

# First Presbyterian Church

September 1, 2024



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Communion Sunday

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 Guest Speaker***

Rev. Gregory Han

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

Martha Haines

#### ***For Today's Flowers***

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Betty & Henry Blott, in celebration of their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary .

# *Order of Worship*

## *Preparation*

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

## *Adoration*

Introit                      *Come Sing, O Church in Joy!*

Call to Worship *(Responsive)*

One: Thanks be to you, O God, that we have risen this day,  
All: To the rising of life itself.

One: Be the purpose of God between us and each purpose,  
All: The hand of God between us and each hand,

One: The pain of Christ between us and each pain,  
All: The love of Christ between us and each love.

One: O God, who brought us to the bright light of this new day  
All: Bring us to the guiding light of eternity.

\*Hymn #276 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
(Refrain)

**\* Please stand if able.**

## Confession

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Prayer of Confession

Shining, surprising, grace-full God, for avoiding the searchlight of your desire for us and running away from your love:

Forgive us;

For preferring the safe and familiar when you call us to new possibilities:

Forgive us;

For failing to believe in the vulnerability of power and the power of vulnerability:

Forgive us;

For insisting on sameness and conformity, for fearing those different from ourselves;

Forgive us;

For not noticing your presence in darkness as in light, in body as in spirit, in feeling as in intellect, in pain as in healing, in Good Friday as in Easter Day:

Forgive us;

Set us free, we pray, to be the people you have called us to be, and to live our lives graciously and without fear.

### \*Silent Prayer of Confession

### \*Assurance of Pardon

Our God is a God of profound reversals! While we were yet captive to sin, Christ died for us.

**We have been brought out of the darkness into God's marvelous light. So let us keep awake and be vigilant as Christ's faithful disciples, encouraging one another.**

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

### \*Gloria Patri

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Fairest Lord Jesus*

*Shrader*

\*Doxology

### **\*Prayer of Dedication and The Lord's Prayer**

\*Choral Response

### *Proclamation*

Scripture Reading

Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15, John 6:24-40

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**"Bread for the Journey"**

*Rev. Gregory Han*

### *Dedication*

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

**The Lord's Prayer**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn #466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing  
My dear Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and King,  
The triumphs of God's grace!
2. Jesus, the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease;  
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.
3. Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,  
And sets the prisoner free;  
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,  
Christ's blood availed for me.

4. My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad  
The honors of Thy name.

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Closing Response

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

Holy Spirit, right divine,  
Make my conscience wholly Thine;  
Be my law, and I shall be  
Firmly bound, forever free.

\*Postlude

# Notes

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## Reflections from Rev. Greg Han

It is amazing how quickly a year has gone by; my first Sunday preaching at First, Conroe was September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The length of our time together came as a surprise for all of us; you were anticipating the Rev. Dr. David Green would return from medical leave, and I would be the temporary pulpit preacher until the end of the year.

Not long before that first Sunday, however, Dr. Green announced he would retire from full-time ministry. I continue to give thanks to David for his work with the congregation. We are, to quote the Letter to the Hebrews, surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses,” and in this case that means our extended spiritual community that continues to grace us with their work and bless us with their prayers. Please continue to keep David, Leigh, and the Green family in your prayers. To quote one of David’s favorite psalms, Psalm 16:

***The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.  
The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.***

Over the past year, you, as a community, have done outstanding work in *moving forward*. You have continued to support the church budget. You have continued to gather Sundays for worship and study. You have supported your mission into the community with events like Serve Our Neighbor Day. You are revitalizing your elementary school classes. Presbyterian Day School is thriving. These are all good things. I think the best pastor/congregation relationships are just that: a partnership between pastor and congregation. It is exciting for a pastor to come to a congregation with momentum already in place.

After September 8<sup>th</sup>, I will continue with the work that I have been doing all along. I am now in the third year of the Ph.D. program in Religion at Rice University. This year my primary task is to prepare for my four comprehensive examinations that I will take in March 2025. Together, the comprehensive exams are designed to give me a broad and solid reading foundation that I can draw on for the rest of my career. I also continue to teach at the Post Oak High School.

Being with you this past year has been a win for me. After being away from full-time preaching since 2008, I have valued the opportunity to remember the joys of preaching and leading worship. You are also a warm and welcoming community, and FPC has reminded me about what’s special about church: it is the beloved community of memory and hope that binds people together not because of shared politics, not because your kids go to the same school, not because you live in the same neighborhood, but you are bound together in our common calling to love God, follow Christ, and serve His people.

I wish you all the best in the coming days! You can find me in my corner of the internet: [www.revgregoryhan.com](http://www.revgregoryhan.com) and [greg@revgregoryhan.com](mailto:greg@revgregoryhan.com).

Blessings,  
Greg





### *Schedule Changes for Next Sunday*

Please keep in mind that we will resume our 2-service schedule beginning next Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. We will have worship services at both 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

### ***Christmas Boxes for the Houston International Seafarers' Center***



Presbyterian Women fill, wrap and deliver shoe boxes with **toiletries and personal items to the Seafarers' Center** for ships that visit Houston in the weeks before Christmas, as part of a city-wide faith community outreach project for (mostly) men who are, by occupation, almost always away from their own homes in the holiday season. Congregation-wide support is what makes it possible for us to meet a goal of 100 boxes. If you would like to make a contribution toward the purchase of items for the boxes, please make checks payable to the church **with a notation that it is for "Seafarer's boxes."** Shopping will be underway through October; with packing day on November 7. Please call the church office (936) 756- 8884 or Susan Buckley (936) 520-6930 for information.

### *Wear Your Name Badge!*

To help Rev. Saathoff and his wife, Katy, get to know us easier, members are encouraged to wear their name badges on Sunday, September 15, and **subsequent Sundays as well. In case you've lost your badge or need a replacement,** new badges with magnetic backings have been printed and are available in the narthex. Please see Pat Hudson if you have any questions.

Also, all church members are asked to wear their name badges when visiting FPC and/or PDS. Anyone that does not have a badge should stop at the FPC office and get one before entering any other area of the building. While this may take a little extra time, it is necessary that we provide a safe environment for our school children, teachers and staff members. We appreciate your understanding.



## September Events

We hope that you can join us for the following important events happening in September at FPC – Conroe:

*September 8* – Send-off for Rev. Gregory Han, who has been a guiding light for our church while we searched for our new pastor.

*September 15* – **Rev. Seth Saathoff's first Sunday in the pulpit, followed by a "Meet & Greet" Potluck for the Saathoff family.**

*September 22* – Staff Recognition to show our appreciation for our church staff, who have done a remarkable job during this time of transition without a permanent pastor.

These events will take place during our church service at 11:00, with receptions (September 8 and 22) and potluck (September 15) after the service.

For any of those who are wondering about Rev. Callie Candee, she will be with **us a little longer to assist with pastoral care. We won't let her get away without** showing our appreciation for her important contribution to our church as well.

*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><br/><i>September 1</i></p>    | <p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105)<br/>Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class with Cara Wood (Rm. 204) Max Lucado study series "What Happens Next-A Traveler's Guide Through the End of This Age."</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</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Elementary and Intermediate Sunday School (Rm. 203)</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> |
| <p><i>Monday</i><br/><i>September 2</i></p>    | <p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>  |
| <p><i>Wednesday</i><br/><i>September 4</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>   |

## Save the Date

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| September 2  | Labor Day (PDS & FPC closed)  |
| September 8  | Resume a 2-Service Worship Schedule at 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.<br>Last Sunday and Reception for Rev. Gregory Han |
| September 15 | Potluck Reception for Rev. Saathoff & family  |
| September 22 | FPC Staff Recognition and Reception   |
| October 2    | Wednesday Night Live Kickoff  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sunday<br/>September 8</i></p> | <p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)</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) Max Lucado study series "What Happens Next-A Traveler's Guide Through the End of This Age."</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</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Elementary and Intermediate Sunday School (Rm. 203)</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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## Prayer List

**Members:** Jeannene Wendt, 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 Iverson, Don Myer, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

**Members' Relatives & Friends:** Anna and Wendy C. (Harshbarger), Lynn & Jamie DeGeorge (Barton), Thad M. (West), Kelly D., Stephanie R. (Riggs-Harpur), 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), 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), Kim H. (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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