

# First Presbyterian Church

May 18, 2025



8:30 Worship with Communion	Page 3
11:00 Worship Service	Page 6
Scripture Readings	Page 10
The Connection	Page 12
Calendar of Events	Page 16
Prayer List	Page 18

## 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](http://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***

*Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by  
David & Vivian McDonald, in memory of their parents.*

#### ***Last Week's Attendance, May 11***

*8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 20*

*11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 157*

*Online Worship Attendance - 23*

***Total Attendance – 200***

## 8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

### *Preparing to Receive God's Word*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise the Lord from the mountains; praise the Lord from the earth below.

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, you angels; praise the Lord, you heavenly host; praise the Lord, sun and moon and stars.

Praise the Lord.

Let all creation praise the Lord.

\*Hymn #445

Great Day!

Refrain:

Great day! Great day, the righteous marching,

**Great day! God's going to build up Zion's walls.**

Oh, Great day! Great day, the righteous marching,

**Great day! God's going to build up Zion's walls.**

1. The chariot rode on the mountaintop,

**God's going to build up Zion's walls.**

My God spoke and the chariot did stop.

**God's going to build up Zion's walls. Oh,**

(Refrain)

2. This is the day of Jubilee,

**God's going to build up Zion's walls.**

God shall set the people free.

**God's going to build up Zion's walls. Oh,**

Great day! Great day, the righteous marching,

**Great day! God's going to build up Zion's walls.**

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

The same God who calls the sun and moon to shine, who commands the stars and the sea, who gives breath to all creation—this God is full of mercy and 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

Psalms 148; Acts 11:1-18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**"No Experience Required"**

*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 #369

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1. I'm gonna live so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!
2. I'm gonna work so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna work so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!
3. I'm gonna pray so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

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**"Great Day!" Music: Adaptation © 1990 Melva W. Costen.**

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**"We Are Called to Be God's People"**

Text: © Copyright 1975 by Broadman Press.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"**

Traditional, arranged by Wendell Whalum

Arrangement © the Estate of Wendell Whalum. Used by permission.

CCL # 2714264

**"Irish Blessing" by Mark Patterson**

© 2004 BLP Choral Music (ASCAP)

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## **11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

### *Preparing to Receive God's Word*

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Capital Campaign Report

Introit                *Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending*    Oliver/Williams

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise the Lord from the mountains; praise the Lord from the earth below.

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, you angels; praise the Lord, you heavenly host; praise the Lord, sun and moon and stars.

Praise the Lord.

Let all creation praise the Lord.

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Great Day!

Refrain:

Great day! Great day, the righteous marching,

**Great day! God's going to build up Zion's walls.**

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**Great day! God's going to build up Zion's walls.**

1. The chariot rode on the mountaintop,

**God's going to build up Zion's walls.**

My God spoke and the chariot did stop.

**God's going to build up Zion's walls. Oh,**

(Refrain)

\*Please stand if able.

2. This is the day of Jubilee,  
**God's going to build up Zion's walls.**  
God shall set the people free.  
**God's going to build up Zion's walls. Oh,**

Great day! Great day, the righteous marching,  
**Great day! God's going to build up Zion's walls.**

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

God of the clean and the unclean, we too easily think we can see from your point of view. We exclude, hold grudges, and nurse contempt, all the while hiding ourselves for fear we, too, would be found wanting. We think we are justified because we are made holy by your love, and we assume holiness means more like us. We forget, or never really knew, that all you touch is holy, and that you created all that is.

So, when we exclude, we exclude you. When we hold grudges, we hate you. When we show contempt, we are contemptuous of those whom you love.

May we be made holy in truth, loving as you love, clean and unclean alike. Tear us down and build us back up again into a new creation birthed in our baptism. Free us to let go of our need to be in control and be right and open our eyes to receive the wonder of your love in awe and amazement. Amen.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

The same God who calls the sun and moon to shine, who commands the stars and the sea, who gives breath to all creation—this God is full of mercy and 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: Mission Offering

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

**\*Doxology and the Lord's Prayer**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Choral Response

*The Word*

Senior Recognition

Anthem

*Irish Blessing*

*Patterson*

Scripture Reading

Psalm 148

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn

**We Are Called to Be God's People**

**1. We are called to be God's people,**

Showing by our lives His grace,  
One in heart and one in spirit,  
Sign of hope for all the race.  
Let us show how He has changed us  
And remade us as His own;  
Let us share our life together  
As we shall around His throne.

**2. We are called to be God's servants,**

Working in His world today;  
Taking His own task upon us,  
All His sacred words obey.  
Let us rise, then, to His summons,  
Dedicate to Him our all,  
That we may be faithful servants,  
Quick to answer now His call.

Scripture Reading

Acts 11:1-18

Sermon

**"No Experience Required"**

*Rev. Seth Saathoff*



## Responding to the Word

### Prayers of the People

\*Hymn #369

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1. I'm gonna live so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna live so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!

2. I'm gonna work so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna work so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!

3. I'm gonna pray so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!  
I'm gonna pray so  
God can use me anywhere,  
Lord, anytime!

\*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

## ***This Week's Scripture Readings***

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### Psalm 148

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the heights! <sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars! <sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the heavens! <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he commanded and they were created. <sup>6</sup> He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed. <sup>7</sup> Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps, <sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command! <sup>9</sup> Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! <sup>10</sup> Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! <sup>11</sup> Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth! <sup>12</sup> Young men and women alike, old and young together! <sup>13</sup> Let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. <sup>14</sup> He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the Lord!

### Acts 11:1-18

<sup>1</sup> Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. <sup>2</sup> So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, <sup>3</sup> **saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"** <sup>4</sup> Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, <sup>5</sup> **"I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision.** There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. <sup>6</sup> As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. <sup>7</sup> **I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.'** <sup>8</sup> **But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'** <sup>9</sup> But a second time the voice answered from heaven, **'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.'** <sup>10</sup> This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. <sup>11</sup> At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were.

<sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and **we entered the man's house.** <sup>13</sup> He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; <sup>14</sup> he will give you a message by which you and your **entire household will be saved.**' <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>17</sup> If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" <sup>18</sup> When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

## Notes



### *Mission Sunday Special Offering Today*



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 today. Along with sharing the love of Christ through service to others, please consider participating in this special offering with a donation. As you do, be sure to make a note on your check or **online donation "Mission Special Offering"**. **We want to continue to be a church with a strong mission focus – thank you for supporting this vital ministry!**

### *Pentecost Sunday*

Historically, red has been associated with Pentecost Sunday as a reminder of **God's empowerment of the Church through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit**. Luke recorded that a great wind blew, filling the place, and tongues of fire rested above the heads of the disciples. As a result of this divine encounter, the disciples declared the good news of Jesus Christ to all present! Thousands believed in the Christ and were added to the Church! Reverend Saathoff and the FPC Worship Committee invite you to commemorate this great day in church history by wearing red as we gather on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, for Bible study and worship.

*Summer Schedule Begins May 25*

**It's that time of year again! Beginning May 25<sup>th</sup>,**  
we will have only one worship service at 11:00 a.m.

*P. S. That is next Sunday!*

*Welcome*



*Welcome to our newest member, Kayleigh Riggs-Harpur, who officially  
joined the church at a called meeting of Session on Sunday, May 11.*

Collecting Bibles Through June 1<sup>st</sup>

# 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.projectbible.runners.com](http://www.projectbible.runners.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>



SCAN ME



Registration  
for VBS 2025  
now open!

July 7-11  
9am-12pm

**Scan QR Code or go to**  
**[vbspro.events/p/vbsconroe2025](https://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 9-12

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/tpcconroe](http://www.armored-sports.com/camps/tpcconroe)

**\*\*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

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>May 18</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) <b>Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms.</b>            9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)  <b>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton</b> (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians (<i>Available by Zoom; contact Randy Blanton for details.</i>)  <b>9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School</b> (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 <a href="http://www.com/fpcConroe">www.com/fpcConroe</a> or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)            12:30 p.m. Session Meeting            5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>May 19</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>May 21</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>Sunday May 25</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class <b>(Rm. 204) Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms.</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton</b> (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians <i>(Available by Zoom; contact Randy Blanton for details.)</i></p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live <a href="http://www.com/fpcConroe">www.com/fpcConroe</a> or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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## Save the Date

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)
June 8	Day of Pentecost
June 8-14	Youth Mission Trip to Kentucky

## Prayer List

Members: Ruth Masters, Kyle Walker, Glenna Lang, Jeannene Wendt, Reed Watson, John Lancaster, Nedra Murphy, Kari Elliott, Tildon Hebert, Ron Bailey, Alice Helms, Jean Ball, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: 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](http://www.fpcConroe.org)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

#### *Mailing Address:*

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