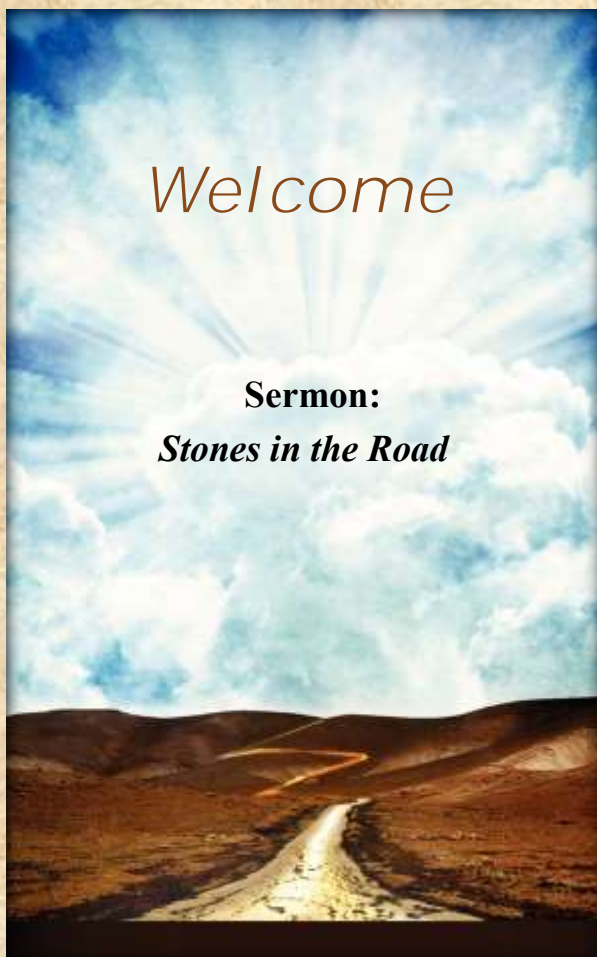


# First Presbyterian Church

July 28, 2024



Worship Service	Page 3
Scripture Readings	Page 8
The Connection	Page 9
Calendar of Events	Page 10
Prayer List	Page 11

First Presbyterian Church of Conroe Welcomes You!



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.

***Special Thanks...***

***To Today's Worship Leader***

Mark Sowden / FPC Youth

***For Today's Flowers***

There is no flower dedication today..

# *Order of Worship*

*(\*Please stand if able.)*

## *Preparation*

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

## *Adoration*

Introit

*Raise a Hallelujah*

Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 98)

Sing a new song to God, who has done wonderful things, whose right hand and holy arm have brought salvation.

God has made salvation known, shown justice to the nations,  
and remembered the house of the faithful in truth and love.

All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of our God.

Sing praise to God, all the earth; ring out your joy.

Sing psalms to God with the harp, with the harp and the sound of music.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn acclaim the mighty God.

Let the sea and all within it thunder; the world and all its peoples.

Let the rivers clap their hands and the mountains ring out their  
joy at the presence of the One who comes, who comes to rule the  
earth.

\*Hymn

Cornerstone

1. My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame  
But wholly trust in Jesus' Name. (repeat)

Chorus

Christ alone cornerstone

Weak made strong in the Saviour's love

Through the storm He is Lord

Lord of all

2. When darkness seems to hide His face  
I rest on His unchanging grace  
In every high and stormy gale  
My anchor holds within the veil  
My anchor holds within the veil

Interlude

He is Lord Lord of all

3. When He shall come with trumpet sound  
Oh may I then in Him be found  
Dressed in His righteousness alone  
Faultless stand before the throne

### Confession

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

O God, gladly we live and move and have our being in you.

Yet always in the midst of this creation-**glory, we see sin's shadow  
and feel death's darkness:**

Around us in the earth, sea, and sky, the abuse of matter;

Beside us in the broken, the hungry, the poor,

The betrayal of one another;

And often, deep within us, a striving against your Spirit.

O Trinity of Love,

Forgive us that we may forgive one another,

Heal us that we may be people of healing,

And renew us that we also may be makers of peace.

\*Assurance of Pardon

Our Lord said to those who would listen, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." Friends, receive the life-giving truth of God's forgiveness, and prepare yourselves for life according to God's kingdom.

**We accept God's gift of new life. Thanks be to God! Amen!**

\*Gloria Patri

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology

**\*Prayer of Dedication and the Lord's Prayer**

\*Choral Response

Anthem

*There Was Jesus*

*Proclamation*

Scripture Reading

John 15: 1-8

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## **Children's Time**

\*Hymn

My Jesus I Love Thee

1. My Jesus I love Thee I know Thou art mine  
For Thee all the follies of sin I resign  
My gracious Redeemer my Savior art Thou  
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now
2. I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me  
And purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree  
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow  
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now
3. I'll love Thee in life I will love Thee in death  
And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath  
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow  
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now
4. In mansions of glory and endless delight  
I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright  
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow  
If ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now

Scripture Reading

Acts 8: 26-40

Sermon

**“Stones in the Road”**  
*Rev. Gregory Han*

*Dedication*

Prayers of the People

Called Congregational Meeting

\*Hymn

I'll Fly Away

1. Some glad morning when this life is o'er  
I'll fly away  
To a home on God's celestial shore  
I'll fly away

Chorus

I'll fly away O glory I'll fly away  
When I die hallelujah by and by  
I'll fly away

2. When the shadows of this life have grown  
I'll fly away  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown  
I'll fly away
3. Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away  
To a land where joys shall never end  
I'll fly away

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Closing Response

**I'll Fly Away**

\*Postlude

## *Meet Pastoral Candidate, Rev. Seth Saathoff*

### Pastor Nominating Committee Candidate Profile:

Seth Saathoff was born in San Antonio and grew up in Bandera County, the self-proclaimed “Cowboy Capitol of the World.” He was baptized as a youth in the Baptist church before becoming Presbyterian later in his teenage years.

He graduated from McMurry University in Abilene with a degree in English. While a student at McMurry, Seth was a member of the football team and was a student ministry leader. It was during college that Seth first discerned a call to ministry.

After graduation, Seth attended Princeton Theological Seminary where he earned his Master of Divinity. After his graduation, he served churches in Louisiana and Texas before discerning a call to Conroe.

In addition to his service to the church, Seth has also served on several non-profit boards and recently completed his term as the Moderator for the Synod of the Sun, a mid-council of the PC(USA) comprised of the 11 presbyteries and over 700 congregations in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

Seth married his college sweetheart, Katy, and they share two children: Reed Weldon (5) and Bailey Kate (2).

Outside of church, Seth enjoys sports, movies, listening to history podcasts, and going on adventures **with his family**.

### *Copyright Information*

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“My Jesus I Love Thee”

Adoniram Judson Gordon | William Ralph Featherstone

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## ***This Week's Scripture Reading***

John 15: 1-8

<sup>1</sup> **"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.** <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

Acts 8: 26-40

<sup>26</sup> **Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."** (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, the queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, **"Go over to this chariot and join it."** <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, **"Do you understand what you are reading?"** <sup>31</sup> He replied, **"How can I, unless someone guides me?"** And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

**"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.**

<sup>33</sup> **In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."**

<sup>34</sup> **The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"** <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water, **and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"** <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.





### *Congregational Meeting Today*

Please note that there will be a called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 28, 2024, during the 11:00 worship service, for the purpose of the Pastoral Nominating Committee presenting its report on the Senior Pastor nominee and Terms of Call. We hope you will join us.

### ***Pastor's Class on August 18***

**Rev. Han will hold a second and final Summer Pastor's Class on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m., in the Youth Sunday School room. This will be an opportunity to ask questions about the Presbyterian Church, as well as general questions. A Google form has been created for receiving questions, which can be found on our Facebook page and the FPC website ([fpcConroe.org](http://fpcConroe.org)).**

*For Pastoral Care, Contact Rev. Callie Candee*

**Greetings from Reverend Callie Candee! I'm so grateful to have been asked to assist with pastoral care duties here at First Presbyterian Church-Conroe. I'll be available for phone and home visits. I'm carrying the church's emergency phone and can be contacted directly at (936) 290-4535.**



## Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>July 28</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 with Cara Wood (Rm. 204) Ancient Christianity-video presentation and class discussion</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 (Rm. 207) "Micah: Social Injustice and the Covenant Community"</b></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>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>July 31</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)</p> <p>3:30 p.m. Bible Study with Gordon Juhl: <i>Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life</i> (Rm. 206)</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>August 4</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 with Cara Wood (Rm. 204) Ancient Christianity-video presentation and class discussion</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 (Rm. 207) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians</b></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>12:00 p.m. Committee Meetings</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>

## Save the Date

July 28	Called Meeting of the Congregation
August 11	Rally Day
August 14	CISD Classes Begin
August 17	PDS Event: Watermelon and Waterslides
August 18	Final Summer Class with Rev. Han
August 20	PDS: Meet the Teacher
August 21	PDS Classes Begin

## Prayer List

Members: Karen Hethershaw, Reed Watson, John Lancaster, Nedra Murphy, Kari Elliott, Tildon Hebert, David Green, Ron Bailey, Joanne Deaver, Alice Helms, Polly Miller, Jean Ball, Roy Kessler, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Don Myer, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

**Members' Relatives & Friends:** Thad M. (West), Kelly D., Stephanie R. (Riggs-Harpur), Sharon M. and Meaghan G. & family (FPC Staff), Blade B., Judy N. (Dukes), Bonnie L., Michael R. (Dwyer), the family of Dorothy P. (Lucas), Marie J. (Das), Tom J. & family, Bill M. (Browder), Lee family (Corbit), 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), Genevieve W. (Morton), Lindsey W. (Walker), Karl W. (Watt), Lisa J. (Miller), Shannon L. (Diamond), Rick J., Sydney H. and Martha K. (Juhl), Harry S., Jr. and family (Havens), Joy D. (Rose), Steve T., Lonnie H. and Vivian M. (Hammonds), Wendy C. (Harshbarger), Gloria S., Kim H., Vickie K., Cindy K. (Ganek), John R. (Hethershaw), James M., Patty M., Enrique E. (Moore), William W. (Weinburger), Jeffrey H. & Leah H. (Heasley), Katie B. (Pohla), Wendy S. (Adamson), Sherry M. (Garrison), Lee H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Gerald H. (Roberts), Tucker H. (Hudson)

## Staff and Church Information

### Staff

Rev. Callie Candee, Pastoral Care  
Rev. Greg Han, Temporary Pulpit 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:*

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