

# First Presbyterian Church

June 29, 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](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***

*There is no flower dedication today.*

#### ***Last Week's Attendance, June 22***

*11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 158*

*Online Worship Attendance - 35*

***Total Attendance – 193***

## 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

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

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

*Be Unto Your Name*

*DeShazo/Sadler*

Call to Worship

Come, bless the Lord, in whom we find our refuge and safety.

You are our God; everything good comes from you.

Come, bless the Lord, who gives us a rich inheritance and surrounds us with abundance.

You are our God; our lives are in your hands.

Come, bless the Lord, who guides us on the path to eternal life, whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

You are our God; in your kingdom there is fulfillment and joy.

\*Hymn

Wade in the Water

Refrain:

Wade in the water,

wade in the water children,

Wade in the water,

**God's gonna trouble the water.**

1. See that host all dressed in white,  
**God's gonna trouble the water,**  
The leader looks like the Israelite,  
**God's gonna trouble the water. (Refrain)**
2. See that band all dressed in red,  
**God's gonna trouble the water,**  
Looks like the band that Moses led,  
**God's gonna trouble the water. (Refrain)**
3. If you don't believe I've been redeemed,  
**God's gonna trouble the water.**  
Just follow me down to Jordan's stream,  
**God's gonna trouble the water. (Refrain)**

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

God of the fruit tree, we struggle to manifest the fruits of the Spirit but often find ourselves bound by works of the flesh. We know the whole law is summed up in the single commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. Yet we create fences around ourselves to keep neighbors outside and tell ourselves we have no responsibility to each other. **Even in our own back yard we “bite and devour” one another.**

We wish it were different. We wish we were different.

Break our hearts, O God, but break them for you. Break them open so that you may fill them with the fruits of your Spirit, that all our lives **and all that we are may be filled to the brim. In Christ's name we pray,** amen.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is our portion and cup. In God we find our comfort and joy. And God shall not abandon us, nor see our lives waste away. Through Christ, we are forgiven. Through Christ, we are set free.

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

*Soon and Very Soon*

*Dilworth*

Scripture Reading

Psalms 16

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

1. Precious Lord, take my hand,  
Lead me on, help me stand;  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
Through the storm, through the night,  
Lead me on to the light,  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

2. When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near;  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
Hold my hand lest I fall;  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead my home.

3. When the darkness appears  
And the night draws near,  
And the day is past and gone;  
At the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand;  
Take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

Scripture Reading

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

Sermon

**"Free to Bear Fruit"**

*Rev. Seth Saathoff*

## Responding to the Word

### Affirmation of Faith

### *(The Apostles' Creed)*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

### Prayers of the People

#### \*Hymn #326

#### Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

1. Spirit of God, descend upon my heart;  
Wean it from earth, through all its pulses move;  
Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art,  
And make me love Thee as I ought to love.
2. Hast Thou not bid us love Thee, God and King;  
All, all Thine own: soul, heart, and strength, and mind?  
I see Thy cross, there teach my heart to cling,  
O let me seek Thee, and O let me find!
3. Teach me to feel that Thou art always nigh;  
Teach me the struggles of the soul to bear,  
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh;  
Teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Choral Response

Love Lifted Me

Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;  
He will lift you by His love Out of the angry waves.

**He's the Master of the sea, Billows His will obey;**  
He your Savior wants to be – Be saved today.

Refrain:

Love lifted even me, Love lifted even me,  
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me;  
Love lifted even me, Love lifted even me,  
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

†

**"Be Unto Your Name" by Lynn DeShazo and Gary Sadler**  
**CCLI Song #2177476 © 1998 Integrity's Hosanna! Music**

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**"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"**

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993, verses 1-3. © 1938, Unichappell Music, Inc.  
Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.

Tune: PRECIOUS LORD, Irregular: George N. Allen, 1812-1877;  
adapt. By Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899-1993, © 1938, Unichappell Music, Inc.

**"Soon and Very Soon" arr. by Rollo A. Dilworth**

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

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### Psalm 16

<sup>1</sup> Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. <sup>2</sup> I say to the Lord,  
**“You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.”**

<sup>3</sup> As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones  
in whom is all my delight.

<sup>4</sup> Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink  
offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

<sup>5</sup> The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. <sup>6</sup> The  
boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly  
heritage.

<sup>7</sup> I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart  
instructs me. <sup>8</sup> I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my  
right hand, I shall not be moved.

<sup>9</sup> Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also  
rests secure. <sup>10</sup> For you do not give me up to Sheol or let your faithful  
one see the Pit.

<sup>11</sup> You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of  
joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

### Galatians 5:1, 13-25

<sup>1</sup> For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do  
not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

<sup>13</sup> For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not  
use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love  
become enslaved to one another. <sup>14</sup> For the whole law is summed up in  
**a single commandment, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”** <sup>15</sup> If,  
however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not  
consumed by one another.



<sup>16</sup> Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. <sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. <sup>19</sup> Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, <sup>20</sup> idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, <sup>21</sup> envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. <sup>24</sup> And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

## Notes



## *Stranger Scriptures*



The Bible is chock-full of inspiring stories, compelling characters, invaluable wisdom, and most importantly the unique and authoritative witness of Jesus Christ.

But the Bible is also filled with strange stories we struggle to interpret, disturbing events that are hard to stomach, and customs so ancient and foreign that their relevance seems elusive. Some of these texts are so odd and **otherworldly that we simply don't know what to make of them.**

This sermon series is dedicated to those texts: the ones we've buried in the closet, the ones we've avoided like the plague, the ones your Sunday School teachers never mentioned.

What might these bizarre and confounding texts have to teach us? And more importantly, what might God be saying to us through them?

Join us this July through August as we explore the *Stranger Scriptures*.

## *Serve Our Neighbor Day September 27*

**SAVE THE DATE** for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Serve Our Neighbor Day, on Saturday, September 27. We'll gather together at the church for a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and then disperse to several different local mission sites after a prayer send-off. More details about the specific projects will be available in August and sign-ups in the narthex will begin on Sunday, August 24. Please make plans to participate in **this year's churchwide day of service!**



## *Shooter Awareness Seminar July 19*

We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting a Protect His House Active Shooter Awareness Seminar.

This event is designed to provide essential training and awareness on how to respond effectively to active shooter situations, specifically tailored for churches and places of worship.

<https://phhtraining.com/event/phh-level-1-active-threat-awareness-seminar-conroe-texas/>

Event Details:



July 19<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Followed by BBQ Plate lunch in the FLC

## *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](mailto:CallieCandee@yahoo.com).



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

**\*\*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!!***

## Prayer List

Members: Roy Kessler, John Wright, Ruth Masters, Kyle Walker, 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: Thad M. (West), Dorene D. and Dan S. (B. Hernandez), 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), Wendy S. (Adamson), Sherry M. (Garrison), Lee H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Gerald H. (Roberts)

## Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday June 29</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 (Rm. 204) <b>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)</p> <p>Study of Hese: The Kindness of Humankind and God.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82754565124?">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82754565124?</a> Passcode: 77304</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><b>5:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study</b> (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday June 30</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday July 2</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary)</p> <p>7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>July 6</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 (Rm. 204) <b>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)</p> <p>Study of Hesus: The Kindness of Humankind and God.</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting: <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82754565124?">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82754565124?</a></p> <p>Passcode: 77304</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><b>5:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study</b> (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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## Save the Date

July 7-11	Vacation Bible School / Youth At-Home Mission Week
July 13	VBS Sunday
July 19	Active Shooter Awareness Training
September 27	Serve Our Neighbor Day

## 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:*

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