

First Presbyterian Church

November 3, 2024



Sermon: *Watch Where You Sow*

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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. 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

Martha Haines

Today's Flowers

There is no flower dedication today.

Last Week's Attendance, October 27

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 19

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 131

Online Worship Attendance - 36

Total Attendance – 186

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.
A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to harvest.

Thankful for the bountiful harvest we have received, we plant seeds for future generations to reap.

Giving thanks to God, we give just as we have received.

With heart, soul, mind, and voice:

Let us worship God!

*Hymn

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.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above,
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)
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)

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

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 119:1-8, Matthew 13:1-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Watch Where You Sow”

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People and Roll Call of the Saints

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn #526

For All the Saints

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Copyright Information

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"Fairest Lord Jesus" Arr. By Jack Schrader

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"For All the Saints": Music: From the English Hymnal, 1906.
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11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *I Come with Joy*

Call to Worship

For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.
A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to
harvest.

Thankful for the bountiful harvest we have received, we plant seeds for
future generations to reap.

Giving thanks to God, we give just as we have received.

With heart, soul, mind, and voice:

Let us worship God!

*Hymn *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.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels, descending, bring from above,
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

*Please stand if able.

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)

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

O Lord our God, you love us with your utmost being, but we cannot say we have loved you with ours. You save us, but we must admit we have not always been grateful. You have given us gifts for ministry, but we have neglected those good gifts.

Merciful God, save us from hardness of heart, where your word cannot take root. Save us from shallowness of mind, where your word withers away. Save us from the deceitfulness of riches, where your word is choked by every day cares.

But Lord, grant that our hearts may be fertile soil, where your word flourishes and yields a harvest, bringing love and joy all around us. In **Christ's name we pray, amen.**

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*Gloria Patri

Moment for Stewardship

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory	Fairest Lord Jesus	Schrader
*Doxology		
*Prayer of Dedication		
*Choral Response		

The Word

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:1-8, Matthew 13:1-9

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Watch Where You Sow”

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For All the Saints

1. For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might;
Thou, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Charge and Benediction

*Closing Response

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

God be with you till we meet again;
By God's counsels guide, uphold you,
With God's sheep securely fold you:
God be with you till we meet again.
Till we meet, till we meet,
till we meet at Jesus' feet,
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.

*Postlude

Notes

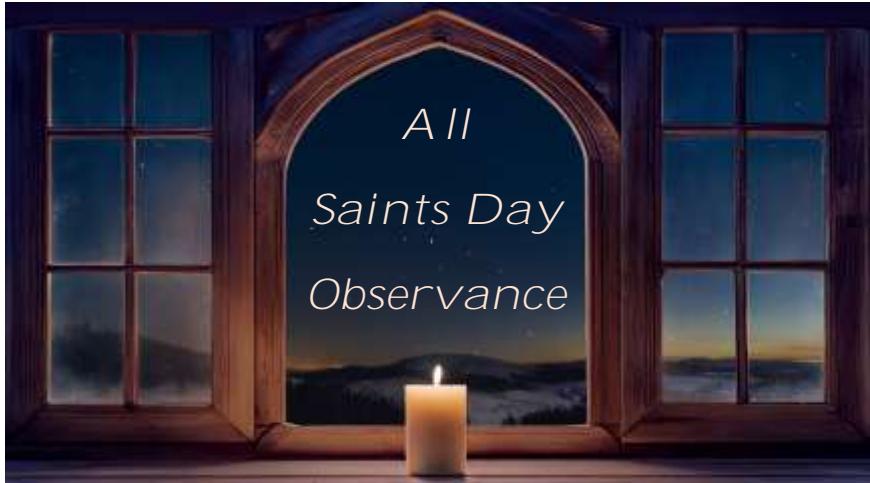
This Week's Scripture Readings

Psalm 119:1-8

- ¹ Happy are those whose way is blameless,
who walk in the law of the Lord.
- ² Happy are those who keep his decrees,
who seek him with their whole heart,
- ³ who also do no wrong
but walk in his ways.
- ⁴ You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
- ⁵ O that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
- ⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all your commandments.
- ⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous ordinances.
- ⁸ I will observe your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me.

Matthew 13:1-9

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ If you have ears, hear!”



All Saints Day Observance

Today we observe All Saints Day, an annual remembrance of those who have died within the past year. We will remember recently deceased church members during a prayer. If you are grieving the death of a loved one that you want to be remembered today, please print her/his name and place it in the offering plate. Today we will pray for all who mourn, that you may be comforted.

Margaret Carson (November 1, 2023)

William E. Dark (November 17, 2023)

H. Warren Taylor, III (February 8, 2024)

Flem Storey Keathley, Jr. (March 5, 2024)

Karen Leigh Hethershaw (October 6, 2024)

Brian Candee (October 23, 2023)

James Harrison (October 29, 2023)

Wayne Tamarelli (December 4, 2023)

Richard Snyder (December 18, 2023)

Jayne Walton (December 22, 2023)

Arnie Sowden (July 20, 2024)

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”
(Matthew 5:4)



WNL Menu

You won't want to miss our November 6 meal, which will consist of baked salmon with browned-butter sauce, wild rice and/or asparagus pasta, spinach-mandarin salad with citrus dressing and lemon-cookie ice cream with blueberries.

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.

Stewardship Season

Reverend Seth Saathoff kicked off our Stewardship Season on October 27 with an inspiring sermon that connected the stories of our FPC-Conroe church founders and later church generations to the stories we are writing today. As we read in Ecclesiastes, there is meant to be within our church an ongoing cycle of planting so that we, as the body of Christ, can be part of the harvest for God's kingdom.

You should soon (if you haven't already) receive a letter from our pastor thanking you for your support and encouraging you to prayerfully consider making a financial pledge to FPC-Conroe in 2025. A pledge card and proposed operating budget with a letter from our Treasurer, Fred Kate, is also included. If you have any questions about the proposed budget, please feel free to contact Fred by email at fhkate@yahoo.com .

November 17 has been set aside for Dedication Sunday where we will commit our offerings to our church for the Lord's work. Please pray for God's guidance for what He is calling you to give for the coming year.

"A time to plant, and a time to harvest." - Ecclesiastes 3:2b

Veterans Day Breakfast

On November 11th, 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!

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.

Poinsettia Dedications



As is our tradition, we will fill the Sanctuary with poinsettias for our Christmas worship services. From now until November 26th, order forms will be available for you to order poinsettias and make dedications in honor, or in memory of, your loved ones, special events or grateful thanks. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Order forms can be found on page 19 of this bulletin or at the Welcome Desk. You may turn them in at the church office or in the offering basket.

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. Please call the church office to set up a time, or use the following link.

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

Life Line Screening at FPC on December 18, 2024

There is a simple, convenient way for you to get preventive health screenings and learn your risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions.

These painless screenings are accurate, affordable and will give you valuable information about your health that you can share with your doctor.

We are pleased to host Life Line Screening, who will be on site on Wednesday, December 18, at First Presbyterian Church Conroe.

These 4 vital screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Register by calling toll free 1-844-591-7160, text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607 or online at <https://llsa.social/HC>.



*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 on or before November 3.



**Help Us Bring
Christmas Joy
To Others**



Philip Cash
toys for tots



November 9, 2024

Catfish Dinner \$12.00 • To Go Plates Available

Noon til 3 pm • Live & Silent Auctions

**North Montgomery County Community Center
600 Gerald Street, Willis TX 77378**

All donations welcome - Contact Marilyn Kasimersky 936-441-8778

www.familypromiseofmc.org

Prayer List

Members: Paula Shepherd, Kyle Walker, 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), 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., Stephannie 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

<i>Sunday November 3</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) 9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians 9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School (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 www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe) 12:30 p.m. Committee Meetings 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<i>Monday November 4</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Tuesday November 5</i>	10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday November 6</i>	<p>4:00 p.m. Small Group Study with Gordon Juhl. Studying Timothy Keller's <i>God's Wisdom for Navigating Life</i>. 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal (FLC) 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 6:00 p.m. Bible Studies 6:00-7:00 p.m. J.A.M. Kids Craft and Music Time 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>

*Sunday
November 10*

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)
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Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus
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This Age."
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9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of
the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians
9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School (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 www.com/fpcConroe or [YouTube.com/fpcConroe](https://www.youtube.com/fpcConroe))
5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)

Save the Date

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

December 18 Lifeline Screening Event at FPC



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	TBD
Worship	Randy Blanton and Mike Wisda (2026, Co-chairs)

A Handful of Weeds

A young, poor girl was on her way to church on Christmas Eve. She had no money for a Christmas gift for the church; so on her way to mass, she stopped and picked a handful of “weeds” from the side of the dusty road. The girl brought the native Mexican “weeds” into the church and set them on the altar during the service. The “weeds” burst into brilliant, bright red color as they lay in the church.

Since then, poinsettias, which require short days to bloom, have been a traditional part of the people’s holiday.



The legend above was derived centuries ago in Mexico and might explain why many people today still use the poinsettia to decorate their home during the Advent season.

We, at First Presbyterian Church, will fill our sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season because of their vibrant colors. The red symbolizes God’s love for us and the green symbolizes everlasting life.

To help us bring these meanings to life in the church, you may purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, a special occasion or a relevant event. Simply complete the information below, and enclose \$15 for each poinsettia. Place your form and cash/check in the collection plate or return to the church office by November 26. Thank you.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Number of desired poinsettias _____

Amount enclosed _____

Dedicated to _____

(Please print clearly)

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

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Mailing Address:

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