

First Presbyterian Church

November 17, 2024



Sermon:

“Free to Bear Fruit”

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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

Sean M.

Today's Flowers

There is no flower dedication today.

Last Week's Attendance, November 10

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 24

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 137

Online Worship Attendance - 32

Total Attendance – 193

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

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth
will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.
(Repeat)

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the words of the apostle: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."
Therefore, do not be burdened by the yoke of your sin anymore.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*Gloria Patri

*Please stand if able.

The Word

Scripture Readings

Psalm 146, Galatians 5:1, 13-23

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Free to Bear Fruit”

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 #466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!
2. Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.
3. Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.
4. My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"
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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

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth
will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.
(Repeat)

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness,
our shortcomings, and our offenses against you.

You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your
ways, in wasting your gifts, and in gratifying the desires of the flesh
over the fruits of the spirit.

Have mercy on us, O Lord. Forgive us our sins and help us to live and
walk in your light, that all we plant and harvest would glorify you.

*Please stand if able.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the words of the apostle: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."

Therefore, do not be burdened by the yoke of your sin anymore.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*Gloria Patri

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem
tin

Lord, Tune Our Hearts

Mar-

Scripture Reading

Psalm 146

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #316

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldest do.

2. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

3. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
Till I am wholly Thine,
Until this earthly part of me,
Glows with Thy fire divine.

4. Breathe on me, Breath of God,
So shall I never die,
But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

Scripture Reading

Galatians 5:1, 13-23

Sermon

“Free to Bear Fruit”

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings and Dedication of Pledges

Offertory

*Doxology

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

*Choral Response

*Hymn #466

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing
My dear Redeemer's praise,
The glories of my God and King,
The triumphs of God's grace!
2. Jesus, the name that charms our fears,
That bids our sorrows cease;
'Tis music in the sinner's ears,
'Tis life, and health, and peace.
3. Christ breaks the power of reigning sin,
And sets the prisoner free;
Christ's blood can make the sinful clean,
Christ's blood availed for me.
4. My gracious Master and my God,
Assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad
The honors of Thy name.

*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 146

¹ Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! ² I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³ Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help. ⁴ When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish.

⁵ Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord their God, ⁶ who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; ⁷ who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free; ⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind. The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous. ⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

¹⁰ The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the Lord!

Galatians 5:1, 13-23

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

¹³ For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another. ¹⁴ For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, “**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**” ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.

Notes



*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.

Today is Dedication Sunday

Today is Dedication Sunday, when we come together to pledge our financial gifts to First Presbyterian Church of Conroe. Together we give, so that as a church we may spread God's word, do Christ's work, and show His love in our congregation, community, and world. We plant for God's harvest.

If you do not have a pledge card, there is one on the Welcome Desk in the Narthex. While this is the last official day of Stewardship Season, we will continue to collect your pledges. Thank you for your support of our church!

Stewardship also involves giving of your time and talent to do His work. If you are not already involved, please consider how you can participate in the life of FPC-Conroe!

"A time to plant, and a time to harvest." - Ecclesiastes 3:20

The Children's Pageant: Help Needed

The Children's Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 15th, during the 11:00 worship service. We need lots of little angels, shepherds, sheep, and wise men to recreate the Holy Night for the congregation. Practices will be held on November 24, December 1 and December 8 at 12:30 p.m. and **at 7:00 p.m. (after The Spark) for those who can't make the afternoon practice.** This is an invitation for any elementary-aged student, who would like to participate in the pageant, to contact Dena Sowden at (979) 255-2096 or DSowden@fpcconroe.org.

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.

White Elephant Party

This is an opportunity for young adults to get to know one another in a relaxed environment with food and fun. Each gift should be less than \$20. Please RSVP so that we can provide adequate child care.



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>.



A priceless photo from the PDS Veteran's Breakfast.



Prayer List

Members: The family of Powell Campbell, Judy Weinburger and family, Ruth Masters, 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: Ted M. (Rose), C.M. (Blott), Wes K. (Yates), Alicia I., James I., and Ron S. (Bailey), Susie K. (Davis), Anna and Wendy C. (Harshbarger), 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), 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>Sunday November 17</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) 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. Session Meeting 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p>Monday November 18</p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p>Wednesday November 20</p>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105) 4:00 p.m. Small Group Study with Gordon Juhl. Studying Timothy Kel- ler's devotion God's Wisdom for Navigating Life. 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Thanksgiving Meal (FLC) 6:00 p.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p>

Sunday
November 24

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))
5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)

Save the Date

November 20 WNL Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship Service

November 25-29 CISD/PDS Thanksgiving break

November 28 Thanksgiving Day

December 9-13 FPC hosts Family Promise

December 15 **Children's Christmas Pageant**

December 18 Lifeline Screening Event at FPC

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service

December 25-26 Christmas Observance (Church office closed)



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