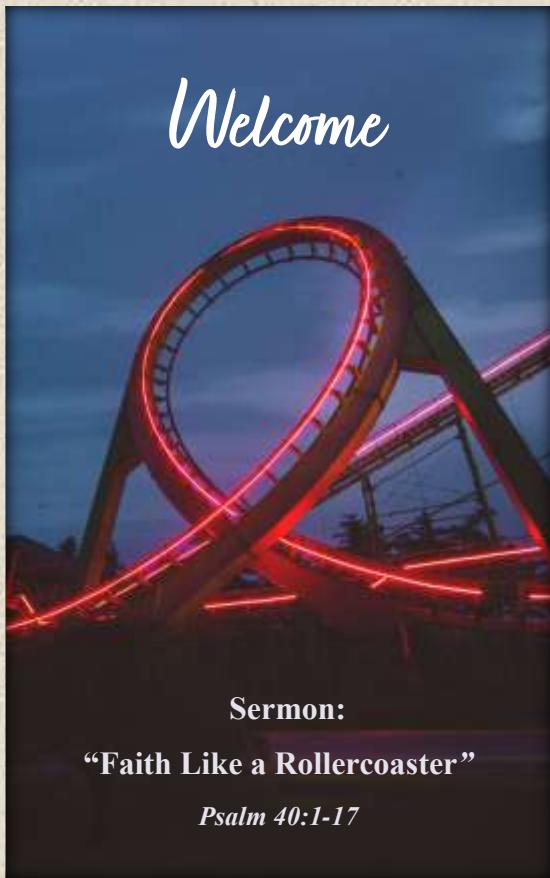


# First Presbyterian Church

## January 18, 2026



### **Sermon:** “Faith Like a Rollercoaster”

***Psalm 40:1-17***

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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](http://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*

Carly Hart

*Today's Flowers*

*There is no flower dedication today.*

*Last Week's Attendance, January 11*

*8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 13*

*11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 146*

*Online Worship Attendance - 28*

*Total Attendance - 187*

## **8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION**

### *Preparing to Receive God's Word*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

In times of trouble, in times of doubt, in times when all seems lost, who will hear our prayers?

The Lord our God will hear and answer.

In times of joy, in times of dancing, when our cup overflows with blessings, who will we praise?

The Lord our God, the giver of every blessing.

When we feel lost and alone, who will lead us home?

The Lord our God seeks and finds the lost.

In our rejoicing and mourning, in our living and dying, who will we worship?

The Lord our God, now and forevermore.

\*Hymn #411

Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1. Arise, your light is come!

The Spirit's call obey;

Show forth the glory of your God,

Which shines on you today.

3. Arise, your light is come!

All you in sorrow born,

Bind up the broken-hearted ones

And comfort those who mourn.

4. Arise, your light is come!

The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing;

God's power will make us strong.

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

The God who calls us to trust is the God who is rich in mercy. Even when  
**our faith falters, God's faithfulness never wavers.**

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

I Corinthians 1:1-9; Psalm 40:1-17

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**“Faith Like a Rollercoaster”**

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. O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my guide.
  
2. O let me feel Thee near me!  
The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me,  
Around me and within;  
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,  
And shield my soul from sin.

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

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**“Spirit Song” by John Wimber**

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CCL # 2714264

**“Arise, Your Light Is Come!”**

by Ruth Duck and William H. Walter

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CCL # 2714264

Reign In Us (Adapted by Folts)

Words & Music by Tim & Jon Neufeld and Ben Grove

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**“Our Hope for Years to Come”**

by Mary McDonald

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## **11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

## Preparing to Receive God's Word

## Opening Music

## Welcome and Announcements

## Call to Worship

In times of trouble, in times of doubt, in times when all seems lost, who will hear our prayers?

The Lord our God will hear and answer.

In times of joy, in times of dancing, when our cup overflows with blessings,  
who will we praise?

The Lord our God, the giver of every blessing.

When we feel lost and alone, who will lead us home?

The Lord our God seeks and finds the lost.

In our rejoicing and mourning, in our living and dying, who will we worship?

1148 *Wang et al.*

## Arise, Your Light Is Come!

## 1 Arise, your light is come

The Spirit's call obey:

Show forth the glory of your God,  
Which shines on you today.

### 3. Arise, your light is come!

All you in sorrow born.

Bind up the broken-hearted ones  
And comfort those who mourn.

#### 4. Arise, your light is come!

The mountains burst in song!

Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong.

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

You, O God, are the God of the great and the small, the God of chaos and order, the God of rain and drought. You created all that is, and all creation is held together by your providence. And yet, it is so hard for us to trust you.

How we wish the life of faith was more predictable. How we long to escape the ups and downs of life and live without worry or care. How much easier it would be if our faith never stretched us, if the journey was all sunshine and never rain.

Forgive us, O God, for failing to trust you in both the highs and the lows, on the mountaintops and in the valleys. Forgive us for not seeing the fullness of your purposes, and yet assuming we know better. It is easy to be faithful when life is good; forgive us for not being faithful when life is hard.

Forgive us, O God. Put your song on our lips and write your law upon our hearts. Remind us of the joy that awaits when we stop relying on ourselves and place our trust fully and completely in you. Then may we come to see and understand the depth of your love for us.

**In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

The God who calls us to trust is the God who is rich in mercy. Even when **our faith falters, God's faithfulness never wavers.**

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

## *Our Hope for Years to Come*

McDonald

## Scripture Reading

## I Corinthians 1:1-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn

## Love Lifted Me

1. I was sinking deep in sin, Far from the peaceful shore,  
Very deeply stained within, Sinking to rise no more;  
But the Master of the sea Heard my despairing cry,  
From the waters lifted me – Now safe am I.

### Refrain:

Love lifted even me, Love lifted even me,  
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me;  
Love lifted even me, Love lifted even me,  
When nothing else could help, Love lifted me.

2. All my heart to Him I give, Ever to Him I'll cling,

In His blessed presence live, Ever His praises sing.

Love so mighty and so true Merits my soul's best songs;

Faithful, loving service, too, To Him belongs.

(Refrain)

3. Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;

He will lift you by His love Out of the angry waves.

He's the Master of the sea, Billows His will obey;

He your Savior wants to be – Be saved today.

(Refrain)

Scripture Reading

Psalm 40:1-17

Sermon

**“Faith Like a Rollercoaster”**

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.

Ordination and Installation of Church Officers

Constitutional Questions

Prayer of Ordination

Declaration of Installation

\*Hymn #388

O Jesus, I Have Promised

1. O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my guide.

2. O let me feel Thee near me!  
The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me,  
Around me and within;  
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,  
And shield my soul from sin.

\*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.

\*Postlude

## ***This Week's Scripture Readings***

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### **I Corinthians 1:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

<sup>2</sup> To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:

<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—<sup>6</sup> God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. <sup>7</sup> Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup> He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Psalm 40:1-17**

<sup>1</sup> I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. <sup>2</sup> He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. <sup>3</sup> He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

<sup>4</sup> Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, who does not look to the proud, to those who turn aside to false gods. <sup>5</sup> Many, Lord my God, are the wonders you have done, the things you planned for us. None can compare with you; were I to speak and tell of your deeds, they would be too many to declare.

<sup>6</sup> Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—but my ears you have opened—burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. <sup>7</sup> Then I said, “**Here I am, I have come**—it is written about me in the scroll. <sup>8</sup> I desire to do your will, **my God; your law is within my heart.**”

<sup>9</sup> I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know. <sup>10</sup> I do not hide your righteousness in my heart; I speak of your faithfulness and your saving help. I do not conceal your love and your faithfulness from the great assembly.

<sup>11</sup> Do not withhold your mercy from me, Lord; may your love and faithfulness always protect me. <sup>12</sup> For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me. <sup>13</sup> Be pleased to save me, Lord; come quickly, Lord, to help me.

<sup>14</sup> May all who want to take my life be put to shame and confusion; may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace. <sup>15</sup> May those **who say to me, “Aha! Aha!” be appalled at their own shame.** <sup>16</sup> But may all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; may those who long for **your saving help always say, “The Lord is great!”**

<sup>17</sup> But as for me, I am poor and needy; may the Lord think of me. You are my help and my deliverer; you are my God, do not delay.

## Notes



## Your Weekly Connection

January 18, 2026

### Annual Chili Cookoff is February 1

Our 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Cook-Off is Sunday, February 1, 2026, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. You can email [DSowden@FPCCConroe.Org](mailto: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 11<sup>th</sup>.

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!!\*\*\*

DSowden@FPCCConroe.org' and '16th Annual Youth Chili Cook-Off'." data-bbox="164 545 815 875"/>

**Does Everybody Know What Time It Is?**

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

**It's  
Chili  
Time!**

**February 1<sup>st</sup>  
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](mailto:DSowden@FPCCConroe.org)

**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Chili Cook-Off**

## *Wednesday Night Live Activities Being Offered*

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@FPCConroe.Org.



## *Crocheting Stuffed 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.

## ***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/1xoFy67DqrB1Z58XiS0knjjtL41HEL-LZXYpA7iaglUc/edit?usp=sharing>

*Join the C.L.A.P. Group for an Evening  
of Axe Throwing!*

Location: ESCAPE IN TIME, 26815 I-45 Spring, TX 77380, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

Date and Time: Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$35 per person. If the cost is an issue, please let Seth know discreetly.

Katy and Seth will provide pizza for the group, but **you may order food and drink from the menu if you'd like.**

Free childcare will be provided at the church from 6:00-9:00. Please feed your children before drop off or send them with dinner.



*Save The Date  
Fifteenth Annual Sew-a-Thon*

Sew Much Love, the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and end on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## 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), 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)

## Ministry Leaders

Administration	Cheryl Nichols (2027, Chair) Matthew Laletas (2028)
Building & Grounds	Bill Harshbarger (2026, Chair)
Care-Prayer	TBA (2027, Chair) Randy Blanton (2026)
Discipleship	Elizabeth Laletas (2028) Sean Morton (2027, Youth elder) Sabrina Sowden (2027) Savannah Hector (2028, Youth elder)
Fellowship	Debbie Morse (2027, Chair)
Membership	David Nichols (2027)
Missions	TBD (2027) Debra Slade-Redden (2028)
PDS	Pat Hudson (2027)
Worship	Mike Wisda (2026) Cynda Hector (2028)
Trustees	David Nichols (2026) Fred Kate (2027) Anne Spinks (2028)

## Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i> January 18	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) <b>Paul's uplifting letter to the church at Philippi.</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (Rm. 204) Studying "The Promise of Heaven" STUDY guide (not the book), by Dr. David Jeremiah, 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><b>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton</b> (Library) Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday (Contact Randy Blanton to join by Zoom).</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. FPC Kids' Sunday School</b> (Rm. 203)</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Called Session Meeting</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>10:35 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live <a href="http://www.com/fpcConroe">www.com/fpcConroe</a> or <a href="https://www.youtube.com/fpcConroe">YouTube.com/fpcConroe</a>)</p> <p>12:30 p.m. Session Meeting</p> <p><b>4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study</b> (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<i>Monday</i> January 19	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday</i> January 21	<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 Meal (Gym)</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Bible Studies/Activities</p> <p>7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>

*Sunday  
January 25*

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 “The Promise of Heaven” STUDY guide (not the book), by Dr. David Jeremiah, 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](http://www.com/fpcConroe) or [YouTube.com/fpcConroe](https://www.youtube.com/fpcConroe))  
**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	<b>President’s Day (PDS/CISD holiday)</b>
February 18	Ash Wednesday Service (End of WNL)
February 21	Go Texan Parade
February 28	15 <sup>th</sup> 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

#### *Physical Address:*

2727 N Loop 336 W, Conroe, TX 77304  
Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842  
Website: [www.fpcConroe.org](http://www.fpcConroe.org)

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#### *Mailing Address:*

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