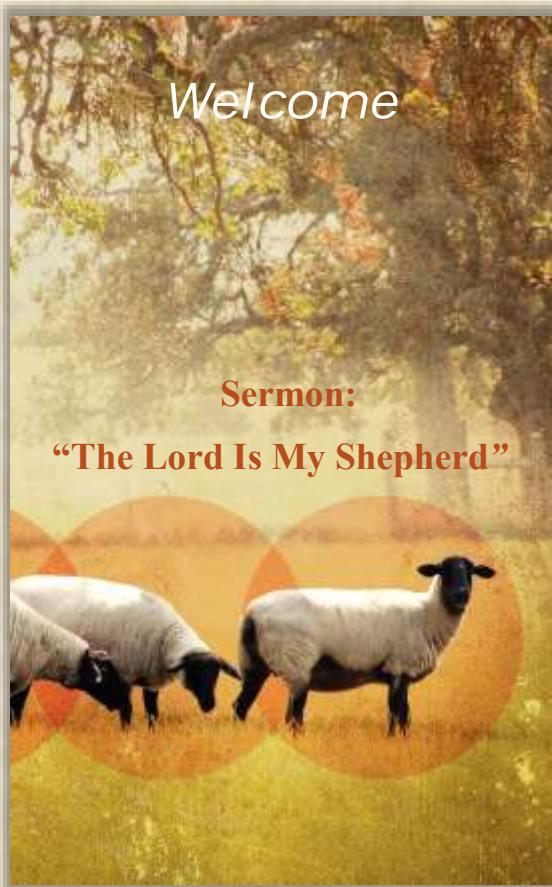


# First Presbyterian Church

May 11, 2025



8:30 Worship with Communion	Page 3
11:00 Worship Service	Page 6
Scripture Readings	Page 10
The Connection	Page 12
Calendar of Events	Page 16
Prayer List	Page 18

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***

Mark Sowden

***Today's Flowers***

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Patrick Hudson, in honor of their 63<sup>rd</sup> wedding anniversary.

***Last Week's Attendance, May 4***

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 23

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 134

Online Worship Attendance - 22

**Total Attendance – 179**

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The Lord is our shepherd, our guide, and our protector.  
The Lord is our parent, our companion, and our friend.  
The Lord is almighty with wisdom and power.  
The Lord is present with comfort and care.  
The Lord is with us this day and all our days.  
The Lord is our God and we are his flock.

\*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.

\*Please stand if able.

4. O Jesus, Thou hast promised  
To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory  
There shall Thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
My Master and my friend.

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Even though we have walked through the valley of sin, we need not be afraid, for God is surely with 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

John 10:22-30; Psalm 23

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**"The Lord Is My Shepherd"**

*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

Because He Lives

1. God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy He gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.  
(Refrain)

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*



""Psalm 23" by Heather Sorenson  
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"Because He Lives" Text: Gloria Gaither, b. 1942, and William  
J. Gaither, b. 1936. Tune: RESSURECTION, 9 8 9 12 with refrain: William J. Gaither,  
b. 1936; arr. by Nolan Williams, Jr., b. 1969 © 1971 William J. Gaither, Inc.

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

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

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

PW Life Membership Presentation

Introit                    *Jesus Comes with Clouds Descending*

Call to Worship

The Lord is our shepherd, our guide, and our protector.  
The Lord is our parent, our companion, and our friend.  
The Lord is almighty with wisdom and power.  
The Lord is present with comfort and care.  
The Lord is with us this day and all our days.  
The Lord is our God and we are his flock.

\*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.

\*Please stand if able.

4. O Jesus, Thou hast promised  
To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory  
There shall Thy servant be;  
And, Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
My Master and my friend.

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

You are a God of new life, yet we are bound to the old way of doing things. You are a God of good news, yet we live in fear and dread. You are a God of resurrection, yet we spend our days proclaiming death and destruction. You are a God of abundance, yet we fear there **isn't enough grace to cover over our mistakes. You are a God of empowerment**, yet we doubt whether we can do your work. You are a God of forgiveness, yet we cannot bring ourselves to forgive others. You are a God who shepherds his flock, yet we scatter and run at the first sign of trouble.

Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us. Lead us from doubt and despair to lush fields and springs of faith. We know that you can, and we pray that you will. Amen.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Even though we have walked through the valley of sin, we need not be afraid, for God is surely with us.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

\*Gloria Patri

Recognition of Confirmands

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

**\*Doxology and the Lord's Prayer**

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Choral Response

*The Word*

**Children's Time**

Anthem

*Psalm 23*

*Sorenson*

*Solos by Chloe Folts and Maeghan Gongora*

Scripture Reading

John 10:22-30

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn #341

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
Born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.

Refrain:

This is my story, This is my song  
Praising my Savior all the day long;  
This is my story, This is my song,  
Praising my savior all the day long.

2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
Angels, descending, bring from above,  
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love. (Refrain)

Scripture Reading

Psalm 23

Sermon

**"The Lord Is My Shepherd"**

*Rev. Seth Saathoff*



## Responding to the Word

### Prayers of the People

#### \*Hymn

Because He Lives

1. God sent His son, they called Him Jesus;  
He came to love, heal, and forgive;  
He lived and died to buy my pardon,  
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

#### Refrain:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow;  
Because He lives, all fear is gone;  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives.

2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy He gives;  
But greater still the calm assurance,  
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.  
(Refrain)

#### \*Charge and Benediction

#### \*Choral Response

May the Love of God Be With You

May the love of God be with you,  
**May He warm your ev'ry waking hour.**  
May His presence fill your longing spirit,  
May He bless you with his healing power.  
Even though you may be weary,  
His strength is mighty as a rock.  
**He'll keep you and abide with you,**  
As long as on this earth we walk.  
Amen.

#### \*Postlude

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

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### John 10:22-30

<sup>22</sup> At that time the Festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, <sup>23</sup> and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. <sup>24</sup> **So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."** <sup>25</sup> **Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me,** <sup>26</sup> **but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. <sup>27</sup> My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, in regard to what he has given me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of the Father's hand. <sup>30</sup> The Father and I are one."**

### Psalm 23

<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

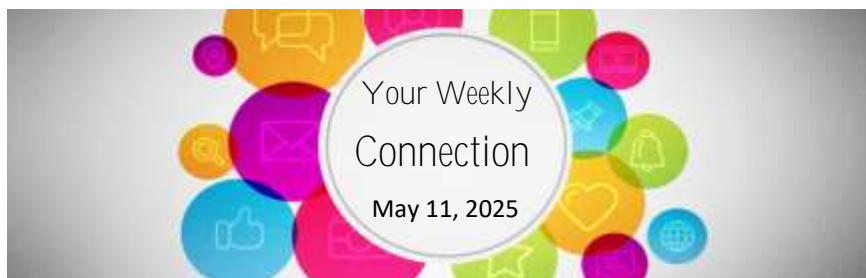
<sup>3</sup> He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup> Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

# *Notes*



### *Mission Sunday Special Offering May 18*



Our church has a long history of providing financial support and participation with local mission programs that address the issue of homelessness in our community. In more recent years, the Missions Committee has done this without being part of the regular church budget. We are blessed to be able to do this because of the generous financial support of our members. Our one major source of funding, the Mission Sunday Special Offering, will be Sunday, May 18. Along with sharing the love of Christ through service to others, please consider participating in this special offering with a donation. As **you do, be sure to make a note on your check or online donation "Mission Special Offering"**. We want to continue to be a church with a strong mission focus – thank you for supporting this vital ministry!

### ***Children's Church***

**After the Children's Time, children between 5-8 will be invited to attend Children's Church, where they will pray, sing praise songs, and learn Bible stories - everything we do in a regular church service, but more age-appropriate. Children will return to the sanctuary for the final hymn.**

Volunteers are needed, so please use the link or scan the QR code to pick a date!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4CABAD2EA2F94-55218097-childrens>



Collecting Bibles Through June 1<sup>st</sup>

# BIBLE DRIVE

## Donate Bibles Here!

In most villages around the world, believers outnumber Bibles 300 to 1! Join us in ensuring all faithful followers of Jesus have access to His Word!

\*ACCEPTING BIBLES IN ANY CONDITION & IN ANY TRANSLATION

**PROJECT** *Bible Runners*

[www.projectbible.runners.com](http://www.projectbible.runners.com)



### *Pentecost Sunday*

Historically, red has been associated with Pentecost Sunday as a reminder of **God's empowerment of the Church through the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit**. Luke recorded that a great wind blew, filling the place, and tongues of fire rested above the heads of the disciples. As a result of this divine encounter, the disciples declared the good news of Jesus Christ to all present! Thousands believed in the Christ and were added to the Church! Reverend Saathoff and the FPC Worship Committee invite you to commemorate this great day in church history by wearing red as we gather on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, for Bible study and worship.



*Summer Schedule Begins May 25*

**It's that time of year again! Beginning May 25<sup>th</sup>,**  
we will have only one worship service at 11:00 a.m.

## **Capital Campaign Update**

Our FPC Capital Campaign is progressing well, and we are moving quickly to our Celebration Sunday on May 18, 2025! For those of you who have not taken the opportunity to return your commitment cards with your three-year pledge, we humbly request that you prayerfully complete the pledge card and return it to the church by May 11. We want your contribution to be included in total funds committed to reducing our indebtedness over the next three years! If you think your gift would have little to no impact on our debt reduction, then think again! Consider this:

A \$50/per month commitment equals a total commitment of \$1,800.

What if 10 people/households made the same commitment? That level of giving equals \$18,000!

What if 20 people/households made the same commitment? That level of giving equals \$36,000!

These examples demonstrate the power and impact of the community of faith striving together to expand our capacity of ministry and missions. If you've not received a Capital Campaign commitment card, then you can find a card placed on either table as you enter the worship center or on the Visitor's Desk. We thank you for your prayerful consideration and commitment!





Registration  
for VBS 2025  
now open!

July 7-14  
9am-12pm

**Scan QR Code or go to**  
**[vbspro.events/p/vbsconroe2025](https://vbspro.events/p/vbsconroe2025)**



Scan Here to Register

**BOYS & GIRLS**

**ARMORED SPORTS**

**After VBS Sports Camp**

**JULY 7-11 (5 DAY)**  
12:00PM-4:00PM  
AGES 9-12

A multi-sport camp consisting of fun games like Dodgeball, Kickball, Capture the Flag, and other games revolving around classic sports like Basketball, Flag Football, and Soccer.

This is an AFTER VBS program. So you can volunteer with your child in the morning, then your child will be escorted to Sports Camp and the Armored Staff will have lunch with them. After lunch, we will put the kids into Sports Camp and you can pick them up at the conclusion of camp. Please pack backpack containing a lunch, water and snack for your child.

**CAMP PRICES**  
Before June 1st - \$125  
After June 1st - \$135

**Register @**  
[www.armored-sports.com/camps/tpcconroe](http://www.armored-sports.com/camps/tpcconroe)

**\*\*Registration Link for Armored Sports Camp can be found on the VBS Registration Site for a convenient, all-in-one place to sign up for summer fun! Be sure to sign up *BEFORE June 1st!!***

## Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>May 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 letter to the church at Ephesus.            9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (Rm. 204) <b>Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms.</b>            9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)  <b>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton</b> (Library) Study of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians (<i>Available by Zoom; contact Randy Blanton for details.</i>)  <b>9:30 a.m. FPC Kid's Sunday School</b> (Rm. 203)            10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)            10:40 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary)            11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live <a href="http://www.com/fpcConroe">www.com/fpcConroe</a> or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)            12:30 p.m. Committee Meetings            5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym) <b>NO MEETING TODAY</b></p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>May 12</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> <i>May 13</i></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (Parlor)            5:00 p.m. Lydia Circle (Youth area)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>May 14</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Martha Circle (Parlor)            5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary)            7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>



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## Save the Date

May 15	PDS Last Day of School
May 18	Senior Sunday / Mission Sunday Special Offering
May 22	CISD Last Day of School
May 25	Summer Service Schedule Begins (One service only at 11:00 a.m.)
May 26	Memorial Day (FPC office closed for observance)
June 8	Day of Pentecost
June 8-14	Youth Mission Trip to Kentucky

## Prayer List

Members: Rev. Callie Candee, Judy Weinburger, Ruth Masters, Kyle Walker, Glenna Lang, 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, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

**Members' Relatives & Friends:** April S. (Nichols), Karyn M. (Rose), Siana F. and family (Watson), Jerry W., Lisa W. (Webb), Celia G. (Hernandez- Garcia), Wes K. (Yates), Alicia I., James I., and Ron S. (Bailey), Susie K. (Davis), Anna (Harshbarger), 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), 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), Shannon L. (Diamond), Rick J. (Juhl), Joe T. Sr., 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), Jeffrey H. & Leah H. (Heasley), Katie B. (Pohla), Wendy S. (Adamson), Sherry M. (Garrison), Lee H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Gerald H. (Roberts)

## Ministry Leaders

Administration	Cheryl Nichols (2025, Chair) Stephan Tibbetts (2025)
Building & Grounds	Bill Harshbarger (2026, Chair)
Care-Prayer	Ron Massey (2027, Chair)
Discipleship	Mark Sowden (2025, Chair) Dena Sowden (2025) Masen Stuntz (2025) Sean Morton (2027)
Fellowship	Debbie Morse (2027, Chair)
Membership	Steve Scheffler (2025)
Missions	Catherine Scheffler (2025, Chair) Kyle Walker (2027)
PDS	Pat Hudson (2025)
Worship	Randy Blanton and Mike Wisda (2026, Co-chairs)
Trustees	Charline Muller (2025) David Nichols (2026) Fred Kate (2027)

## 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)

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

#### *Mailing Address:*

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