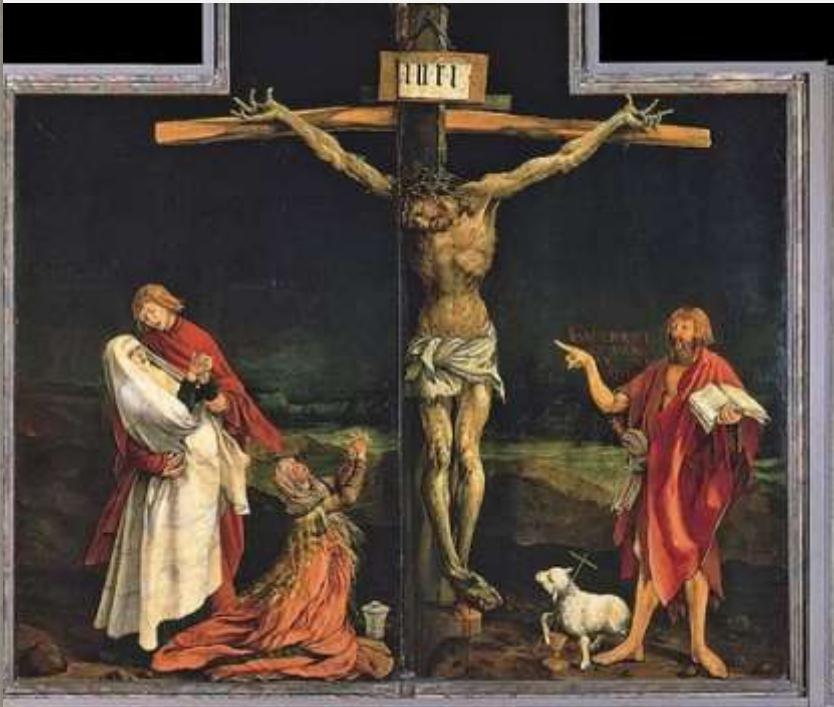


# First Presbyterian Church

## September 15, 2024

*Welcome*



### **Sermon: The Kind of Pastor I Hope to Be**

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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.

### *~ Good Things to Know ~*

#### *Today's Worship Leader*

FPC Youth

#### *Today's Flowers*

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Sharon Walker, in celebration of family members' birthdays in August and September – Avery, Masen, Nick and Abby.

#### *Last Week's Attendance, September 8*

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 17

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 165

Online Worship Attendance - 27

**Total Attendance – 209**

## **8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION**

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

From where we are to where you lead us,  
Christ be before us.

From what we are to what you can make of us,  
Christ be beside us.

Inspire us with your vision, lead us in your love, unite us by your ministry.  
Christ go ahead of us, amen!

\*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

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a brand new creation: The old life is gone; the new life is here!

Believe the good news of the gospel:

**Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!**

\*Gloria Patri

### *The Word*

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-9, Exodus 32:1-14

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**“The Kind of Pastor I Hope to Be”**

Rev. Seth Saathoff

### *Responding to the Word*

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 #467

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! (Refrain)

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

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**"Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!"**  
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## **11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

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

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit                    *Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!*

Call to Worship

From where we are to where you lead us,  
Christ be before us.

From what we are to what you can make of us,  
Christ be beside us.

Inspire us with your vision, lead us in your love, unite us by your ministry.  
Christ go ahead of us, amen!

\*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

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sin and the sin of this world. Although Christ is among us as our peace, we are a people divided against ourselves as we cling to the values of a broken world. The profit and pleasures we pursue lay waste the land and pollute the seas. The fears and jealousies that we harbor set neighbor against neighbor and nation against nation. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, of intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression.

Lord, have mercy upon us; heal and forgive us. Set us free from a past we cannot change, and open to us a future in which we can be changed. Set within us hearts of fire burning with your passion that we may serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a brand new creation: The old life is gone; the new life is here! Believe the good news of the gospel:

**Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!**

\*Gloria Patri

Minute for Mission

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology

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

\*Choral Response

### The Word

Anthem

*All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

*Drennan*

Scripture Reading

Philippians 4:4-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## Children's Time

\*Hymn #351

Give to Me, Lord, a Thankful Heart

1. Give to me, Lord, a thankful heart  
And a discerning mind;

**Give, as I play the Christian's part,**  
The strength to finish what I start  
And act on what I find.

3. By Your divine and urgent claim  
And by Your human face,  
Kindle our sinking hearts to flame,  
And as You teach the world Your name  
Let it become Your place.

4. Jesus, with all Your church I long  
To see Your kingdom come;  
Show me Your way of righting wrong  
And turning sorrow into song  
Until You bring me home.

Scripture Reading

Exodus 32:1-14

Sermon

**“The Kind of Pastor I Hope to Be”**

Rev. Seth Saathoff

*Responding to the Word*

Prayers of the People

\*Hymn #467

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! (Refrain)

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Closing Response

Holy Spirit, Truth Devine

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

\*Postlude

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

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### **Philippians 4:4-9**

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

### **Exodus 32:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, **the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him."** <sup>2</sup> Aaron said to them, **"Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me."** <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, **and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!"** <sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, **"Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord."** <sup>6</sup> They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel.

<sup>7</sup> The Lord said to Moses, **"Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'"**

<sup>9</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.”<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth?’ Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ”<sup>14</sup> And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

## Notes



## *Called Meeting of the Congregation September 22*

A Called Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 22, 2024, during the 11 a.m. worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be for the 2024 Officer Nominating Committee to present the nominees of its committee for approval by the congregation.

*Thank You from Rev. Gregory Han*

Thank you so much for such a wonderful send-off on Sunday. Thank for the heartfelt cards and for the delicious cake, for the generous hugs and warm handshakes. Thank you for the generosity for my book fund, and thank you for the signed picture and for the gorgeous quilt! Our year together was a true god-send and blessing for me. Sincerely, Greg

## ***“See You at the Pole” September 25***



FPC will be joining with PDS for a brief time of organized, informal prayer at our flag pole, which is located in front of the Family Life Center. Rev. Saathoff will lead this event, beginning at 8:45 a.m. Please join us if you can.

*Help for the Hearing Impaired*

We understand that the sound in the sanctuary is not ideal for those who are hearing impaired. For this, you can use a personal sound amplifier, which is available at the sound booth. This device will assist you in hearing the message more clearly and should help to avoid some of the feedback and interference we experience on occasion. We appreciate your help with this.

## ***Russo's Pizza Joins PDS for Spirit Day***

Who doesn't like pizza? Who doesn't love PDS? Talk about a winning combo! Please plan to help support PDS, on October 10<sup>th</sup>, by ordering pizza from Russo's Pizza (right across the street in the HEB shopping center). A percentage of the proceeds will benefit Presbyterian Day School, so it's a win-win. Thanks in advance for your support.

## September Celebrations

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

**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 a potluck (September 15) and a reception (September 22) after the service.

### **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.

*For Pastoral Care, Contact Rev. Callie Candeel*

**Greetings from Reverend Callie Candeel!** 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

<i>Sunday September 15</i>	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary) 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 with Cara Wood (Rm. 204) Max Lucado study series "What Happens Next-A Traveler's Guide Through the End of This Age." 9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) <b>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton</b> (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians <b>9:30 a.m. "The Word" Children's Sunday School</b> (Rm. 203) 10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex) 10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary) 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live <a href="http://www.com/fpcConroe">www.com/fpcConroe</a> or <a href="https://www.youtube.com/fpcConroe">YouTube.com/fpcConroe</a>) 12:00 p.m. Potluck for Rev. Saathoff and Family (FLC) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<i>Monday September 16</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday September 18</i>	5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

## Save the Date

September 22 FPC Staff Recognition and Reception

September 25 See You at the Pole (prayer at the flag pole)

October 2 WNL Kickoff

October 6 World Communion Sunday

October 11 Pumpkin Patch Delivery

October 12-31 Pumpkin Patch at FPC

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Sunday</i> <i>September 22</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><b>9:30 a.m. "The Word" Children's Sunday School</b> (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 <a href="https://www.youtube.com/fpcConroe">YouTube.com/fpcConroe</a>)</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Reception for FPC Staff (Narthex)</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Session Meeting</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 Ivison, Don Myer, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

**Members' Relatives & Friends:** Alicia I., James I., and Ron S. (Baileys), Susie K (Davis), 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), 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), Karl W. (Watt), Lisa J. (Miller), Shannon L. (Diamond), Rick J., Sydney H. and Martha K. (Juhl), Joe T. Sr and caregivers, 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. Seth Saathoff, Senior Pastor

Rev. Callie Candee, Pastoral Care

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:*

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