercy never ceasing.

God has called us by his love and sealed us from his courts above.

Tune our hearts, O Lord, to sing your praise.

Though we are prone to wander, God's love draws us back to him.

Bind our hearts to you, O Lord, that we may walk in your ways.

*Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home:
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

*Please stand if able.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter,
Bind my wand'ring heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Just as the Magi were led by the light of the star to find Christ, so too does
God's grace lead us to the light of his mercy.

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

Proverbs 11:24-28; Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Bearing Gifts”

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

Trust and Obey

1. When we walk with the Lord
In the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will;
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

Refrain:

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

3. But we never can prove
The delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows
And the joy He bestows
Are for them who will trust and obey. [Refrain]

4. Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey. [Refrain]

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Copyright Information

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"Be Thou My Vision"

arr. by Dan Forrest (ASCA)

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11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Introit V* *Folts*

Call to Worship

Come, people of God, let us lift our hearts in worship.

We come to sing of God's grace, the streams of mercy never ceasing.

God has called us by his love and sealed us from his courts above.

Tune our hearts, O Lord, to sing your praise.

Though we are prone to wander, God's love draws us back to him.

Bind our hearts to you, O Lord, that we may walk in your ways.

*Hymn Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
Sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
Mount of Thy redeeming love.

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Hither by Thy help I'm come;
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
Safely to arrive at home:
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
Wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
Interposed His precious blood.

*Please stand if able.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be!
Let Thy grace, Lord, like a fetter,
Bind my wand'ring heart to thee:
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
Prone to leave the God I love;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,
Seal it for Thy courts above.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Most Holy Lord, you are a God of grace and good gifts. Forgive us, we pray, when we fail to offer grace to others. Forgive us when we withhold our best gifts from you. Give us servant spirits to give just as freely as we have received, that we may be true and faithful disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Just as the Magi came to Jesus bearing gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, let us come to Christ this season bearing gifts from the heart to grow his kingdom. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Just as the Magi were led by the light of the star to find Christ, so too does **God's grace lead us to the light of his mercy.**

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

Be Thou My Vision

Forrest

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Choral Response

The Word

Scripture Readings

Proverbs 11:24-28; Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Bearing Gifts”

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. 'O 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]

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Lord, Make Us More Holy

Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy,
Until we meet again.

*Postlude

This Week's Scripture Readings

Proverbs 11:24-28

²⁴ Some give freely yet grow all the richer;
others withhold what is due and only suffer want.

²⁵ A generous person will be enriched,
and one who gives water will get water.

²⁶ The people curse those who hold back grain,
but a blessing is on the head of those who sell it.

²⁷ Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor,
but evil comes to the one who searches for it.

²⁸ Those who trust in their riches will wither,
but the righteous will flourish like green leaves.

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “**Where is the** child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east **and have come to pay him homage.**”

⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Notes



Your Weekly Connection

March 2, 2025

Annual Meeting of the Congregation Today

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place today at the 11:00 worship service. 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 available.

Lunch is Served!



Lunch will be provided for the congregation following the 11:00 service today. 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 you will join us for this special evening.

Installation of Rev. Seth Saathoff on March 15

Please mark your calendars now for the installation of Rev. Saathoff. His installation will take place on Saturday, March 15, at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be provided after the service, so we hope you will join us for this important event.

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

Young adults, this month we will gather at the home of Elizebeth Ackley (1007 Windswept Dr., Conroe 77301) on March 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, call Elizebeth at (936) 827-2533 or 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!

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.

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.

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.

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@FPCCConroe.org.

Children's Church Starts March 16

After the Children's Sermon, children between 5-8 will be invited to attend Children's Church, where they will pray, sing praise songs, and learn Bible stories - everything we do in a regular church service, but more age-appropriate. Children will return to the sanctuary for the final hymn.

Volunteers are needed, so please use the link or scan the QR code to pick a date!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CABAD2EA2F94-55218097-childrens>



Can You Hear Me Now?

If you are missing a hearing aid, one was recently found in the Sanctuary. If you are missing anything that you think might have been lost on any given Sunday, please check the Lost & Found in the church office. Thank you.

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.



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@fpcconroe.org.

Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i> <i>March 2</i>	<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. Lunch is Served! (See page 13 for details) 12:30 p.m. Committee Meetings 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<i>Monday</i> <i>March 3</i>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>March 5</i>	<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 Pancake Supper (FLC) 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service (Sanctuary) 6:00 p.m. "Jesus and Me" for Youth (Youth Commons area) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>
<i>Saturday</i> <i>March 8</i>	<p>10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Prayer Workshop with Rev. Callie Candee</p>

*Sunday
March 9*

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)

Save the Date

March 8	Prayer Workshop: Fasting and Feasting on the Word During Lent
March 9	Daylight Saving Time Begins
March 10-14	PDS/CISD Spring Break
March 15	Installation of Rev. Saathoff
March 28	Life Line Screenings at FPC
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 17	Maundy Thursday
April 18	Good Friday
April 20	Easter Sunday Services / Easter Egg Hunt
April 27	Youth Auction & Mystery Dinner



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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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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Suite 140, # 349, Conroe, TX 77304