

First Presbyterian Church

November 24, 2024



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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

Karen Clark

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Ann Bush, in honor of parents, Pat and Bob Hathaway.

Last Week's Attendance, November 17

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 20

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 141

Online Worship Attendance - 28

Total Attendance – 189

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Lift up the gates of your heart and open the closed doors of your mind.
That the King of Glory may enter in!
The earth, the land, the seas, and trees all belong to God.
From east to west, north and south, all people belong to God!
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Let us praise Christ the King!

*Hymn #559

We Gather Together

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glory be Thine!
3. We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Please stand if able.

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear these words from the apostle: “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14).

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 132:1-12, Revelation 1:4-8

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The World Where Christ Reigns”
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 #554

Let All Things Now Living

1. Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us,
Protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us,
Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished,
All fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.

2. By law God enforces.

The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains,
The rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We, too, should be voicing
Our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living
Unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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"Gratitude Changes Everything" by Mark Hayes
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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

Lift up the gates of your heart and open the closed doors of your mind.
That the King of Glory may enter in!
The earth, the land, the seas, and trees all belong to God.
From east to west, north and south, all people belong to God!
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Let us praise Christ the King!

*Hymn #559

We Gather Together

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He chastens and hastens His will to make known;
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glory be Thine!
3. We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

*Call to Confession

*Please stand if able.

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious Lord, on this Christ the King Sunday we boldly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord. We are called to place our trust and hope in Him, but far too often we place our faith in earthly powers. You call us to be citizens of heaven and to work for your reign. We pray, “**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**” Forgive us for when we take these words as a platitude instead of a pledge of allegiance. Forgive us for when we try to regulate your kingdom to an hour on Sundays and nothing more.

Rescue us, O Lord, from all powers that claim dominion over us. Redeem us and all of creation until every creature under heaven declares your sovereignty, so that we all may be faithful and loyal servants. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear these words from the apostle: “For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins” (Colossians 1:13-14).

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 *Gratitude Changes Everything* Hayes

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home:
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

3. For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take the harvest home;
From each field shall in that day
All offenses purge away;
Give the angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In God's garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come
To Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There forever purified,
In Thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest home.

Scripture Reading Revelation 1:4-8

Sermon

“The World Where Christ Reigns”

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #554

Let All Things Now Living

1. Let all things now living
A song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us,
Protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us,
Pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished,
All fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into Light.

2. By law God enforces.
The stars in their courses,
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains,
The rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We, too, should be voicing
Our love and rejoicing
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:
Till all things now living
Unite in thanksgiving,
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

*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 132:1-12

¹ O Lord, remember in David's favor
all the hardships he endured;
² how he swore to the Lord
and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
³ **"I will not enter my house**
or get into my bed;
⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,
⁵ until I find a place for the Lord,
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."
⁶ We heard of it in Ephrathah;
we found it in the fields of Jaar.
⁷ **"Let us go to his dwelling place;**
let us worship at his footstool."
⁸ Rise up, O Lord, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.
⁹ Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and let your faithful shout for joy.
¹⁰ **For your servant David's sake**
do not turn away the face of your anointed one.
¹¹ The Lord swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:
"One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne.
¹² If your sons keep my covenant
and my decrees that I shall teach them,
their sons also, forevermore,
shall sit on your throne."

Revelation 1:4-8

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ **I am the Alpha and the Omega,** says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Notes



Stewardship Campaign Update

The Stewardship Campaign for 2025 pledges is off to a tremendous start. To date, we have received 80 pledges for slightly over \$562,000. This puts us slightly more than 83% towards our goal. There are still 24 individuals who pledged in 2024 that have not, as yet, committed to pledging for 2025. If you have already pledged to give for the 2025 Budget, thank you for your very generous support. If you plan to pledge but were unable to attend Dedication Sunday last week, or forgot to bring your card, or simply have not had time to fill it out yet, PLEASE do so in the near future. Either put your completed card in the collection plate this Sunday or drop it by the church office at your convenience. **Our goal of a balanced budget is within our reach, but it requires everyone's commitment.**

Yours in Christ,
Administration Committee

Last Sunday for 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.

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.



December Scheduling Changes

On December 24th, FPC will hold one service, which will be held at 7:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary. We hope to see you all there.

On December 29th, there will not be an 8:30 a.m. service, so that we can come together for Lessons & Carols at 11:00 a.m.

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.



Prayer List

Members: Penny Bell, 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><i>Sunday</i> November 24</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) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> November 25</p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> November 27</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 Keller's devotion <i>God's Wisdom for Navigating Life.</i></p>
<p><i>Thursday</i> November 28</p>	<p>Thanksgiving Day</p>



*Sunday
December 1*

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 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)

January 1 **New Year's Day (Church office closed)**

January 7 PDS classes resume

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