

First Presbyterian Church

March 23, 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

Chloe Folts

Today's Flowers

There is no flower dedication for today.

Last Week's Attendance, March 16

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 25

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 133

Online Worship Attendance - 28

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!
The Magi followed the star, seeking the newborn King.
We, too, come seeking Christ, the light of the world.
We bring the gifts of our hearts, our lives, and our faith.
With joy and wonder, we come to worship Christ, our King!

*Hymn #420

God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

4. Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
Pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Take heart, for Christ has come into the world—not to condemn, but to save. Just as the Magi were led to the Savior, so too are we drawn into God's grace.

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

Colossians 3:12-17; Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Going a Different Way”
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 #422

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

1. God, whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.

2. Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne

3. Treasure too You have entrusted,
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Copyright Information

†

"Seek Ye First" by Karen Lafferty

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"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"

Words by Robert L. Edwards
Music from The Sacred Harp

Text: ©1960 by The Hymn Society of America, Texas Christian University,
Fort Worth, Texas 76129.

Music: Harmonization ©1958. Renewal 1986 Broadman Press.
CCL # 2714264

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Be Thou My Vision
RPC Handbell Choir

Lamb

Call to Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come!
The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!
The Magi followed the star, seeking the newborn King.
We, too, come seeking Christ, the light of the world.
We bring the gifts of our hearts, our lives, and our faith.
With joy and wonder, we come to worship Christ, our King!

*Hymn #420

God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glory,
On Thy people pour Thy power;
Crown Thine ancient church's story;
Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

*Please stand if able.

4. Set our feet on lofty places;
Gird our lives that they may be
Armored with all Christ-like graces,
Pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
That we fail not them nor Thee!
That we fail not them nor Thee!

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of light and truth, we confess that we often walk in darkness.
You have shown us the way through Christ, yet we hesitate to follow.
Like the Magi, we seek you, but too often we are distracted by lesser
stars that lead us away from your presence. We cling to comfort in-
stead of stepping out in faith. We hold back our gifts instead of offer-
ing them freely. Forgive us, Lord. Shine Your light into our hearts,
guide our steps in your way, and help us to seek you above all else.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Take heart, for Christ has come into the world—not to condemn, but to
save. Just as the Magi were led to the Savior, so too are we drawn into
God's grace.

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

Oh, How I Love Jesus
FPC Handbell Choir

Ingram

Scripture Reading

Colossians 3:12-17

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #333

Seek Ye First

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-12

Sermon

“Going a Different Way”
Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #422

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

1. God, whose giving knows no ending,
From Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,
Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You,
Offering up ourselves in praise:
Thankful song shall rise forever,
Gracious donor of our days.

2. Skills and time are ours for pressing
Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom,
Races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants
Fit to answer at Your throne

3. Treasure too You have entrusted,
Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred,
And to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing,
As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
Serving You by loving all.

*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

Colossians 3:12-17

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

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



C.L.A.P. Group: Date Change to March 28

Young adults, this month we will gather at the home of Elizebeth Ackley (1007 Windswept Dr., Conroe 77301) on March 28, from 6:00-9:00 p.m., where pork loin, roasted veggies and salad will be provided! There will be plenty of space for games as well.

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!

Easter Lily Order and Dedications

As is our usual practice, we will have lilies for the Easter Sunday services, along with dedications in celebration, honor or memory of loved ones. Forms for dedications are located on page 19 of this bulletin (or you can pick one up at the Welcome Desk). Simply complete the form and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office with your payment of \$15 per lily. The deadline for lily orders is Thursday, April 10th.

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.

Mission Trip Parent Meeting

Parents of youth, please keep in mind that we have a Mission Trip Parent Meeting today, in the Youth Commons area, at 12:30 p.m. Please plan to join us.

Greeters Needed for 8:30 Service

We are in need of Greeters for the 8:30 am service. If you would be able to greet before and after the service, once a month, please contact Judy Weinburger at (713) 203-8458.

New Bible Study Series

On May 4, Frank Denton will host a one-hour class on Sunday evening at 5:00 p.m., **"The Bible, an Overview" as an introduction into his new Bible Study to begin in June.** It's a 52-week Bible Study on the book "Through The Bible In One Year". See the bulletin board across from the Choir hallway for details.

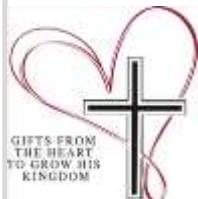
Prayer List Updates

In an effort to keep everyone informed with accurate and timely requests, we would like to update our prayer list. If someone on the prayer list no longer requires prayer, please make the church office staff aware. Thank you.

Welcome



*Welcome to new members that joined FPC March 16, 2025 (l. to r.):
John & Cathy Wright, Rev. Saathoff, Tommy & Jenni Taylor.*



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.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Our church's capital campaign to reduce our long-term debt will continue into the month of May. Pastor Seth continues his messages on "**Gifts from the Heart to Grow His Kingdom**," and you will be contacted individually about how you can participate. By bestowing our gifts to reduce the church's debt, our church will be able to use the savings on debt service payments for our outreach and mission to serve our Lord and share His love with others.

Purpose: Reduce the church's debt

Outcome: Use savings in interest payments toward outreach and operations

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

Pledges to Date: \$762,000 (God is good!)

What if we raise more than \$800,000? We can dedicate even more to outreach and operations! Here's how much we can dedicate to outreach and operations by the end of the 3-year campaign:

Debt Reduction	Savings (nearest 1,000)
\$800,000	\$70,000 annually
\$900,000	\$78,000 annually
\$1,000,000	\$86,000 annually

What can you do? Please pray for (1) the overall success of our campaign so that FPC-Conroe can further our outreach to grow God's Kingdom and (2) how God is calling you individually to be part of this opportunity. Visiting stewards will reach out to meet during March or April to provide information and answer questions.

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.

PDS Fundraiser

PDS is selling the [Slice the Price \(StP\) card](#) to raise money towards day school costs.

- The cost of the card is just \$20* so it can quickly pay for itself! * *plus shipping, if ordered online*
- Every time you buy a large pizza at menu price, you get a large pizza FREE!
- Great for parties! Get double the large pizzas no matter how many you order!
- UNLIMITED uses through 12/31/2025.

The Slice the Price card works in 1,879 Dominoes stores in 30 states, and counting.

Want to support without purchasing for yourself? Or want to give extra support? Donate [Slice the Price cards](#) directly to Presbyterian Day School!

- Enter the number of cards you want to donate. (Do not enter a dollar value!)
- Donated cards will be delivered to Presbyterian Day School at the end of their fundraiser.
- They get the same financial support as if you bought for yourself, PLUS they can resell or give away the cards you donated. Great for appreciation gifts, promotional items, and more!

You pay no shipping on donated cards. <https://store.dominos.cards/47291>

Children's Church

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>



Calendar of Weekly Events

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



*Sunday
March 30*

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)

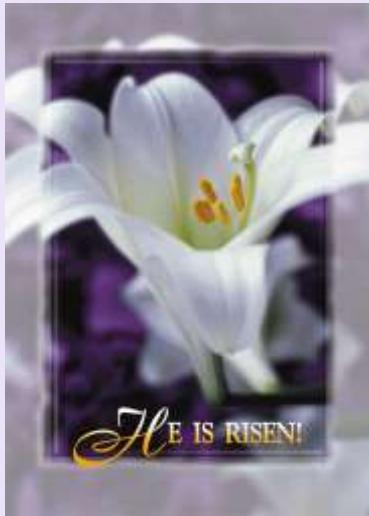
Save the Date

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)



Easter Lilies

History, mythology, and art are filled with stories and images that speak of the beauty and majesty of these elegant white flowers. One of the most famous Biblical references is in the Sermon on the Mount, when Christ said, "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they toil not, neither do they spin and yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

Often called the "White-Robed Apostles of Hope," lilies are said to have been found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. At Easter time, churches bank their communion tables and surround their crosses with masses of Easter Lilies, to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.

To help bring the beauty of the lily to our church this Easter, church members may purchase a lily in memory or in honor of a loved one, a special occasion or relevant event. Simply complete the information below and enclose a check or cash in the amount of \$15 for each lily. Place your form and payment in the collection plate or return to the church office. ***All orders should be in by Thursday, April 10th.***

Please print clearly.

Name _____

Number of lilies _____ Amount enclosed _____ Phone # _____

Designation _____

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

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Mailing Address:

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