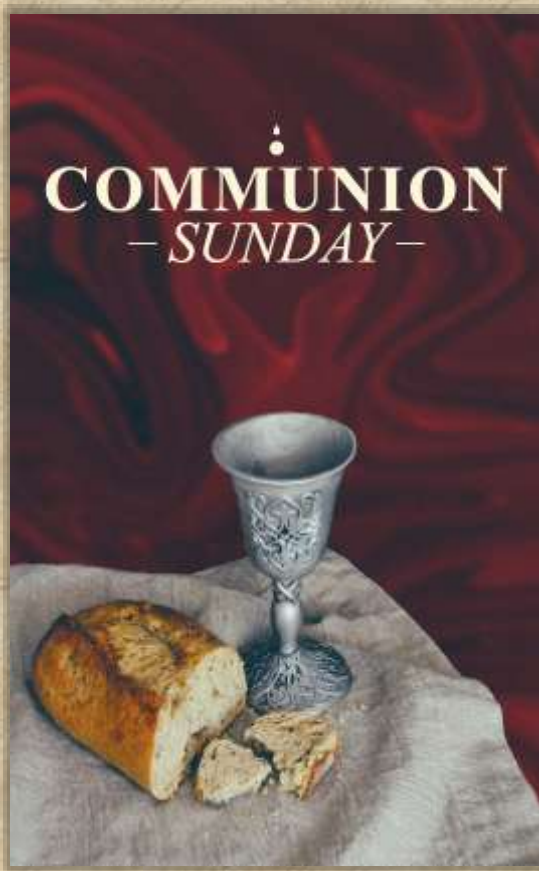


First Presbyterian Church

January 4, 2026



| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 8:30 Worship with Communion | Page 3 |
| 11:00 Worship Service | Page 6 |
| Scripture Readings | Page 11 |
| The Connection | Page 14 |
| Calendar of Events | Page 16 |
| Prayer List | Page 18 |

Communion Sunday

First Presbyterian Church of Conroe Welcomes You!



Visitors and Guests: We are excited you have chosen to worship with us today! As a small token of our appreciation, we invite you to stop by the Welcome Desk in the narthex to pick up a complimentary FPC Conroe bookmark and a church brochure. We hope to see you again soon!

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

Elizabeth Laletas

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Janet and Chuck Pohla, in celebration of their 17th anniversary.

December 24, Christmas Eve

Total Attendance- 181

Last Week's Attendance, December 28

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 104

Online Worship Attendance - 34

Total Attendance – 138

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Shout to the Lord your praises.

Sing to the Lord the joy of this day.

For God's might and power are established in the universe.

God's transforming love beckons us.

Come, let us worship God whose light bursts forth into our darkness.

Let us praise Christ the newborn king.

*Hymn #26

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light

1. Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light,

And usher in the morning.

You shepherds, shudder not with fright,

But hear the angel's warning.

This Child, now weak in infancy,

Our Confidence and joy shall be;

The power of Satan breaking,

Our peace eternal making.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Please stand if able.

*Assurance of Pardon

Although we have sinned, the light of Christ shines in our darkness. And the darkness has not overcome it.

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

Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Does the Light Still Shine in the Darkness?"

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 #66

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1. We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign. (Refrain)
3. Frankincense to offer have I:
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising we are raising,
Worshiping God Most High. (Refrain)
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)
5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia
Sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Copyright Information

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"Christ Child, Christ Child"

by Marian Chaplin Arr. by Hawley Ades

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Delaware Water Gap, Pa. 18327

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11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

| | | |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|
| Introit | <i>Angels from the Realms of Glory (Come and Worship)</i> | <i>Haschek/ Michael</i> |
|---------|---|-----------------------------|

Call to Worship

Shout to the Lord your praises.

Sing to the Lord the joy of this day.

For God's might and power are established in the universe.

God's transforming love beckons us.

Come, let us worship God whose light bursts forth into our darkness.

Let us praise Christ the newborn king.

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And usher in the morning.

You shepherds, shudder not with fright,

But hear the angel's warning.

This Child, now weak in infancy,

Our Confidence and joy shall be;

The power of Satan breaking,

Our peace eternal making.

*Call to Confession

*Please stand if able.

*Prayer of Confession

God of hope and light, your good news has been emblazoned across **the skies, the great starry night of Jesus' birth, sung by angels, celebrated** by shepherds, witnessed by animals. You have given us this time as a reminder of your continual love for us.

And yet, we come to you this day, gracious Lord, exhausted from all the activities of the season. It seems that we spend so much energy, time, and resources in preparation, and then when it is over, we collapse. We wonder what happened to all the enthusiasm we had.

Lord, forgive us for placing our energies in getting and gathering. Give us peace and strength to renew our commitment to you. Remind us again to look around at the many ways in which we can be of service to you by serving others. Help us move forward in our compassion and not collapse in our witness. Heal us, merciful Lord, for we **ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Although we have sinned, the light of Christ shines in our darkness. And the darkness has not overcome it.

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

Christ Child, Christ Child

Ades

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Choral Response

The Word

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 63:7-9; Matthew 2:13-23

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Does the Light Still Shine in the Darkness?”

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

(The Nicene Creed)

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Anthem

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn #66

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1. We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!

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Over us all to reign. (Refrain)
3. Frankincense to offer have I:
Incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising we are raising,
Worshiping God Most High. (Refrain)
4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb. (Refrain)
5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia
Sounds through the earth and skies. (Refrain)

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response #40

Joy to the World!

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

*Postlude

This Week's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 63:7-9

⁷ I will tell of the kindnesses of the Lord, the deeds for which he is to be praised, according to all the Lord has done for us - yes, the many good things he has done for Israel, according to his compassion and many kindnesses. ⁸ **He said, "Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me"; and so he became their Savior.** ⁹ In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Matthew 2:13-23

¹³ When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. **"Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."**

¹⁴ So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵ where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled **what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."**

¹⁶ When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. ¹⁷ Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

¹⁸ **"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."**

¹⁹ After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt ²⁰ and said, **“Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”**

²¹ So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, ²³ and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Notes



Wednesday Night Live Kickoff January 7

Please join us for our WNL Kickoff on January 7. We will begin with a meal at 5:00 p.m., followed by trivia, so it will be fun for all. We hope to see you there!

Children's Church Volunteers Needed

We need Children's Church volunteers for January through May. Please use the Google docs link to find a Sunday that works for you. We would appreciate your help.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xoFy67DqrB1Z58XiSOknjtL41HEL-LZXYPa7iaglUc/edit?usp=sharing>

Goat Project Support

Many of us remember that two or three years ago, one of our Sunday School classes (Susan Buckley's) and one of our small groups (Gordon Juhl's) provided families of chickens to starving families found in various worldwide locations by The Presbyterian Church (USA).

UPDATE: These two groups have again collected and contributed funds, this time to purchase pairs of goats for families designated by PCUSA (mostly in **the Middle East and Africa**). **The goat's milk is used by the needy and starving families for drinking, as well as to produce cheese, butter, and yogurt.**

Once again, kudos these two FPC groups and to PCUSA for supporting this worthwhile mission project.

Prayer List Updates

As we roll into 2026, we ask for help in keeping our prayer list updated. If any of our prayer requests have had a change in status, or need to be removed, please make the church office staff aware. Thank you.

Young Adult Retreat at Mo Ranch

Reignite your purpose and strengthen your spirit. Join us for a transformative retreat designed for those navigating the post-college years. Connect with a supportive community, explore life planning, vocational discernment, and creative budgeting, all while deepening your faith through worship, prayer, and **interactive workshops. Together, let's build a future of meaning, purpose, and connection.** Details regarding this retreat can be found at:

<https://www.moranch.org/attend-a-conference/adult-conferences/young-adult-retreat>.



Save The Date Fifteenth Annual Sew-a-Thon

Sew Much Love, the 15th Annual Sew-a-thon, will be held 9:00-3:00 on Saturday, February 28, 2026, in the Family Life Center of First Presbyterian Church of Conroe.

At this all-day event, **participants will make children's quilts for Bags of Love and Project Linus.** The Bags of Love are given to children in Montgomery County who are removed from their homes by Children's Protective Services. These bags contain a quilt, stuffed animal, age/gender appropriate books, games and toiletry items. The quilts donated to Project Linus, Montgomery County Chapter, are given to children hospitalized in local hospitals.

Don't sew? No problem. We have a special place for you, such as ironing or tying quilts. A delicious lunch, prepared by Shirley Dukes and her team, will be served at 12:30 p.m. to all volunteers. All participants must register ahead of the event. Registration will begin on February 8th and end on February 22nd.

Calendar of Weekly Events

| | |
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| <p><i>Sunday</i> <i>January 4</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 uplifting letter to the church at Philippi.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (Rm. 204) Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms.</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) Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday (Contact Randy Blanton to join by Zoom).</p> <p>9:30 a.m. FPC Kids' Sunday School (Rm. 203)</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Committee Meetings</p> <p>4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p> |
| <p><i>Monday</i> <i>January 5</i></p> | <p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor) WILL NOT MEET TODAY</p> |
| <p><i>Tuesday</i> <i>January 6</i></p> | <p>10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)</p> |
| <p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>January 7</i></p> | <p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Small Group Study (Rm. 206)</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Kickoff Meal (Gym)</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. WNL Kickoff - Trivia (Gym)</p> <p>7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p> |

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| <p><i>Sunday January 11</i></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 uplifting letter to the church at Philippi. 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (Rm. 204) Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms. 9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) 9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton (Library) Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday (Contact Randy Blanton to join by Zoom). 9:30 a.m. FPC Kids' Sunday School (Rm. 203) 10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex) 10:35 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary) 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe) 4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study (Rm. 105) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p> |
|-------------------------------------|---|

Save the Date

| | |
|-------------|---|
| January 7 | Wednesday Night Live Kickoff - Trivia Night |
| February 1 | Annual Chili Cookoff |
| February 18 | Ash Wednesday Service |
| February 21 | Go Texan Parade |
| February 28 | 15 th Annual Sew-a-Thon |

Prayer List

Members: Marcia Park and family, Steve and Connie Tibbetts, Nedra Murphy, Jean Heasley, Fred Kate, Sylvia Dopp, Gordon Juhl, Roy Kessler, Ruth Masters, Jeannene Wendt, Reed Watson, John Lancaster, Kari Elliott, Tildon Hebert, Alice Helms, Jean Ball, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: Connor, Caroline and baby M. (Saathoffs), Gabrielle T. (Tanner), Noah G. (Simon), David W. (Hart), Bret F. (Kasmiersky), Thad M. (West), Dorene D. and Dan S. (B. Hernandez), Siana F. and family (Watson), Wes K. (Yates), Alicia I., James I., and Ron S. (Bailey), Susie K. (Davis), Kenneth H., Stephanie R. & Brooke J., Danielle S. & kids (Riggs-Harpur), Blade B., Judy N. (Dukes), Bonnie L., Michael R. (Dwyer), Tom J. & family, Bill M. (Browder), Tony N. (Spinks), Buddy H. (Hayter), Amanda N. (Bosse), Brenda H. (Cannon), Scott P. (Peterson), Linda S., Larry B., Janie M. (Harrison), Lindsey W. (Walker), Shannon L. (Diamond), Rick J. (Juhl), Joe T. Sr., Harry S., Jr. and family (Havens), Steve T., Lonnie H. and Vivian M. (Hammonds), John R. (Hethershaw), James M., Patty M., Enrique E. (Moore), Jeffrey H. & Leah H. (Heasley), Wendy S. (Adamson), Sherry M. (Garrison), Lee H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Gerald H. (Roberts)

Happy
New
Year.

2026

Staff and Church Information

Staff

Rev. Seth Saathoff, Senior Pastor
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

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Mailing Address:

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