

First Presbyterian Church
July 13, 2025

Welcome



**Stranger
Scriptures
Sermon Series**

“The Witch of Endor”

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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 ~

A special thanks to our guest organist, Donna Davis, who has graciously volunteered to provide beautiful music while Rolethial is on vacation. Thank you, Donna!

Today's Worship Leader

Karis Morton

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by David & Vivian Macdonald, in memory of David's father, Allan.

Last Week's Attendance, July 6

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 137

Online Worship Attendance - 26

Total Attendance – 163

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *I Worship You, Almighty God*

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

If God is for us then who can stand against us?

Nothing can separate us from God's love.

Give praise to the Lord and sing praise to His name.

Let us rejoice in the Lord, our strength and shield.

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

*Hymn #376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

*Please stand if able.

4. Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Although we have fallen short, God never gives up on us. Even when we **fail to be faithful, God's faithfulness never fails.**

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

I Wanna Be Ready
Soloist – James Mitchell

Powell

Scripture Reading

Matthew 7:7-12

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #322

Spirit of the Living God

1. Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, Fall afresh o me.
Melt me, mold me, Fill me, use me.
Sprit of the living God, Fall afresh on me.

Scripture Reading

I Samuel 28:3-19

Sermon

"The Witch of Endor"
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 Pon-
tius 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 be-
lieve 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

Rise Up, O Men of God

1. Rise up, O men of God!
Have done with lesser things.
Give heart and mind and soul and strength
to serve the King of kings.
2. Rise up, O men of God!
The kingdom tarries long.
Bring in the day of brotherhood
and end the night of wrong.
3. Rise up, O men of God!
The church for you doth wait,
her strength unequal to her task;
rise up, and make her great!
4. Lift high the cross of Christ!
Tread where his feet have trod.
As brothers of the Son of Man,
rise up, O men of God!

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Where He Leads Me

3. I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Refrain:

Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me, I will follow,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

*Postlude

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"Spirit of the Living God"

Text and Music: © 1935, 1963, Moody Press, Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

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"I Wanna Be Ready"

Arr. by Powell

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This Week's Scripture Readings

Matthew 7:7-12

⁷ **"Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.** ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. ⁹ Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? ¹⁰ Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? ¹¹ If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

¹² **"In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the Law and the Prophets.**

I Samuel 28:3-19

³ Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. Saul had expelled the mediums and the wizards from the land. ⁴ The Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem. Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. ⁵ When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. ⁶ When Saul inquired of the Lord, the Lord did not answer him, not by dreams or by Urim or by prophets. ⁷ Then Saul said to his servants, **"Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, so that I may go to her and inquire of her."** His servants said to him, **"There is a medium at Endor."**

⁸ So Saul disguised himself and put on other clothes and went there, he and two men with him. They came to the woman by night. And he said, **"Consult a spirit for me, and bring up for me the one whom I name to you."** ⁹ The woman said to him, **"Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the wizards from the land. Why then are you laying a snare for my life to bring about my death?"** ¹⁰ But Saul swore to her by the Lord, **"As the Lord lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing."** ¹¹ Then the woman said, **"Whom shall I bring up for you?"** He answered, **"Bring up Samuel for me."** ¹² When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice, and the woman said to Saul, **"Why have you deceived me? You are Saul!"** ¹³ The king said to her, **"Have no fear; what do you see?"** The woman said to Saul, **"I see a divine being coming up out of the ground."** ¹⁴ He said to her, **"What is his appearance?"** She said, **"An old man is coming up; he is wrapped in a robe."** So Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and did obeisance.

¹⁵ Then Samuel said to Saul, “Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?” Saul answered, “I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams, so I have summoned you to tell me what I should do.” ¹⁶ Samuel said, “Why then do you ask me, since the Lord has turned from you and become your enemy? ¹⁷ The Lord has done to you just as he spoke by me, for the Lord has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. ¹⁸ Because you did not obey the voice of the Lord and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the Lord has done this thing to you today. ¹⁹ Moreover, the Lord will give Israel along with you into the hands of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me; the Lord will also give the army of Israel into the hands of the Philistines.”

Notes



The Seekers Class Begins a New Study

The Seekers Class will begin the study of Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday, July 13. Two options are available for participating in this foundational study. You can join the class that meets Sunday mornings in the church library or participate virtually through Zoom (Join Zoom Meeting – <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82754565124?> – Meeting ID: 827 5456 5124 – Passcode: 77304).

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.

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!

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

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!



Dear FPC Family,

I recently spoke with Kathy Lee-Cornell, Director of the **Synod of the Sun's Partnership for Disaster Recovery**, regarding the flooding in Hunt, Texas, and ways our congregation can support recovery efforts.

Kathy shared that the response is still in the search and rescue phase. At this time, local organizations are overwhelmed with donations of goods and volunteers. What is most needed now are:

Our prayers

Monetary support for long-term rebuilding

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has created a dedicated fund to support this effort. You can donate online using this link:

<https://pcusa.org/disaster-assistance/active-responses/national-disaster/texas-hill-country-flooding>

Be sure to use reference code DR000191.

If you prefer to donate by check, you may make it payable to FPC Conroe with **“flood relief”** in the memo line, and we will forward your gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Regardless of whether you give financially, I invite everyone to pray for the town of Hunt, Kerr County, the summer camps, and all those involved in the search and rescue operations.

Thank you for your faithful compassion.

In Christ,
Seth Saathoff

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: David W. (Hart), 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), 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</i> <i>July 13</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) 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) Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday (Join Zoom Meeting – https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82754565124? – Meeting ID: 827 5456 5124 – 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>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>July 14</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor) NO STUDY FOR THE MONTH OF JULY.</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>July 16</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 July 20</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) 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)</p> <p>Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday (Join Zoom Meeting – https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82754565124? – Meeting ID: 827 5456 5124 – 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>
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Save the Date

July 19	Active Shooter Awareness Training
August 15	CPR Class (see page 10 for details)
August 24	Rally Sunday
September 1	Labor Day (Church office closed)
September 7	Return to regular service schedule (8:30 & 11:00 a.m.)
September 19	Life Line Screening
September 24	See You at the Pole
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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Mailing Address:

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