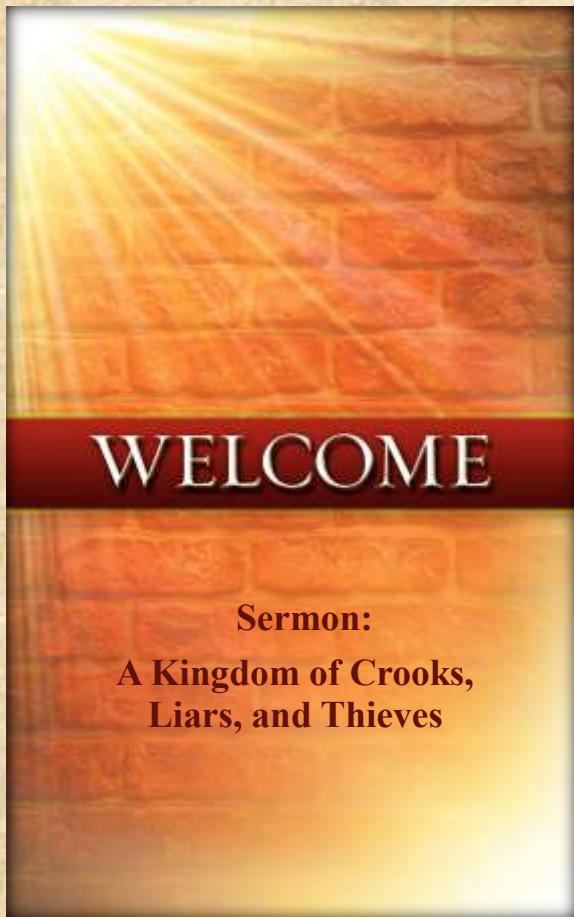


# First Presbyterian Church

## September 22, 2024



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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***

Mark Sowden

***Today's Flowers***

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Donna and Randy Blanton in honor of their grandchildren, Olivia and Xavier.

***Last Week's Attendance, September 15***

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 15

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 161

Online Worship Attendance - 41

**Total Attendance - 217**

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Come and praise, you servants of God! Praise the name of the Lord!

**May God's name be blessed** both now and forever.

From east to west, from north to south, praise the name of Lord!

**May God's name be blessed both now and forever.**

Who can compare to our God? Seated high above the nations of the earth, God's glory fills the skies.

**May God's name be blessed** both now and forever.

\*Hymn #339

Be Thou My Vision

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art--  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

2. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

3. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Even though we have made mistakes, Christ calls us into new life and enables us to try again.

In Christ, God is making all things new.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel;

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

\*Gloria Patri

*The Word*

Scripture Reading

Psalm 113, Luke 16:1-13

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**“A Kingdom of Crooks, Liars, and Thieves”**

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 #341

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, This is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, This is my song,  
Praising my savior all the day long.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.  
(Refrain)

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

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**"God Is Here" Green/Curry**

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Music and Choral Setting: © 2010 Alfred Music Publishing Co., Inc.,

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## 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

### Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

*Ringing Victoriously!*  
FPC Handbell Choir

Mazzatenta

Call to Worship

Come and praise, you servants of God! Praise the name of the Lord!

**May God's name be blessed** both now and forever.

From east to west, from north to south, praise the name of Lord!

**May God's name be blessed both now and forever.**

Who can compare to our God? Seated high above the nations of the earth, God's glory fills the skies.

**May God's name be blessed** both now and forever.

\*Hymn #339

Be Thou My Vision

1. Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
Nought be all else to me, save that Thou art--  
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
2. Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,  
Great God of heaven, my treasure Thou art.
3. Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;  
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Most Holy God, we must confess that we like to have it both ways. We want to have our cake and eat it, too. We like serving multiple masters. We like worshipping you on Sunday while putting our own wants and desires before you the rest of the week. Yet, Jesus tells us that no one can serve two masters. Give us strength and courage to get our priorities straight and to seek your kingdom first. Help us to bury any lingering selfish desires that prevent us from selflessly serving you and your kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Even though we have made mistakes, Christ calls us into new life and enables us to try again.

In Christ, God is making all things new.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

\*Gloria Patri

Minute for Mission-Staff Appreciation

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology

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

\*Choral Response

## The Word

### **Children's Time**

Anthem	<i>God Is Here</i>	Green/Curry
Scripture Reading		Psalm 113
	The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.	
*Hymn #304		Jesus Loves Me
	1. Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so. Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.	
	Refrain: Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.	
	2. Jesus loves me! This I know, As He loved so long ago, Taking children on His knee, Saying, "Let them come to Me." [Refrain]	
Scripture Reading		Luke 16:1-13
Sermon	<b>"A Kingdom of Crooks, Liars, and Thieves"</b>	Rev. Seth Saathoff

## Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

Congregational Meeting

\*Hymn #341

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, This is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, This is my song,  
Praising my savior all the day long.

3. Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
Watching and waiting, looking above,  
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.  
(Refrain)

\*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

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

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

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord! Praise, O servants of the Lord; praise the name of the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore. <sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised. <sup>4</sup> The Lord is high above all nations and his glory above the heavens.

<sup>5</sup> Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, <sup>6</sup> who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? <sup>7</sup> He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap, <sup>8</sup> to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people. <sup>9</sup> He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!

### **Luke 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus **said to the disciples**, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. <sup>2</sup> So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ <sup>3</sup> Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. <sup>4</sup> I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ <sup>5</sup> So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ <sup>6</sup> He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ <sup>7</sup> Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ <sup>8</sup> And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. <sup>9</sup> And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

<sup>10</sup> “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. <sup>11</sup> If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? <sup>12</sup> And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? <sup>13</sup> No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

## Notes

# *First Presbyterian*



## **Jackye Cannon**

### *Accounting*

I have worked in the FPC Accounting office since January, 2011, handling Accounts Payable for the church. I have been a member of the church for 30 years and love this church. I have served as an Elder and served on the Discipleship and Worship Ministries. My greatest blessing was the involvement with Grief Share. I love working in the office and interacting with other staff members, the different ministry chairs and FPC members who carry out the work of the church.



## **Shirley Dukes**

### *Parish Nurse*

The Parish Nurse position was established about 2011 as a vocational role. During the first years, we did blood pressure and diabetes screenings and provided access to flu shots. In recent years, the role has been one mostly concerning medical referrals, clarifying and explaining medical lingo, responding to medical emergencies, keeping track of our medical equipment, and working with Care & Prayer. I just renewed my Texas State Nursing License! Good for another 2 years!



## **Rolethial McKelvey**

### *Accompanist*

I have worked at the church for two years. My current role is as the church pianist and I provide service music.

On a personal note, I have made it my mission to help the youth in one of the most ancient villages in Nigeria, Africa.

# Church Staff 2024



## **Jane Corbit**

### *Accounting*

I have been working in the accounting department with Jackye Cannon since January 2011. I take care of deposits, bank statements, reports and running statements for everyone. I have always liked accounting and I like working in the office. I have been a member of FPC for almost 30 years.

I have had White Fox Travel for 40 years. I really enjoy traveling and helping other FPC members with their travel needs.



## **Bonnie Hernandez**

### *Music Director*

I have been working at the church for four months as the music and handbells director.

When I am not working, I love the outdoors especially hiking.

As a side note, I want everyone to know that there is a place for them in choir and handbells.



## **Yvonne Rose**

### *Office Manager*

I have been working in the church office for seven years, first as office assistant, then as office manager. My job is to keep the office functioning smoothly, be of assistance to the Pastor and to coordinate with others. I also help members when they need assistance or information.

I retired from 32 years of nursing. I joined FPC in 2011 and became an office volunteer, not knowing it would lead to a new career and the best job I ever had!

# *Church Staff 2024 (Cont'd)*



## **Dena Sowden**

### *Director of Christian Education*

I have been working at FPC for five years, where I assist the Senior Pastor with overseeing the ministry of Christian Education and implementing a well-rounded, Biblically oriented, Christ-centered program of meaningful and spiritually challenging activities.

On a personal note, I love my work with the youth and I love to spend time with my family doing anything outdoors. I also know that I am so blessed to be married to my best friend.



## **Linda Terbl**

### *Nursery Attendant*

This is my 19<sup>th</sup> year at FPC.

My goal is to greet the kids with a smile and keep them happy and safe while in my care.

On a personal note, I am a member of the VFW Auxiliary. I'm the treasurer and I have a passion for veterans. In my spare time, I crochet mats for the homeless out of grocery bags.



## **Sharon VanSchuyver**

### *Director of Communications*

I have worked at FPC for 10 years now in various capacities. At this time, my primary function is to create publications for the church, which includes postcards, ads, bulletins, newsletters and all orders of worship, along with handling other payroll and financial matters.

Although life has taken me away from Conroe, I greatly value the blessing of my job and I miss my FPC friends very much!



## *Called Meeting of the Congregation September 22*

A Called Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, September 22, 2024, during the 11:00 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.

Called Congregational Meeting  
September 22, 2024  
First Presbyterian Church  
Conroe, TX

- Call to Order, Opening Prayer, and Declaration of a Quorum
- Session Report for the Election of the 2024 Nominating Committee
  - ⇒ Session representative nominees: Catherine Scheffler (Chair), Sharon Walker, and Stephan Tibbets
  - ⇒ At-large nominees: Susan Das, Jenny Peterson, Cody Sowden, and Susan Young
- Election of 2024 Nominating Committee
- Adjournment of Congregational Meeting

## *Staff Recognition Today*

Today we will have Staff Recognition Sunday to show our appreciation for our church staff, who have done a remarkable job during this time of transition without a permanent pastor. Please join us for a celebratory reception after the 11:00 worship service.

## **“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.

## *Wednesday Night Live Class*

### *For the Bible Tells Me So: A Brief History of Biblical Scholarship and Translation*

The Holy Bible is the central text of the Christian faith. The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments represent God's Word, God's special revelation, and the saving knowledge of the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Originally written primarily in Hebrew and Greek, the Bible has been translated into every language under the sun. Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century, there have been over 900 English translations of the Bible produced.

How did this hodgepodge collection of ancient texts make its way into the Bible that we know and love today? Who decided which books were included and which books were left out? Why are there so many different translations? Are some translations better than others?

Join Pastor Seth Saathoff as we explore these questions and more. During this class, we will examine the formation of the Biblical canon, the history of English translations of the Bible, the genesis of modern Biblical scholarship and textual criticism, and the challenges of modern translation.

### *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.

*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.



## A Note from the Saathoffs

Dear FPC Family:

Since our arrival just a few weeks ago, our family has been blown away by this **congregation's generosity**. I know my words will be woefully insufficient to properly convey our gratitude, but here goes nothing:

Thank you to everyone who brought us a home-cooked meal or paid for our meal when our cupboards were bare.

Thank you to everyone who helped fill up our cupboards by participating in the **"pounding" last Sunday**.

Thank you to everyone who wrote heartfelt cards of welcome.

And thank you to everyone who prayed for us over these last several weeks since I was elected as your pastor.

It is a great honor, privilege, and joy to live and serve alongside you.

In grace and gratitude,

The Saathoff Family

### ***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.

### ***Volunteer Church Historian Needed***

First Presbyterian Church is in need of a church historian that has an extensive background at FPC-Conroe. An immediate need for this role is to organize pictures that have been given to the church over the last several decades and possibly put them on display. Additional requests will be identified as things progress. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Yvonne at [yrose@fpcconroe.org](mailto:yrose@fpcconroe.org).

## Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i> September 22	<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>
<i>Monday</i> September 23	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday</i> September 25	8:45 a.m. See You at the Pole (Flag pole) 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

## Save the Date

- September 25 See You at the Pole (prayer at the flag pole)
- October 2 WNL Kickoff and Cakewalk Bingo
- October 6 World Communion Sunday
- October 11 Pumpkin Patch Delivery
- October 12-31 Pumpkin Patch at FPC

<p style="margin: 0;">Sunday September 29</p>	<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>)  5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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## Prayer List

Members: Glenna Lang, Joe Clark, 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:** Sue P. (Clark), Wes K. (Yates), Alicia I., James I., and Ron S. (Bailey), Susie K (Davis), Anna and Wendy C. (Harshbarger), Lynn & Jamie DeGeorge (Barton), Thad M. (West), Danielle S. & kids, 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)

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#### *Mailing Address:*

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