

# First Presbyterian Church

October 20, 2024



*Welcome*



## **Sermon:**

***There Are No Luxury Suites  
in the Kingdom of God***

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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 Judy Weinburger, in memory of parents,  
Robert & Marjorie Johnson and Al & Evelyn Weinburger.

***Last Week's Attendance, October 13***

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 20

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 137

Online Worship Attendance - 40

**Total Attendance – 197**

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Servants of God, lift up your heads!  
That the Lord may behold our eyes!  
Servants of God, lift up your hands!  
That the Lord may bless our works!  
Servants of God, lift up your hearts!  
That the Lord may abide within!  
Servants of God, the Lord is in this place!  
Let us worship the Lord!

\*Hymn #476

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

1. O worship the King, all glorious above!  
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;  
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,  
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,  
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.
4. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

\*Gloria Patri

### The Word

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 53:4-12, Mark 10:35-45

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

**Sermon**

**"There Are No Luxury Suites in the Kingdom of God"**

*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 #423

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
3. People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.
4. Blessings abound where'er He reigns;  
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

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**"On Eagle's Wings"**

by Michael Joncas and Mark Hayes

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**"We are Marching" and "Siyahamba"**

Text: South African folksong

Tune: South African folksong

© 1984, Utryck, admin. by Walton Music Corporation

## **11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

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

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit                      *Open Your Heart in Humble Adoration*

*Folts*

Call to Worship

Servants of God, lift up your heads!  
That the Lord may behold our eyes!  
Servants of God, lift up your hands!  
That the Lord may bless our works!  
Servants of God, lift up your hearts!  
That the Lord may abide within!  
Servants of God, the Lord is in this place!  
Let us worship the Lord!

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2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,  
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.  
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And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.
4. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?  
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;  
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,  
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Lord Jesus Christ, we expect that you will do what we want, whatever we ask. We want places of honor and glory. We want to be great; we want to be first. But you, O Christ, are servant of all.

We pray for forgiveness this day: for choosing power over service, for seeking glory rather than humility, for pushing ourselves to the front when our presence is needed on the sidelines.

Forgive our brazenness. Forgive our self-importance. Teach us to be humble. Teach us to be more like you. Help us know where we are needed and how best to serve you and your people. Guide us to your side, that we might be your hands of healing and compassion for a world in need. **In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

\*Gloria Patri

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology

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

\*Choral Response

## The Word

### Children's Time

Anthem

*On Eagle's Wings*

*Hayes*

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 53:4-12

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn #119

### **The Strife Is O'er**

Refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**1. The strife is o'er, the battle done,**

The victory of life is won;

The song of triumph has begun,

Alleluia!

**3. The three sad days are quickly sped,**

Christ rises glorious from the dead;

All glory to our risen Head!

Alleluia!

**4. Lord, by Your wounds on Calvary**

**From death's dread sting Your servants free,**

That we may live eternally.

Alleluia!

(Refrain)

Scripture Reading

Mark 10:35-45

**Sermon**

**"There Are No Luxury Suites in the Kingdom of God"**

*Rev. Seth Saathoff*



## Responding to the Word

### Prayers of the People

#### \*Hymn #423

#### Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
3. People and realms of every tongue  
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,  
And infant voices shall proclaim  
Their early blessings on His name.
4. Blessings abound where'er He reigns;  
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,  
The weary find eternal rest,  
And all who suffer want are blest.

#### \*Charge and Benediction

#### \*Closing Response

#### We Are Marching

We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of God.  
We are marching in the light of God,  
we are marching in the light of the light of God,  
we are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of the light of God,  
we are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,  
we are marching in the light of God.

#### \*Postlude

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

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### Isaiah 53:4-12

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases, yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

<sup>7</sup> He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. <sup>8</sup> By a perversion of justice he was taken away. Who could have imagined his future? For he was cut off from the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people. <sup>9</sup> They made his grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

<sup>10</sup> Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him with affliction.

When you make his life an offering for sin, he shall see his offspring and shall prolong his days; through him the will of the Lord shall prosper.

<sup>11</sup> Out of his anguish he shall see; he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge. The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. <sup>12</sup> Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out himself to death and was numbered with the transgressors, yet he bore the sin of many and made intercession for the transgressors.

### Mark 10:35-45

<sup>35</sup> James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you." <sup>36</sup> And he said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" <sup>37</sup> And they said to him, "Appoint us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." <sup>38</sup> But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" <sup>39</sup> They replied, "We are able." Then Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized you will be baptized, <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to appoint, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared."

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup> **So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup> But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”**

## *Notes*



### *WNL Menu*

**You won't want to miss our next WNL meal on October 23<sup>rd</sup>!** We will be enjoying chicken enchiladas, fruit salad, Mexican street corn, and pumpkin sheet cake.

If you are unable to attend WNL, 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.

### *Worship Leaders Needed*

**YOU ARE INVITED** — If you would like to participate in our Worship Services as one of the Worship Leaders, please contact Sharon Walker at (936) 520-9530 or [sswalker46@hotmail.com](mailto:sswalker46@hotmail.com) on or before October 27. On Sunday, November 3, at 12:30 p.m., a meeting will convene in the Parlor. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please notify Sharon to arrange a date/time for training, as well as to answer questions.

### *New and Prospective Members Invited to "First Steps" Orientation Class on November 10*

First Presbyterian Church Conroe and its Membership Committee will host a new and prospective member lunch and orientation class called *First Steps* on Sunday, November 10, from 12:30 p.m. (following the 11 a.m. worship service) until 2 p.m. in Room 105. *First Steps* gives new and prospective members an overview of the Christian faith, the Presbyterian tradition, and the mission and ministries of our church. Rev. Saathoff and several lay leaders will facilitate this class. Lunch and nursery will be provided.

Please confirm your attendance to Steve Scheffler at (281)-851-1690 or email: [scscheffler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scscheffler@sbcglobal.net) on or before November 3.

### *Display for FPC Veterans*

Please make note of the bulletin board in the hallway that has been set up for FPC Veterans. You are invited to share photos of yourselves or loved ones who have served in any capacity in our military. The photos can be turned in to the office, addressed to Dena Sowden, with the name, branch and rank at any time. If you would like to get the photo back, please indicate that when you drop it off, and we will be sure to get your original back to you.

### *Veterans Day Breakfast*

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, PDS will be hosting breakfast for FPC and PDS Veterans. If you would like to take part in this special morning, please plan to meet in the bistro area at 9:00 a.m. We hope you will join us!



### *Saturday with the Saathoffs*

The Saathoff family wants to get to know our FPC family and is inviting you to dinner! Use the link to choose an upcoming Saturday that works for you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CABAD2EA2F94-51851903-saturdays#/>

### *Mission Sewing Needs*

The Mission Sewing Group is preparing for the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Sew-a-thon to be held on February 22, 2025. Registration begins February 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the meantime, **we are taking donations of buttons... any type of buttons!** Please drop them off in the main office or Room 105.

Thank you, Liz Kessler and Linda Harshbarger

# SAVE THE DATE

## THE GREAT PUMPKIN

patch & festival

Saturday,  
OCTOBER 26, 2024  
4:30pm-8:00pm

### PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL

2727 N Loop 336 W.  
Conroe, TX 77304  
*across from H.E.B.!*  
[pdsConroe.com](http://pdsConroe.com)



FOOD + MARKET  
TRUNK, TREAT & TRAIL  
PUMPKIN PATCH  
RAFFLES & MORE

*proceeds go to kid programs*

### MOVIE AMONG THE PUMPKINS

*showing*

*"It's The Great Pumpkin  
Charlie Brown!"*

## Prayer List

Members: Ron Hethershaw and family, Glenna Lang, Joe Clark, Jeannene Wendt, 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 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>October 20</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. FPC Kid'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 YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Session Meeting</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>October 21</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>October 23</i></p>	<p>4:00 p.m. Small Group Study with Gordon Juhl. Studying Timothy Keller's devotion <b>God's Wisdom for Navigating Life.</b></p> <p>5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal (FLC)</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Bible Studies</p> <p>6:00-7:00 p.m. J.A.M. Kids Craft and Music Time</p> <p>7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>
<p><i>Saturday</i> <i>October 26</i></p>	<p>4:30-8:00 p.m. PDS Fall Festival - Trunk or Treat - Movie Night</p>



<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>October 27</i></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. FPC Kid'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 YouTube.com/fpcConroe)  5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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## Save the Date

- October 26      PDS Fall Festival - Trunk or Treat - Movie Night
- November 3      All Saints Day Memorial
- November 11      **Veteran's Day Breakfast with PDS**
- November 20      WNL Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship Service
- November 25-29      CISD/PDS Thanksgiving break
- November 28      Thanksgiving Day



# 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)



*Thank You  
for  
Joining Us*

## 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