

First Presbyterian Church

January 11, 2026



Sermon:

“Beginning Again”

Matthew 3:13-17

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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

Matthew Laletas

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Yvonne Rose, in memory of her husband, Bruce and grandsons, Brandon and Kenton.

Last Week's Attendance, January 4

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 19

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 150

Online Worship Attendance - 29

Total Attendance - 138

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Through these waters of baptism we are marked as God's beloved ones.

Through these waters we are marked as God's children.

Though we or the world may try, nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Even when we turn away from God, God never turns away from us.

Remember your baptism.

Thanks be to God, the fount of every blessing.

*Hymn #126

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

1. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quickening powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.

2. In vain we tune our formal songs,
In vain we strive to rise;
Hosannas languish on our tongues,
And our devotion dies.

3. Dear Lord! and shall we ever live
At this poor dying rate?
Our love so faint, so cold to Thee,
And Thine to us so great!

4. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quickening powers;
Come, shed abroad the Savior's love
And that shall kindle ours.

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

In Christ, God's grace washes over us. Whatever burdens we bring, whatever sins weigh on our hearts, God's love makes us clean.

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 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Beginning Again”
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

1. To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done!

2. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
(Refrain)

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

3. Blessed be Your name
When the sun's shining down on me
When the world's all as it should be
Blessed be Your name.

4. Blessed be Your name
On the road marked with suffering
Though there's pain in the offering
Blessed be Your name.
(Pre-Chorus)
(Chorus)

Bridge:

You give and take away
You give and take away
My heart will choose to say
Lord blessed be Your name.
(Pre-Chorus)
(Chorus)

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty and everlasting God, in the waters of baptism you anointed your Son to offer your life in service to all. In the same waters you unite us to Christ and make us new creatures in Him. We, the frail creatures of a passing day, come once more into your presence to seek your forgiveness and renewal, unworthy though we are.

We confess that we cannot live without your presence, and when we try the results are disastrous. Life is too hard and the duty too large. We try to worship, but how soon our minds wander. Too often we are neglectful of your kindness and scornful of your power. So often in the hymns we call you the fount of every blessing and yet how rebellious we are. So easily we call you our Lord and yet we are so disobedient. We remember especially those sins that are the present burden of our minds.

Touch us once more with your grace. Speak to us again of your forgiveness, that we go out in joy and sing songs of praises. Wash our hearts clean of sin, that we may become a new creation in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

In Christ, God's grace washes over us. Whatever burdens we bring, whatever sins weigh on our hearts, God's love makes us clean.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*Gloria Patri

Minute for Mission

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication and the Lord's Prayer

*Choral Response

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Sterling

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 42:1-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #126

Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove

1. Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quickening powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.

2. In vain we tune our formal songs,
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With all Thy quickening powers;
Come, shed abroad the Savior's love
And that shall kindle ours.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 3:13-17

Sermon

“Beginning Again”
Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

(The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

*Hymn #485

To God Be the Glory

1. To God be the glory, great things He hath done!
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Refrain:

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the earth hear His voice!
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,
Let the people rejoice!
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,
And give Him the glory: great things He hath done!

2. Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;
But purer, and higher, and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.
(Refrain)

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Reign In Us

You thought of us before the world began to breathe
And You knew our names before we came to be.
You saw the very day we'd fall away from You
And how desperately we need to be redeemed.

Refrain:

Lord Jesus, come lead us.
We're desperate for Your touch.
Oh great and mighty One
With one desire we come
That You would reign
That You would reign in us.
We're offering up our lives,
A living sacrifice,
That You would reign
That You would reign in us.

Spirit of the living God fall fresh again.
Come search our hearts and purify our lives.
We need Your perfect love; we need Your discipline.
We're lost unless You guide us with Your light.
(Refrain)

*Postlude

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by Beth Redman and Matt Redman
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"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"
Arr. by Robert Sterling
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This Week's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 42:1-9

¹ **“Here is my servant**, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. ² He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. ³ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; ⁴ he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”

⁵ This is what God the Lord says—the Creator of the heavens, who stretches them out, who spreads out the earth with all that springs from it, who gives breath to its people, and life to those who walk on it:

⁶ **“I, the Lord**, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, ⁷ to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

⁸ **“I am the Lord**; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols. ⁹ See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.”

Matthew 3:13-17

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

¹⁵ Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented.

¹⁶ As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

Notes



Good News!

As of January 6, 2026, the church has reduced the outstanding debt by \$341,330 with proceeds received from the Capital Campaign. This equates to a reduction in operating expenses of \$32,850/year! Total pledges and one-time contributions to the three-year campaign now stand at \$1,192,650.

As of this update, we have \$144,680 in the Capital Campaign account and we anticipate another \$120,000 in revenue on the near horizon. Upon receipt of those funds, we will make another loan payment of \$265,000, which will reduce our debt payment by an additional \$20,700/year. In summary and including the referenced payment, we will have decreased our indebtedness by 25% and reduced our monthly debt payments by 28%.

The Capital Campaign Committee would like to thank all those who have committed to this worthy cause of reducing our debt, and have made its success a reality. Your generosity has greatly relieved the strain on our operating budget and will make it possible for our church to broaden its mission in the future.

It is not too late to participate. While the “official” pledge period is over, you can still pledge. If you are not comfortable with a three-year commitment, we ask you to prayerfully consider a one-time donation. Every dollar you give goes directly to reducing our indebtedness.

Finally, please continue to pray for the continued success of this effort and our church.

Blessings,

Capital Campaign Committee

Thank You

The staff would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the members and friends of the church for their generous gifts this Christmas, which were received with deep gratitude and serve as a meaningful reminder of your care and support.

Wednesday Night Live Activities Begin January 14

WNL events will include a Women's Bible Study group with childcare provided, and children 4 and up can participate in "Jesus And Me" with Ms. Amber in Rm. 203, starting at 5:30 p.m. Also, Pastor Seth will be teaching a class in the library based on the book, "Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt."

If you're interested in hosting a small group during WNL, contact Dena Sowden at DSowden@FPCCConroe.Org.

Crocheting Stuff Animals



Interested in learning how to crochet, or love to crochet and want to gather with friends to help create stuffed animals that will be donated to help various children's organizations? If so, contact Kaleigh Riggs-Harpur or Dena Sowden for more details.

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 1st and end on February 22nd.

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/1xoFy67DqrB1Z58XiSOknjjtL41HEL-LZXYpA7iaglUc/edit?usp=sharing>

Annual Chili Cookoff is February 1

Our 16th Annual Chili Cook-Off is Sunday, February 1, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. You can email DSowden@FPCCConroe.Org or text her at (979) 255-2096 to sign up, or fill out the Team Forms found at the Welcome Desk starting January 11th.

BRING THE HEAT with your favorite chili recipe ~ or anything that may or may not resemble chili. If you prefer to judge others, we have just what you're looking for! Come out and be the judge ~ entry and tastings are free, but be sure you bring lots of \$\$\$ to help your favorite team win. We'll have non-chili options, great times, live music and lots of good-hearted competition! Proceeds help offset the cost of Youth Mission Trips and activities.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE FPC YOUTH GROUP!

Does Everybody Know What Time It Is?

Entry & Tastings are FREE! But Vote Early & Vote Often!



**It's
Chili
Time!**

**February 1st
5-7 PM**

Teams of all levels are invited to enter, or you can be a judge!

Cast your votes for your favorite team at the event.
Each vote is only \$1.

Contact Dena Sowden with any questions or to register your team
979-255-2096 or DSowden@FPCCConroe.org

16th Annual Youth Chili Cook-Off

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)

Calendar of Weekly Events

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Sunday January 11</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 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> |
| <i>Monday January 12</i> | 1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor) |
| <i>Tuesday January 13</i> | 10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (Parlor) 5:15 p.m. Lydia Circle (Youth area) |
| <i>Wednesday January 14</i> | 9:30 a.m. Martha Circle (Parlor) 4:00 p.m. Small Group Study (Rm. 206) 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal (Gym) 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 6:00 p.m. Bible Studies/Activities 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room) |

*Sunday
January 18*

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)
10:30 a.m. Called Session Meeting
10:35 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
4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study (Rm. 105)
5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)

Save the Date

| | |
|-------------|---|
| February 1 | Annual Chili Cookoff |
| February 16 | President's Day (PDS/CISD holiday) |
| February 18 | Ash Wednesday Service (End of WNL) |
| February 21 | Go Texan Parade |
| February 28 | 15 th Annual Sew-a-Thon |

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

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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