

First Presbyterian Church

May 4, 2025



Sermon:

“Return and Renewal”

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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, April 27

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 23

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 134

Online Worship Attendance - 19

Total Attendance – 176

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

*Hymn #85

What Wondrous Love Is This

1. What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To bear the heavy cross for my soul, for my soul,
To bear the heavy cross for my soul!
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
To God and to the Lamb, I will sing;
To God and to the Lamb who is the great I am,
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ,
and Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life
has begun! Friends, believe in the gospel.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

The Word

Scripture Readings

Acts 9: 1-6; John 21: 1-19

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Return and Renewal”
Rev. Gregory Han

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 #122

Thine Is the Glory

1. Thine is the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave-clothes
Where Thy body lay.
2. Lo! Jesus meets us,
Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us,
Scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
Hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth;
Death hath lost its sting.
3. No more we doubt Thee,
Glorious Prince of life!
Life is nought without Thee;
Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
Through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
To Thy home above.

Refrain (last time only)
Thine is the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending*

Call to Worship

Mighty God calls from daybreak to dusk:

“Gather together my people.”

God's summons is not quiet or tame.

God comes like a wildfire, consuming all that stands in the way.

God comes like a whirlwind, determined to get our attention.

God's call echoes through the universe, in all times and places:

“Gather together my faithful people.”

Let us worship together, for the God of all creation calls.

*Hymn #85

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And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
And through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
And through eternity I'll sing on!

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Loving and merciful God, you created each of us in your own image to live in community. You graced us with the gifts of apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers. You equipped all for the work of ministry.

Yet too often we tarnish your image, waste our gifts, and refuse to accept your call to service.

We pray that you will shape us as you intended when you created us. Fill us with your Spirit and strengthen us to continue our journey. Complete the task of shaping the Christian community as one people of God. We trust that all things are possible through you.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ,
and Christ died for us,
Christ rose for us,
Christ reigns in power for us,
Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life has gone; a new life has begun! Friends, believe in the gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

Minute for Mission

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Walk by Faith!

Williams/Raney

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Choral Response

The Word

Scripture Readings

Acts 9: 1-6; John 21: 1-19

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

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Words of Institution
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1. Thine is the glory,
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3. No more we doubt Thee,
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Life is nought without Thee;
Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
Through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
To Thy home above.

Refrain (last time only)
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Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

May the Love of God Be With You

May the love of God be with you,
May He warm your ev'ry waking hour.
May His presence fill your longing spirit,
May He bless you with his healing power.
Even though you may be weary,
His strength is mighty as a rock.
He'll keep you and abide with you,
As long as on this earth we walk.
Amen.

*Postlude

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This Week's Scripture Readings

Acts 9: 1-6

¹ Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³ Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. ⁶ But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.”

John 21: 1-19

¹ After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. ² Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³ Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” ⁶ He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. ⁸ But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵ When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” ¹⁶ A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” ¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.” ¹⁸ Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” ¹⁹ (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

Notes



Mission Sunday Special Offering May 18



Our church has a long history of providing financial support and participation with local mission programs that address the issue of homelessness in our community. In more recent years, the Missions Committee has done this without being part of the regular church budget. We are blessed to be able to do this because of the generous financial support of our members. Our one major source of funding, the Mission Sunday Special Offering, will be Sunday, May 18. Along with sharing the love of Christ through service to others, please consider participating in this special offering with a donation. We want to continue to be a church with a strong mission focus – thank you for supporting this vital ministry!

Youth Auction & Mystery Dinner Thank You

Our generous church family never ceases to amaze! We are humbled and eternally grateful for the love and support you show for God's youth. Because of your extreme generosity, we raised a little over \$10,500 at the Youth Auction, which far exceeded our expectations! Thank you seems so little, but it is all we can say! **THANK YOU!** We are blessed to be even a small part of the life of this amazing congregation. God bless you all!

New Bible Study Series Overview Today

Frank Denton will host a one-hour class this evening, in Rm. 105 at 5:00 p.m., **"The Bible, an Overview"** as an introduction into his new Bible Study to begin in June. This study will take you through the Bible, Genesis through Revelation, in a 52-week period. We will cover a book (or two) each week in our one-hour study. As a guideline, we will use Dr. Alan B. Stringfellow's workbook, "Through the Bible in One Year". We hope you will join us.

Collecting Bibles Through June 1st

BIBLE DRIVE

Donate Bibles Here!

In most villages around the world, believers outnumber Bibles 300 to 1! Join us in ensuring all faithful followers of Jesus have access to His Word!

*ACCEPTING BIBLES IN ANY CONDITION & IN ANY TRANSLATION

PROJECT *Bible Runners*

www.projectbiblerunners.com



Children's Church

After the Children's Time, 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>



Greeters Needed for 8:30 Service

We are in need of greeters for the 8:30 a.m. service. If you would be able to greet before and after the service, once a month, please contact Judy Weinburger at (713) 202-8458.

Mother's Day Brunch May 11

We want to say "Happy Mother's Day" to all of our great moms here at FPC, so May 11th the Youth Group, along with a few volunteers, will be serving brunch between 9:00-10:30 a.m. in the FLC. We look forward to serving you! If you are interested in volunteering to prepare or serve, please contact Mark Sowden at (281) 728-8710 or Mark@crystalclearmortgage.com.

Capital Campaign Update

Our FPC Capital Campaign is progressing well, and we are moving quickly to our Celebration Sunday on May 18, 2025! For those of you who have not taken the opportunity to return your commitment cards with your three-year pledge, we humbly request that you prayerfully complete the pledge card and return it to the church by May 11. We want your contribution to be included in total funds committed to reducing our indebtedness over the next three years! If you think your gift would have little to no impact on our debt reduction, then think again! Consider this:

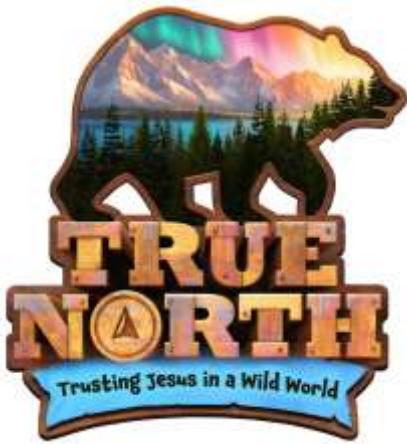
A \$50/per month commitment equals a total commitment of \$1,800.

What if 10 people/households made the same commitment? That level of giving equals \$18,000!

What if 20 people/households made the same commitment? That level of giving equals \$36,000!

These examples demonstrate the power and impact of the community of faith striving together to expand our capacity of ministry and missions. If you've not received a Capital Campaign commitment card, then you can find a card placed on either table as you enter the worship center or on the Visitor's Desk. We thank you for your prayerful consideration and commitment!





Registration
for VBS 2025
now open!

July 7-14
9am-12pm

Scan QR Code or go to
vbspro.events/p/vbsconroe2025



Scan Here to Register

BOYS & GIRLS

ARMORED
SPORTS

After VBS
Sports Camp

JULY 7-11
(5 DAY)

12:00PM-4:00PM
AGES 5-12

A multi-sport camp consisting of fun games like Dodgeball, Kickball, Capture the Flag, and other games revolving around classic sports like Basketball, Flag Football, and Soccer.

This is an AFTER VBS program. So you can volunteer with your child in the morning, then your child will be escorted to Sports Camp and the Armored Staff will have lunch with them. After lunch, we will put the kids into Sports Camp and you can pick them up at the conclusion of camp. Please pack backpack containing a lunch, water and snack for your child.

CAMP PRICES
Before June 1st - \$125
After June 1st - \$135

Register @

www.armored-sports.com/camps/lpcconroe

**Registration Link for
Armored Sports Camp
can be found on the
VBS Registration Site for
a convenient, all-in-one
place to sign up for
summer fun! Be sure
to sign up

BEFORE June 1st!!

Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday May 4</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 (<i>Available by Zoom; contact Randy Blanton for details.</i>) 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. Committee Meetings 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym) 5:00 p.m. "The Bible, an Overview" Study with Frank Denton (Rm. 105)</p>
<i>Monday May 5</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Tuesday May 6</i>	10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday May 7</i>	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)

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Save the Date

May 5-8	PDS Teacher Appreciation Week
May 11	Mother's Day Brunch / Confirmation Sunday / PW Life Membership Awards
May 15	PDS Last Day of School
May 18	Senior Sunday / Mission Sunday Special Offering
May 22	CISD Last Day of School
May 25	Summer Service Schedule Begins (One service only at 11:00 a.m.)
May 26	Memorial Day (FPC office closed for observance)

Prayer List

Members: Connie Tibbetts, Rev. Callie Candee, 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: Karyn M. (Rose), Siana F. and family (Watson), Jerry W., Lisa W. (Webb), Celia G. (Hernandez- Garcia), Wes K. (Yates), Alicia I., James I., and Ron S. (Bailey), Susie K. (Davis), Anna (Harshbarger), Stephanie R. & Brooke J., Danielle S. & kids (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), Shannon L. (Diamond), Rick J. (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)

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

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