

First Presbyterian Church

December 22, 2024

Welcome



Sermon: *“The World Is About to Turn”*

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Fourth Advent Sunday

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 Jane Corbit and family, in memory of Charlie Corbit.

Last Week's Attendance, December 15

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 18

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 173

Online Worship Attendance - 41

Total Attendance – 232

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Our souls magnify the Lord,
And our spirits rejoice in God our savior.
God has done great things. Holy is God's name!
God's love is from generation to generation!

*Hymn #1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The prophets of old have declared, "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God. For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robes of righteousness."

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

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:39-55

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The World Is About to Turn”

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 #376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.
3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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"My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord"

Arr. by Joseph M. Martin

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11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit (Hymn #9) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Lighting of Advent Wreath Candles *Elizabeth and Matthew Laletas,
M.J. and Lucas*

We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ.

Christ is the reflection of God's glory, the very imprint of God's own
being.

Night and day we pray that God will strengthen us in holiness and love.

God, who began a good work in us, will bring it to completion on the
day of Jesus Christ.

(Lighting of the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love candles)

Thanks be to God for this good news of great joy!

*Hymn #1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

*Call to Confession

*Please stand if able.

*Prayer of Confession

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy; you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us when we question why you would choose to enter the world born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief when things seem too impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, born of a virgin—the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

The prophets of old have declared, “I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God. For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robes of righteousness.”

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

My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord
Soloist – Maeghan Gongora

Martin

Scripture Reading

Micah 5:2-5a

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #48

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half-gone was the night.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-55

Sermon

"The World Is About to Turn"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the Word

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #376

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart.

3. Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never,
Nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above;
Pray, and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

4. Finish, then, Thy new creation;
Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

*Charge and Benediction

*Sending Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.
(Refrain)

*Postlude

This Week's Scripture Readings

Micah 5:2-5a

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth,

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

Luke 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰ where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ **When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb.** And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴² and **exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."** ⁴³ And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴ For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her **by the Lord."**

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord," ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise **he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**

Notes



Poinsettia Dedications

Jackye Cannon, in memory of family members.

Karen Clark, in loving memory of parents Marvin & Verna Vornkahl, and in memory of our dear friend, Pat Moorby.

Bobby Ezell, in memory of Patricia Ezell.

Leslie Graham, dedicated to Nelda Laub and Nell Wells.

Bill & Linda Harshbarger, in memory of our parents, and in memory of our granddaughter, Ella.

Mary Ann Haskins, in memory of my husband, Neil, and my daughter, Kay Lyn, and grandson, Dustin Lee Weaver.

Judy Hughes, in memory of Ben Hughes.

The Konzes, dedicated to Ross Edward Minter and Ann Michele King.

Andrea Spengel, dedicated to John Spengel, Ken & Linette Siever, and Henry & Dot Spengel.

Roy & Liz Kessler, dedicated to the Glory of God.

Gunilla Oh, dedicated to Shirley Egglestone.

Ron & Margi Bailey, dedicated to our parents.

Penny Bell, in loving memory of Alan Bell.

Henry & Betty Blott, in memory of our son, Mitch.

Dana & David Corbit, to the memory of our parents, Phyllis & Bob Feuer and Jane & Charlie Corbit.

Jane Corbit, in memory of Charlie Corbit, Nicole and Alex Corbit.

George & Phyllis Shackelford, dedicated to Evelyn & Richard Woebge; Gary Woebge, and Eleanor Shackelford.

Jean Heasley, dedicated to Kellye and Scott, Leah and Keding, and Jeffrey.

Ron Hethershaw, dedicated to Karen Hethershaw.

Patrick Hudson, dedicated to my wife, Mary Hudson.

David & Vivian McDonald, dedicated to our parents and other family we have lost.

The Mortons, dedicated to Genevieve Nixon Williams, Terri Crump, and Tara Duncan.

Annetta & Soren Rose, dedicated to Annetta's parents, Margie & John Rowe and Soren's parents, Pauline & Elwood Rose.

Katy & Seth Saathoff, in memory of Roland Saathoff; in honor of George MacNair, and in honor of Gigi Saathoff.

Don & Marilyn Stewart, dedicated to their parents.

Steve & Connie Tibbetts in memory of our parents.

Ann Johnson, in memory of Ole Johnson and in honor of our children, Lynn & Steve Jenkins and Burt Johnson.

Bob & Paula Shepherd, dedicated to Immanuel – God with us.

Victoria Amoneno & Deb Kahl, dedicated to Gloria Liable.

Voorhees/ Curran families, to a blessed and happy Christmas season.

Sharon & Richard West, in memory of Effie Bradford, beloved mother of Sharon. In memory of Jack West, beloved father of Richard West.

Steve & Connie Tibbetts in memory of our parents.

Sandy Davis, in memory of F.O. (Bryan) Davis.

Marty Taylor, in loving memory of Warren Taylor, and to the glory of God for the greatest gift ever, our Lord and Savior.





Stewardship Campaign Update

We have made a strong start to achieving a balanced budget for 2025. To date, we have received 90 pledges for slightly over \$600,800. This puts us ~90% toward that goal. There are still 20 individuals who pledged in 2024 that have not, as yet, committed to pledging for 2025. This represents a potential of \$71,500 in additional revenue. If you have already pledged to give for the 2025 Budget, thank you for your very generous support. If not, please prayerfully consider doing so. There is simply no way around the fact that achieving a **balanced budget requires everyone's financial support. If you plan to pledge but** have not done so for whatever reason, it is not too late. Either put your completed card in the collection plate on Sunday or drop it by the church office at your convenience. Our goal of a balanced budget is within our reach, so please pledge to do your part in achieving this goal.

REMINDER! For those of you who are considering donating stock to the church or making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to the church for the calendar year 2024, this memo is to remind you that the transaction must be completed by 12/31/2024 if you want the contribution to be a tax deduction for 2024. However, please try to complete transactions **before the last week in December to avoid a last minute "glitch" that may keep you** from being eligible for a 2024 tax deduction. Yvonne Rose has paperwork in the church office that facilitates the stock donation process so please feel to contact Yvonne if you wish to donate stock.

Also, for those who intend to pre-pay their pledge for 2025 in the calendar year 2024, please note that this should be completed before the last week in December as mentioned above.

Yours in Christ,

Administration Committee

A Special Thank You For Officer Broussard

This morning we will present Officer Joshua Broussard with a small token of our deep gratitude for his service. It gives all of us such a sense of peace to know that we are protected on Sunday mornings. Thank you for your service, not only to this congregation, but to our community as well. You truly have a **servant's heart**. May God bless you and Merry Christmas!

With love,

First Presbyterian Church, Conroe

Sunday Greeters Needed

FPC Conroe is a warm welcoming church due to friendly faces meeting and greeting members and visitors each Sunday. As such, we are in need of MORE greeters, so we are asking Sunday school classes to provide 2+ greeters one Sunday a month. The schedule is as follows:

1st Sunday – Seekers Bible Study

3rd Sunday – Bereans Class

2nd Sunday – Fellowship Class

4th Sunday – Exploring Our Faith

If you do not attend a Sunday school class, but would like to volunteer, please contact Judy Weinburger at (713) 202-8458, or by email at garyjudyweinburger@gmail.com. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to welcome all people to our church. May the Lord be with each of you.

TACOS & TRIVIA

January 8, 2025

Join us for our Wednesday Night Live Kickoff on January 8th, where a taco dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by trivia that will be brought to us by Rev. Saathoff.



There will be age-appropriate trivia, so that everyone can enjoy a fun-filled evening. You won't want to miss it!



Wednesday Night Live Resumes in January

Wednesday Night Live will resume on January 8, 2025 with a kick-off event, Tacos & Trivia with Pastor Seth. After that, we'll have eight weeks of studies, ending with our pancake supper on Ash Wednesday, March 5. If you're interested in leading a bible study, small group or other event during that time, please contact Dena Sowden DSowden@FPCConroe.org



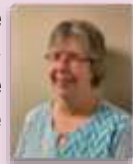
Prayer List

Members: Roy Kessler, Judy Weinburger, 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, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Don Myer, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: Richard R. (Rose), George G., Karl W. (Watt), 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), Brooke J., 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), 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)

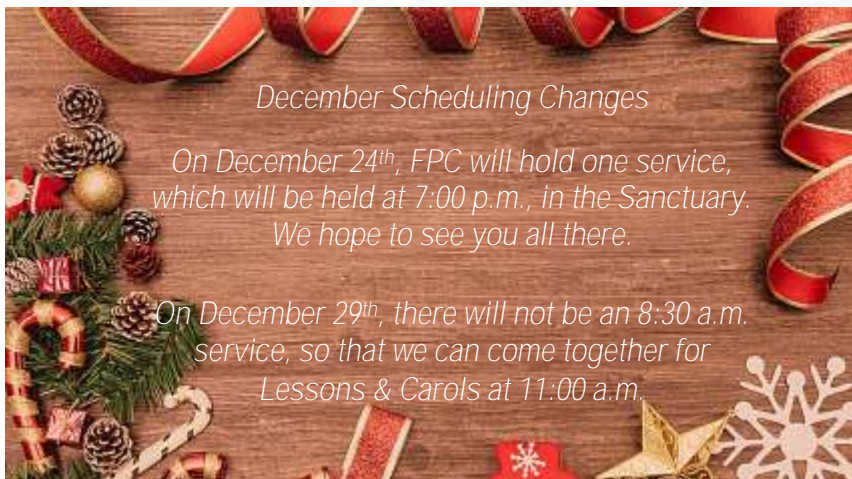
For Pastoral Care, Contact Rev. Callie Candee

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> <i>December 22</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 (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>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians</p> <p>9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School (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 www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Progressive Dinner No Spark</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>December 23</i></p>	<p>5:00 p.m. Christmas Cookie Exchange (Saathoff home)</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> <i>December 24</i></p>	<p>7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)</p>



<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>December 29</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus. No class today; will resume Jan 5.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (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>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians</p> <p>9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School (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 www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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Save the Date

- December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
- December 25-26 Christmas Observance (Church office closed)
- December 29 Lessons and Carols Service at 11:00 a.m.
- January 1 **New Year's Day (Church office closed)**
- January 7 PDS classes resume
- January 8 Tacos & Trivia with Pastor Saathoff
- January 12 Reception for Rev. Callie Candee

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:

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Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842
Website: www.fpcConroe.org

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Mailing Address:

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Suite 140, # 349, Conroe, TX 77304