

First Presbyterian Church

November 10, 2024



Sermon: “*Living Generously*”

8:30 Worship with Communion	Page 3
11:00 Worship Service	Page 6
Scripture Readings	Page 10
The Connection	Page 12
Prayer List	Page 15
Calendar of Events	Page 16
Poinsettia Order Form	Page 19

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

Carly Hart

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Patrick Hudson, in honor of all veterans and those still serving.

Last Week's Attendance, November 3

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 22

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 149

Online Worship Attendance - 36

Total Attendance – 207

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 #561

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

1. My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside
Let freedom ring.

3. Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake,
Let all that breathe partake,
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.

4. Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is our chosen cup and portion. Because He is merciful, our hearts and tongues rejoice, for the Lord has shown us the way of life and filled us with the joy of His presence.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*Gloria Patri

The Word

Scripture Readings

Psalm 16, II Corinthians 9:6-15

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Living Generously”
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

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn

America the Beautiful

1. O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

2. O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
and every gain divine.

3. O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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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 #561

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And ring from all the trees
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Let mortal tongues awake,
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*Please stand if able.

4. Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing:
Long may our land be bright
With freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess our doubts. When our childhood understandings fall away, we feel naked. When our long-held beliefs seem to crumble, we feel lost. When our convictions are questioned, we feel ashamed.

Guide us into right paths, O God. Guide our feet into the way of peace; guide our hands to care for others; guide our hearts to love our neighbors.

Call us back to You, O Christ, and renew our faith. When the ground is unsteady, loving God, put us back on right paths by doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with You. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The Lord is our chosen cup and portion. Because He is merciful, our hearts and tongues rejoice, for the Lord has shown us the way of life and filled us with the joy of His presence.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:
Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

Moment for Stewardship

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication and The Lord's Prayer**

*Choral Response

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem Battle Hymn of the Republic Wilhousky

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #344 Christ of the Upward Way

1. Christ of the upward way, My guide divine,
Where You have set Your feet May I place mine;
And move and march wherever You have trod,
Keeping face forward up the hill of God.

2. Give me the heart to hear Your voice and will,
That without fault or fear I may fulfill
Your purpose with a glad and holy zest,
Like one who would not bring less than the best.

3. Christ of the upward way, My guide divine,
Where you have set your feet May I place mine;
And when your last call comes serene and clear,
Calm may my answer be, "Lord, I am here."

Sermon

“Living Generously”

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

*Hymn America the Beautiful

1. O beautiful for spacious skies,
for amber waves of grain;
for purple mountain majesties
above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood
from sea to shining sea.

2. O beautiful for heroes proved
in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved,
and mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
Till all success be nobleness,
and every gain divine.

3. O beautiful for patriot dream
that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam,
undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control,
thy liberty in law.

*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

This Week's Scripture Readings

Psalm 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. ² I say to the Lord, “**You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.**”

³ As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones in whom is all my delight.

⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

⁷ I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. ⁸ I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol or let your faithful one see the Pit.

¹¹ You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

⁶ The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not regretfully or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹ As it is written,

“He scatters abroad; he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.”

¹⁰ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹ You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us, ¹² for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your partnership with them and with all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Notes



WNL Menu

You won't want to miss our November 13 meal, which will consist of 7-can soup, cornbread, brownies and ice cream.

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 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 3:20

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

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>.



*Thanksgiving Meal and Final Fall
Wednesday Night Live November 20*

Keep in mind that we will have our traditional Thanksgiving meal and worship service on November 20. Dinner begins at 5:00 p.m., with services to follow. We hope you will plan to join us.



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 10</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) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<i>Monday November 11</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Tuesday November 12</i>	10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (Parlor) 5:15 p.m. Lydia Circle (Youth area)
<i>Wednesday November 13</i>	10:00 a.m. Martha Circle (Parlor) 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)

Sunday
November 17

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](https://www.youtube.com/fpcConroe))
12:00 p.m. Session Meeting
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