

First Presbyterian Church
July 6, 2025

Welcome

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**Stranger Scriptures
Sermon Series**

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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

Randy Blanton

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Donna & Randy Blanton, who are celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary on July 4th.

Last Week's Attendance, June 29

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 116

Online Worship Attendance - 39

Total Attendance - 155

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *The Star-Spangled Banner*

Call to Worship

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.
This is the day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Come into God's presence with thanksgiving.
Let us come singing joyful songs of praise.

*Hymn #561

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

1. My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside
Let freedom ring.

2. My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills
Like that above.

*Please stand if able.

4. Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: cleanse us from all offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your son, we pray. Amen

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Hold fast to the promise of faith and rest assured that Christ did not come into the world to condemn the world but to save it.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

Because of Christ's great love for us, we have been forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

Vacation Bible School Commissioning

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory *From Sea to Shining Sea* Bates/Ward

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Choral Response

The Word

Scripture Reading

Romans 6:8-14, Matthew 10:34-39

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Purging”

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Affirmation of Faith

(*The Nicene Creed*)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Anthem

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn #84

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1. In the cross of Christ I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me:
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
3. When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

From Sea to Shining Sea

O beautiful for patriot dream That sees beyond the years

Thine alabaster cities gleam Undimm'd by human tears.

America! America! God shed His grace on thee,

And crown they good with brotherhood

From sea to shining sea!

From sea to shining sea!

*Postlude

Copyright Information

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"From Sea to Shining Sea"

Words by Katherine Lee Bates

Music by Samuel A. Ward

Paraphrased by Maurice C. Whitney

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"From Sea to Shining Sea"

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This Week's Scripture Readings

Matthew 10:34-39

34 “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

35 For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,

and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

36 and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

37 “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, **38** and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. **39** Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Exodus 32:25-35

25 When Moses saw that the people were out of control (for Aaron had lost control of them, prompting derision among their enemies), **26** then Moses stood in the gate of the camp and said, “Who is on the Lord's side? Come to me!” And all the sons of Levi gathered around him. **27** He said to them, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Put your sword on your side, each of you! Go back and forth from gate to gate throughout the camp, and each of you kill your brother, your friend, and your neighbor.” **28** The sons of Levi did as Moses commanded, and about three thousand of the people fell on that day. **29** Moses said, “Today you have been ordained for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of a son or a brother, and so have brought a blessing on yourselves this day.”

30 On the next day Moses said to the people, “You have sinned a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” **31** So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Alas, this people has sinned a great sin; they have made for themselves gods of gold. **32** But now, if you will only forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of the book that you have written.”

³³ But the Lord **said to Moses**, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book. ³⁴ But now go, lead the people to the place about which I have spoken to you; see, my angel shall go in front of you. Nevertheless, when the day for punishment comes, I will punish them for their sin.”

³⁵ Then the Lord sent a plague on the people, because they made the calf—the one that Aaron had made.

Notes



Your Weekly Connection

July 6, 2025

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 3rd 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!**



A 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:

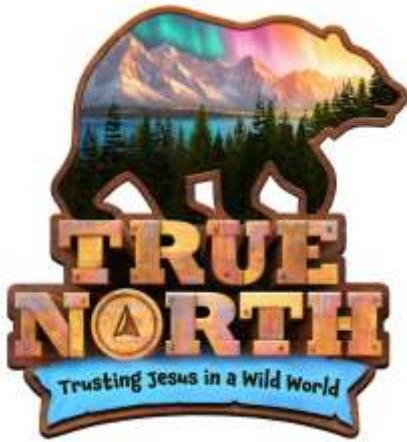
July 19th

9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Followed by BBQ Plate lunch in the FLC

CPR Class August 15

As Presbyterian Day School prepares for another wonderful school year, teachers and staff will take part in a CPR Class the morning of August 15 here at FPC. If you are interested in getting your certification, please contact the PDS office at (936) 756-3990. There is online pre-work involved, prior to the actual class, so be sure to give yourself the time needed to participate.



Registration
for VBS 2025
now open!
July 7-11
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-6:00PM
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/pconroe

**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!!

Debt Reduction Campaign Update – June 2025

As of June 30, we have received pledges and one-time gifts for our debt reduction campaign, totaling \$988,148! Also, the current account balance is \$175,948.47. With notice of additional incoming funds, we anticipate making a payment in July 2025 of approximately \$232,000, effectively reducing our monthly incumbrance to date by an estimated \$2,575. The Capital Campaign Committee is deeply appreciative of your continued financial commitments to reducing our indebtedness!

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: Bret F. (Kasmiersky), 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

<i>Sunday July 6</i>	<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) Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of Hesed: The Kindness of Humankind and God. Join Zoom Meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82754565124? 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 www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>5:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<i>Monday July 7</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor) NO STUDY FOR THE MONTH OF JULY.
<i>Wednesday July 9</i>	9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105) WILL NOT BE MEETING TODAY. 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

*Sunday
July 13*

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 Hesed: The Kindness of Humankind and God.
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82754565124?>
Passcode: 77304

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](https://www.youtube.com/fpcConroe))

5:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study (Rm. 105)

5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)

Save the Date

July 7-11	Vacation Bible School / Youth At-Home Mission Week
July 13	VBS Sunday
July 19	Active Shooter Awareness Training
August 15	CPR Class
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

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Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842
Website: www.fpcConroe.org

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Mailing Address:

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Suite 140, # 349, Conroe, TX 77304