

# First Presbyterian Church

## September 29, 2024



### Sermon:

### *Sugar Rush and a Salty Savior*

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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*

Karen Clark

#### *Today's Flowers*

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Pat Hudson in honor of Mary's 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

#### *Last Week's Attendance, September 22*

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 20

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 133

Online Worship Attendance - 41

**Total Attendance - 194**

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The heavens are telling the story of our God.

**May our worship reflect God's glory.**

The firmament proclaims God's creation.

May we see in each other the living image of our creator.

Let us praise the Lord with all heart, soul, and voice.

With all that is within us, let us give praise to God.

\*Hymn #487

When Morning Gilds the Skies

1. When morning gilds the skies,  
My heart awaking cries:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer  
To Jesus I repair:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

2. Does sadness fill my mind?  
A solace here I find:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Or fades my earthly bliss?  
My comfort still is this:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

4. Be this, while life is mine,  
My canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song  
Through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

\*Please stand if able.

### \*Call to Confession

### \*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

\*Gloria Patri

## The Word

## Scripture Reading

## Psalm 124, Mark 9:38-50

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Sermon

## “Sugar Rush and a Salty Savior”

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 #145

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

1. Rejoice ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice! rejoice! rejoice,  
Give thanks, and sing!

3. At last the march shall end;  
The wearied ones shall rest;  
The pilgrims find their home at last,  
Jerusalem the blest. (Refrain)

4. Then on, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King. (Refrain)

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

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“What a Friend”

Scriven/Converse

Choral Setting by Schrader

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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!*

Dill

## Call to Worship

The heavens are telling the story of our God.

**May our worship reflect God's glory.**

The firmament proclaims God's creation.

May we see in each other the living image of our creator.

Let us praise the Lord with all heart, soul, and voice.

With all that is within us, let us give praise to God.

\*Hymn #487

## When Morning Gilds the Skies

1. When morning gilds the skies,  
My heart awaking cries:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer  
To Jesus I repair:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

2. Does sadness fill my mind?  
A solace here I find:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Or fades my earthly bliss?  
My comfort still is this:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

4. Be this, while life is mine,  
My canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song  
Through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

\*Please stand if able

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, our judge and redeemer, we confess that we have tried to hide from you, for we have done wrong. We have lived for ourselves and not for others. We have lived for ourselves and apart from you. We have turned from our neighbors and refused to bear the burdens of others. We have ignored the pain of the world, passing by the poor, the hungry, and the oppressed. In your great mercy, forgive what we have been, amend what we are, and make us to grow more fully into the likeness of Jesus Christ. Give us the freedom to do your will, to seek your kingdom, and to offer others the grace we have found in you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

This saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good.

In Christ we are a brand-new creation; the old life is gone and the new life is here!

Friends, 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

### **Children's Time**

Anthem

*What a Friend*

*Schrader*

Scripture Reading

Psalm 124

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn #420

God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glory,  
On Thy people pour Thy power;  
Crown Thine ancient church's story;  
Bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the facing of this hour,  
For the facing of this hour.

2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us  
Scorn Thy Christ, assail Thy ways!  
From the fears that long have bound us  
Free our hearts to faith and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
For the living of these days,  
For the living of these days.

4. Set our feet on lofty places;  
Gird our lives that they may be  
Armored with all Christ-like graces,  
Pledged to set all captives free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
That we fail not them nor Thee!  
That we fail not them nor Thee!

Scripture Reading

Mark 9:38-50

Sermon

**“Sugar Rush and a Salty Savior”**  
Rev. Seth Saathoff

## Responding to the Word

### Prayers of the People

\*Hymn #145

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

1. Rejoice ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice! rejoice! rejoice,  
Give thanks, and sing!

3. At last the march shall end;  
The wearied ones shall rest;  
The pilgrims find their home at last,  
Jerusalem the blest. (Refrain)

4. Then on, ye pure in heart!  
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!  
Your festal banner wave on high,  
The cross of Christ your King. (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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### **Psalm 124**

<sup>1</sup> If it had not been the Lord who was on our side  
—let Israel now say—  
<sup>2</sup> if it had not been the Lord who was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,  
<sup>3</sup> then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;  
<sup>4</sup> then the flood would have swept us away;  
the torrent would have gone over us;  
<sup>5</sup> then over us would have gone  
the raging waters. <sup>6</sup> Blessed be the Lord,  
who has not given us as prey to their teeth.  
<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the hunters;  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.  
<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.

### **Mark 9:38-50**

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, “Do not stop him, for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup> “If any of you cause one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup> “For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good, but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

# Notes



## *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.

### *New Wednesday Night Live Class History of the Christian Church From CE 46 to CE 1547*

**Ron Massey & Debbie Morse will host a class in the Library "History Of Our Christian Church from C.E. 46 – C.E. 1547 "Join us as we tour the ideas and events which produced Christian theology, new churches , the Protestant Reformation, and a lessening of religious wars. You will learn vital concepts from the Book of Romans, gain new insights into the sacraments, and learn how and why Martin Luther, John Calvin, and King Henry VIII led the way in Lutheranism, Calvinism, Presbyterianism, and the Church of England, No book assigned to be read for this class."**

## WNL Menu

Addilee's chicken spaghetti, green beans, green salad, garlic bread, Italian cream cake. Takeout is available if requested through the church office by Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. We will serve dinner at 5:00 p.m. The cost is \$5 for 12-89 years of age.

**WNL Kick-Off Cakewalk Bingo ~ you're welcome to bring your favorite dessert to add to the prize table or just join us for fun! Bingo starts at 6:00 p.m. and runs through 7:30 p.m. or when we run out of desserts.**



## Wednesday Night Live

~ Kick-Off ~

Cakewalk Bingo!

Join us October 2 from 5-7 pm

~Dinner Served 5-5:45 pm

\$5/person (Under 12 & 90+ eat FREE)

**THEN.....**

~Cakewalk Bingo from 6 - 7 pm

All events in the FLC Gym

\*\*Doors Open at 4:45 pm\*\*

## A Note from the FPC Staff

Dear FPC Family:

Thank you for such a wonderful staff recognition day. We thoroughly enjoyed the service, reception, cards and gift bags. Thanks also to those who prepared and served the wonderful snacks, the Admin Committee for planning such an elaborate day, and for the beautiful flower arrangements. We felt extra special, thanks to our wonderful FPC family.

### *Pumpkin Patch*



Pumpkin Patch is right around the corner. The delivery date is October 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. We could use all hands on deck to help unload and arrange pumpkins around the lawn.

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for weekend hospitality hosts and goodies to give out.

Please make sure the goodies are individually wrapped and can withstand being outside in the heat (no chocolates). See Liz Kessler for details.

### **All Saints Day Service November 3, 2024**

If you want to include the remembrance of your loved one who passed from September 2023 through August 2024 in this special service, then please provide the information to Yvonne Rose, Office Manager, by October 17, 2024, at [yrose@fpccconroe.org](mailto:yrose@fpccconroe.org), or by calling the Church Office at: **(936) 756-8884**



## ***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).

### *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.



## Calendar of Weekly Events

<p>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>
<p>Monday September 30</p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p>Tuesday October 1</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)</p>
<p>Wednesday October 2</p>	<p>4:00 p.m. Small Group Study with Gordon Juhl. Studying Timothy Kel- ler's devotion <b>God's Wisdom for Navigating Life.</b> 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live (FLC) 6:00 p.m. Bible Studies 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>

<p><i>Sunday October 6</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. Committee Meetings</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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## Save the Date

- October 2            WNL Kickoff and Cakewalk Bingo
- October 6            World Communion Sunday
- October 11            Pumpkin Patch Delivery
- October 14            CISD Holiday
- October 12-31        Pumpkin Patch at FPC
- October 26            PDS Fall Festival - Trunk or Treat - Movie Night



## 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**: C.M. (Blott), Sue P. (Clark), Wes K. (Yates), Alicia I., James I., and Ron S. (Bailey), Susie K (Davis), Anna and Wendy C. (Harshbarger), the family of Lynn 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)

*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.**



## Ministry Leaders

Administration	Cheryl Nichols (2025, Chair)
Building & Grounds	Bill Harshbarger (2026, Chair)
Care-Prayer	Bob Shepherd (2024, Chair)
Discipleship	Mark Sowden (2024, Chair) Dena Sowden (2024)
	Alex Williams (2024)
	Masen Stuntz (2025)
Fellowship	TBD
Membership	Steve Scheffler (2025)
Missions	Bobby Ezell (2024, Chair) Catherine Scheffler (2025)
PDS	Sharon Walker (2025, Chair)
Worship	Randy Blanton and Mike Wisda (2026, Co-chairs)

## 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