

First Presbyterian Church

March 9, 2025



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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

Carly Hart

Today's Flowers

There is no flower dedication today.

Last Week's Attendance, March 2

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 24

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 140

Online Worship Attendance - 18

Total Attendance – 182

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

We come to worship the king who was revealed to the Magi.
We come seeking the king, following the light of his star.
The kings of the earth sought their thrones, but Jesus came as a humble child.
We come seeking a king whose reign is not of this world.
Come, let us seek the king of all creation.
We will worship the king with thanksgiving!

*Hymn #379

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
(Refrain)

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
(Refrain)

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The Magi sought out Jesus. What they found was joy in abundance. When we seek Jesus, what we find is grace and forgiveness in abundance.

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

I Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Seeking the King"

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 #363

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1. I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
3. **When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;**
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"
Music: Arrangement © 1990 Westminster/John Knox Press.

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Introit V

Folts

Call to Worship

We come to worship the king who was revealed to the Magi.
We come seeking the king, following the light of his star.
The kings of the earth sought their thrones, but Jesus came as a humble child.
We come seeking a king whose reign is not of this world.
Come, let us seek the king of all creation.
We will worship the king with thanksgiving!

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My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1. My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

2. When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
My anchor holds within the veil.
(Refrain)

*Please stand if able.

3. His oath, His covenant, His blood
Support me in the whelming flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.
(Refrain)

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Lord, we come seeking you, as the Magi once did, following the light of your star. Yet, like them, we often miss the true nature of your kingdom. We have sought after things of this world and failed to honor you with our lives. We have failed to offer you our gifts, our hearts, and our worship. Forgive us, O king, for our distractions and our reluctance to surrender fully to your reign. Guide us, by your grace, to seek you above all else, and to live in the light of your love. In the name of Jesus Christ, the king, we pray. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The Magi sought out Jesus. What they found was joy in abundance. When we seek Jesus, what we find is grace and forgiveness in abundance.

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

Psalm 23

Sorenson

Scripture Reading

I Timothy 6:17-19

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*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.

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.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12

Sermon

"Seeking the King"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #363

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1. I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
All along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
3. **When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;**
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

*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

I Timothy 6:17-19

¹⁷ As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. ¹⁸ They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, ¹⁹ thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

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



Installation Service of Rev. Seth Saathoff 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. We ask that you notify the church office if you plan to attend, so we get an approximate head count. 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!

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.

73rd Annual Men's Conference at Mo Ranch

All men 18+ are invited to attend the Annual Men's Conference at Mo Ranch May 2-4. Youth between 13-17 may attend if they register with an accompanying adult sponsor and the cost is \$375 per participant. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rev. Seth Saathoff at ssaathoff@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>



Special screening package for \$159 for our members includes:

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ FREE Hypertension Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!
888-814-0466 and use code: HSCA001

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

Three circular images arranged in a cluster. The top circle shows a healthcare professional in blue scrubs performing a medical screening on a patient lying down. The bottom-left circle shows a smiling woman in a pink shirt holding a red apple. The bottom-right circle shows a smiling couple embracing each other.

Life Line Screening Event March 28, 2025

FPC will be hosting a Life Line Screening event on 3/28/2025. 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.

When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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.

Matthew 2: 10:11

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF



March 2 marked the beginning of our congregational capital campaign, **“Gifts from the Heart to Grow His Kingdom.”** Pastor Seth’s message of the gifts offered by the wise men to Jesus rings true today for the gifts that we can offer to grow His kingdom.

Purpose: **Reduce the church’s debt**

When our debt was refinanced in 2022, one of the loan stipulations was that we conduct a capital campaign within a set time.

Goal: \$800,000 to be paid over 3 years

Visiting stewards will contact individual members to meet during March or April to provide information and answer questions.

Benefit: More funds available for church outreach and operations

While the capital campaign is a requirement, there is a tremendous benefit. Our loan will be re-amortized so that our monthly debt service payments will decrease, and we can use these funds toward our church outreach and operations. By the end of the 3 year-campaign, we hope to save \$5,830 monthly, or almost \$70,000 annually. While our goal is \$800,000, any additional amounts received will be used for debt reduction, and we can increase the **amount of funds that can be used for God’s kingdom.**

Individual Participation: Please pray for your individual gift and the overall success of our campaign so that FPC-Conroe can further our outreach to **grow God’s Kingdom.**

Celebration Sunday: May

In May, we will celebrate the amounts pledged for our capital campaign. Just as the wise men rejoiced, we will joyfully celebrate and pay homage to Christ with our gifts to grow His kingdom.

14th Annual Sew-a-Thon

The Mission Sewing Group would like to thank all who worked to make the 2025 Sew-a-Thon a success. It really is a team effort and takes many hands to make it happen. We would especially like to thank Shirley Dukes and her cooking team for preparing the delicious lunch.



The Sew-a-Thon continues to grow. This year, approximately 130 participated by sewing, tying quilts, ironing, cooking and in various other ways. There were men who ironed, tied quilts,



worked in the kitchen, lifted sewing machines out of trunks to deliver them to sewing tables and hooked up electrical cords and power strips. Their help was greatly appreciated. The sewers worked on precut quilt fabric to produce the quilt tops the Mission Sewing Group will spend the next months completing. Completed quilts will be given to Bags of Love, along with

age/gender appropriate books, games, toys and toiletry items. Funds raised through the quilt raffle, silent auction and store go the FPC Forever Fund, Bags of Love and the Mission Sewing Group.

Thank you for making the 2025 Sew-a-Thon a success. We feel blessed we can sew together to help the children of Montgomery County.



Mark your calendars for the 2026 Sew-a-thon. It is always the last Saturday of February. Hope to see you in 2026.

~ Liz and Linda



Additional pictures and
Sew-a-Thon coverage
can be found in your
April The Link.

Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>March 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) Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, 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> <i>March 10</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>March 12</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105) 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>
<p><i>Saturday</i> <i>March 15</i></p>	<p>11:00 a.m. Installation of Rev. Seth Saathoff (Sanctuary) <i>Followed by lunch in the FLC.</i></p>

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>March 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) Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, 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)</p>
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Save the Date

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, Roy Kessler, Judy Weinburger, Ruth Masters, 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 (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., 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), 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