

First Presbyterian Church

March 16, 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

Masen Stuntz

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Soren Rose, in celebration of life, love, and family thru Jesus Christ.

Last Week's Attendance, March 9

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 21

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 125

Online Worship Attendance - 16

Total Attendance – 162

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

We come seeking the light, the star that leads us to Christ.

The nations shall come to his light, and kings to the brightness of his dawn.

We follow the star, drawn by the hope and promise of our Savior.

In the light of Christ, the darkness cannot overcome us.

With joy, we step forward, guided by his truth and love.

Come, let us worship the one who was revealed to the world!

We lift our hearts to the Light of the World, Jesus Christ our Lord!

*Hymn #555

Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God's grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

*Please stand if able.

3. All praise and thanks to God,
Who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son
And Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God,
Whom heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is,
And shall be evermore.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Arise and take heart! The light of Christ has come into the world, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Though we have wandered, the light of Christ leads us back to him.

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 Chronicles 29:14-17; Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Following Yonder Star"

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 #176

Majesty, Worship His Majesty

Majesty, worship his majesty;
unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
flow from his throne unto his own;
his anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship his majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

*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

Introit V

Folts

Call to Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come! The glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

We come seeking the light, the star that leads us to Christ.

The nations shall come to his light, and kings to the brightness of his dawn.

We follow the star, drawn by the hope and promise of our Savior.

In the light of Christ, the darkness cannot overcome us.

With joy, we step forward, guided by his truth and love.

Come, let us worship the one who was revealed to the world!

We lift our hearts to the Light of the World, Jesus Christ our Lord!

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1. Now thank we all our God
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom this world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers' arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

2. O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in God's grace,
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

*Please stand if able.

3. All praise and thanks to God,
Who reigns in highest heaven,
To Father and to Son
And Spirit now be given.
The one eternal God,
Whom heaven and earth adore,
The God who was, and is,
And shall be evermore.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of light and truth, we confess that we have often wandered from your path. Though the star has shone brightly, we have failed to follow where you lead. We have been distracted by lesser lights—our own desires, our own fears, our own ambitions—turning away from the radiance of Christ. Forgive us, Lord, for the times we have chosen darkness over light, selfishness over love, and comfort over faithful obedience. Lead us once more by your guiding star, that we may seek Christ with all our hearts, offer him the gifts of our lives, and walk as children of the light. In his name, we pray. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Arise and take heart! The light of Christ has come into the world, and the darkness cannot overcome it. Though we have wandered, the light of Christ leads us back to him.

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

Scripture Reading | 1 Chronicles 29:14-17

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #391 Take My Life

1. Take my life, and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
4. Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect, and use
Every power as Thou shalt choose,
Every power as Thou shalt choose.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.

Sermon **“Following Yonder Star”** Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #176

Majesty, Worship His Majesty

Majesty, worship his majesty;
unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority,
flow from his throne unto his own;
his anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship his majesty,
Jesus who died, now glorified,
King of all kings.

*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 Chronicles 29:14-17

¹⁴ “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you. ¹⁵ For we are aliens and transients before you, as were all our ancestors; our days on the earth are like a shadow, and there is no hope. ¹⁶ O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all your own. ¹⁷ I know, my God, that you search the heart and take pleasure in uprightness; in the uprightness of my heart I have freely offered all these things, and now I have seen your people who are present here offering freely and joyously to you.

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



(Christ Loving Adult Presbyterians) C.L.A.P. 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!

New and Prospective Members Invited to "First Steps" Orientation Class on April 13

First Presbyterian Church Conroe and its Membership Committee will host a new and prospective member lunch and orientation class called First Steps on Sunday, April 13, from 12:30 p.m. (following the 11 a.m. worship service) until 1:45 p.m. in the Family Life Center Gym. First Steps gives new and prospective members an overview of the Christian faith, the Presbyterian tradition, and the mission and ministries of our church. Rev. Saathoff and several lay leaders will facilitate this class. Lunch and nursery will be provided.

Please confirm your attendance to Steve Scheffler at (281)-851-1690 or email: scscheffler@sbcglobal.net on or before April 9.

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 Today

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**



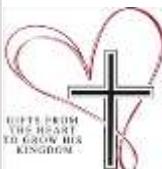
Life Line Screening Event March 28, 2025

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.

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)

Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday March 16</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) 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) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<i>Monday March 17</i>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<i>Wednesday March 19</i>	<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>

Sunday
March 23

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)

Save the Date

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



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)



*Thank You
for
Joining Us*

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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Mailing Address:

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