

First Presbyterian Church
July 20, 2025

Welcome



**Stranger
Scriptures
Sermon Series**

“Elisha and the Bears”

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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 ~

A special thanks to our guest organist, Donna Davis, who has graciously volunteered to provide beautiful music while Rolethial is on vacation. Thank you, Donna!

Today's Worship Leader

Carly Hart

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Ron and Jeannine Wendt, in celebration of their 67th wedding anniversary.

Last Week's Attendance, July 13

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 149

Online Worship Attendance - 33

Total Attendance – 182

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *I Worship You, Almighty God*

Call to Worship

Come and worship, everyone on earth, everywhere the sun shines:

Let us praise God together!

For listening when we call, answering our prayers, forgiving our mistakes,
and providing what we need:

Let us praise God together!

Come and worship, everyone on earth, everywhere the sun shines:

Let us praise God together!

*Hymn #449

My Lord! What a Morning

Refrain:

My Lord! what a morning,

My Lord! what a morning,

Oh, my Lord! what a morning,

When the stars begin to fall,

When the stars begin to fall.

2. You will hear the sinner cry
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)
3. You will hear the Christian shout
To wake the nations underground,
Looking to my God's right hand
When the stars begin to fall. (Refrain)

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Almighty and merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your holy name.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Take heart and rest assured that, while our sin is great, the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, and His mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning.

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 *Take My Life and Let It Be*

FPC Handbell Choir

*Doxology

***Prayer of Dedication and The Lord's Prayer**

*Choral Response

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem

Give Me Jesus

Kaiser

Scripture Reading

Galatians 6:7-10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #438

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

1. Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds
Is like to that above.

2. Before our Father's throne

We pour our ardent prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

3. We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear,
And often for each other flows
The sympathizing tear.

4. From sorrow, toil, and pain,
And sin we shall be free;
And perfect love and friendship reign
Through all eternity.

Scripture Reading

2 Kings 2:23-25

Sermon

"Elisha and the Bears"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to the 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 Pon-
tius 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 be-
lieve 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 #442

The Church's One Foundation

1. The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the word;
From heaven He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

4. Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious
Shall be the church at rest.

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Where He Leads Me

3. I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him through the judgment,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

Refrain:

Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me I will follow,
Where He leads me, I will follow,
I'll go with Him, with Him all the way.

*Postlude

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"I Worship You, Almighty God" (#146 The Celebration Hymnal)

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"Give Me Jesus" Traditional Spiritual

Arr. by Kurt Kaiser

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"My Lord! What a Morning"

Music: Arrangement © 1990 Melva W. Costen.

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This Week's Scripture Readings

Galatians 6:7-10

⁷ Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. ⁸ If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh, but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. ⁹ So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. ¹⁰ So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith.

2 Kings 2:23-25

²³ He went up from there to Bethel, and while he was going up on the way, some small boys came out of the city and jeered at him, saying, **"Go away, baldhead! Go away, baldhead!"** ²⁴ When he turned around and saw them, he cursed them in the name of the Lord. Then two she-bears came out of the woods and mauled forty-two of the boys. ²⁵ From there he went on to Mount Carmel and then returned to Samaria.

Notes



The Seekers Class Begins a New Study

The Seekers Class will begin the study of Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday, July 13. Two options are available for participating in this foundational study. You can join the class that meets Sunday mornings in the church library or participate virtually through Zoom (Join Zoom Meeting – <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82754565124?> – Meeting ID: 827 5456 5124 – Passcode: 77304).

CPR Class August 15

As Presbyterian Day School prepares for another wonderful school year, teachers and staff will take part in a CPR Class the morning of August 15 here at FPC. If you are interested in getting your certification, please contact the PDS office at (936) 756-3990. There is online pre-work involved, prior to the actual class, so be sure to give yourself the time needed to participate.

Serve Our Neighbor Day September 27



SAVE THE DATE for our 3rd annual Serve Our Neighbor Day, on Saturday, **September 27.** We'll gather together at the church for a light breakfast at 8:30 a.m. and then disperse to several different local mission sites after a prayer send-off. More details about the specific projects will be available in August and sign-ups in the narthex will begin on Sunday, August 24. Please make plans to **participate in this year's churchwide day of service!**

Members of Armed Services Photos

The Worship Committee is requesting photos of your loved ones that have **served, or who are presently serving, in our nation's armed services.** Please send your photos to Randy Blanton at randyiblanton@yahoo.com in .jpeg format, and include the name, branch of service, rank, and years of service. We plan to stream the photos of the men and women who have served, and are still with us, prior to the 11:00 a.m. worship service on November 9, 2025. The photos of the men and women who have served, and have passed, will be streamed on May 24, 2026.

Spiritual Direction with Rev. Callie Candee

Christians have sought out silent prayer retreats for centuries; driven by a hunger for closer communion with God, we choose times of silence, of meditation **of Scripture, to hear God more clearly and to follow Jesus' invitation to 'come away with me to a quiet place and rest.'** In our ever too busy world, such an **invitation is a blessing, as we enter stillness, reflection upon God's Word, and open ourselves to hearing more fully God's response to us.** Rev. Callie Candee is offering one-on-one Spiritual Direction sessions for our congregation. She can be reached at CallieCandee@yahoo.com.

Dear FPC Family,

I recently spoke with Kathy Lee-Cornell, Director of the **Synod of the Sun's Partnership for Disaster Recovery**, regarding the flooding in Hunt, Texas, and ways our congregation can support recovery efforts.

Kathy shared that the response is still in the search and rescue phase. At this time, local organizations are overwhelmed with donations of goods and volunteers. What is most needed now are:

Our prayers

Monetary support for long-term rebuilding

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has created a dedicated fund to support this effort. You can donate online using this link:

<https://pcusa.org/disaster-assistance/active-responses/national-disaster/texas-hill-country-flooding>

Be sure to use reference code DR000191.

If you prefer to donate by check, you may make it payable to FPC Conroe with **“flood relief”** in the memo line, and we will forward your gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Regardless of whether you give financially, I invite everyone to pray for the town of Hunt, Kerr County, the summer camps, and all those involved in the search and rescue operations.

Thank you for your faithful compassion.

In Christ,
Seth Saathoff

Prayer List

Members: Friends and family of Jay Slaymaker, Gordon Juhl, Roy Kessler, John Wright, Ruth Masters, Kyle Walker, Jeannene Wendt, Reed Watson, John Lancaster, Kari Elliott, Tildon Hebert, Ron Bailey, Alice Helms, Jean Ball, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: David W. (Hart), Bret F. (Kasmiersky), Thad M. (West), Dorene D. and Dan S. (B. Hernandez), 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), 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

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>July 20</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.</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>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>10:40 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>5:00 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>July 21</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor) NO STUDY FOR THE MONTH OF JULY.</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>July 23</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary)</p> <p>7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)</p>

<p><i>Sunday July 27</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus.</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)</p> <p>Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday (Contact Randy Blanton to join by Zoom).</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>10:40 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>5:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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Save the Date

August 15	CPR Class (see page 10 for details)
August 24	Rally Sunday
September 1	Labor Day (Church office closed)
September 7	Return to regular service schedule (8:30 & 11:00 a.m.)
September 19	Life Line Screening
September 24	See You at the Pole
September 27	Serve Our Neighbor Day

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