

First Presbyterian Church

January 25, 2026



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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

Sean Morton

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Annetta and Soren Rose, in celebration of their 65th wedding anniversary, and by Bill and Linda Harshbarger, in celebration of 55th wedding anniversary.

Last Week's Attendance, January 18

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 16

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 129

Online Worship Attendance - 19

Total Attendance – 164

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Where is your light, O Church?
The Lord is our light and salvation.
Where is your strength and comfort?
The Lord is the stronghold of our life.
What do you seek?
We seek to see the face of God.
Why are you here?
We gather here to worship.

*Hymn #220

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.
3. O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
4. For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

When we seek the Lord, he does not hide from us, nor does he turn in anger. In love, he greets us. In grace, he forgives us.

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

Psalms 27:1-9; I Corinthians 1:10-18

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Seeing Through the Lens of the Cross"

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

I Love to Tell the Story

1. I love to tell the story
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story,
Because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings
As nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story,
For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story
That I have loved so long.
(Refrain)

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Spirit Song

Wimber

Call to Worship

Where is your light, O Church?
The Lord is our light and salvation.
Where is your strength and comfort?
The Lord is the stronghold of our life.
What do you seek?
We seek to see the face of God.
Why are you here?
We gather here to worship.

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All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1. All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with mirth, His praise forth tell,
Come ye before Him and rejoice.
3. O enter then His gates with praise,
Approach with joy His courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless His name always,
For it is seemly so to do.
4. For why? The Lord our God is good,
His mercy is forever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you are our light and our salvation, yet we confess that we still live in fear. When trouble comes, we look for hiding places of our own making instead of trusting you as our refuge and stronghold.

You invite us to seek your face, but we confess that we are easily distracted, slow to pray, and quick to rely on our own understanding. We doubt your presence when the way is uncertain and forget your faithfulness when the future feels threatening.

Do not turn us away, O God. Do not hide your face from us, but look upon us with mercy. Restore our confidence in your saving love, teach us to wait for you, and lead us again in the way of righteousness.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

When we seek the Lord, he does not hide from us, nor does he turn in anger. In love, he greets us. In grace, he forgives us.

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

Lord, Tune Our Hearts

Martin

Scripture Reading

Psalm 27:1-9

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #439

In Christ There Is No East or West

1. In Christ there is no east or west,
In Him no south or north;
But one great fellowship of love
Throughout the whole wide earth.

3. Join hands, disciples of the faith,
Whate'er your race may be.
All children of the living God
Are surely kin to me.

4. In Christ now meet both east and west,
In Him meet south and north;
All Christly souls are one in Him
Throughout the whole wide earth.

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 1:10-18

Sermon

"Seeing Through the Lens of the Cross"

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

I Love to Tell the Story

1. I love to tell the story
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story,
Because I know 'tis true;
It satisfies my longings
As nothing else can do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory,
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and his love.

2. I love to tell the story,
For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story
That I have loved so long.
(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.

*Postlude

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"Spirit Song" by John Wimber

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Reign In Us (Adapted by Folts)

Words & Music by Tim & Jon Neufeld and Ben Glove
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"Lord, Tune Our Hearts"

by Joseph M. Martin

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This Week's Scripture Readings

Psalm 27:1-9

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

² When the wicked advance against me to devour me, it is my enemies and my foes who will stumble and fall. ³ Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then I will be confident.

⁴ One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. ⁵ For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent and set me high upon a rock.

⁶ Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

⁷ Hear my voice when I call, Lord; be merciful to me and answer me. ⁸ **My heart says of you, “Seek his face!” Your face**, Lord, I will seek. ⁹ Do not hide your face from me, do not turn your servant away in anger; you have been my helper. Do not reject me or forsake me, God my Savior.

I Corinthians 1:10-18

¹⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. ¹¹ **My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you.** ¹² **What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”**

¹³ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; **beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.**) ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Notes



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

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.



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-LZXYpA7iagIUc/edit?usp=sharing>

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.

Crocheting Stuffed Animals



Interested in learning how to crochet, or do you 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, Kaleigh will have a kickoff class on Sunday, February 22, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 105. She will also have a crochet room during the Sew-A-Thon. If you are interested in participating, contact Kaleigh Riggs-Harpur or Dena Sowden for details.

Prayer List

Members: Ron Bailey, 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	Randy Blanton (2026)
Discipleship	Sabrina Sowden (2027) Sean Morton (2027, Youth elder) Elizabeth Laletas (2028) Savannah Hector (2028, Youth elder)
Fellowship	Debbie Morse (2027, Chair)
Membership	David Nichols (2027)
Missions	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

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>January 25</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 "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>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>10:35 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>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 26</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>January 28</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 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>

<p><i>Sunday February 1</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 "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>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>10:35 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>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. Annual Chili Cookoff (Gym)</p>
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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

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