

First Presbyterian Church
August 10, 2025

Welcome

?

**Stranger
Scriptures
Sermon Series**

“Wives for the Benjamites”

11:00 Worship Service

Page 3

Scripture Readings

Page 8

The Connection

Page 10

Calendar of Events

Page 12

Prayer List

Page 14

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 Bob & Paula Shepherd,
in honor of their 53rd wedding anniversary.*

Last Week's Attendance, August 3

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 137

Online Worship Attendance - 20

Total Attendance – 157

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Lord, Help Our Hearts Be Pure

Folts

Call to Worship

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

Praise be to God, the giver of many gifts!

Our help is in God's name, the One who calls us here.

We come with songs of praise, with prayers too deep for words.

Blessed be the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth!

With all that is within us, let us praise the Lord!

*Hymn #281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

*Please stand if able.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, how very true it is when we say our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.

One thing leads to another, one mistake turns into several, and before we know it, our sins have snowballed out of control and are too numerous to count.

Forgive us, we pray, of all our sins: small and insignificant as they may seem or as large and all-encompassing as the sun. Set us free from a past we cannot change and open to us the limitless possibilities of a new future, free from burden, guilt, and shame. We know that you can, pray that you will, and wait with anticipation. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Even though we have made mistakes, Christ calls us into new life and enables us to try again. In Christ, God is making all things new.

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

*Doxology

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

*Choral Response

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem

Jesus Paid It All

Sterling

Scripture Reading

Romans 1:18-21, 28-32

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #286

Give to the Winds Thy Fears

1. Give to the winds thy fears;
Hope and be undismayed;
God hears thy sighs and counts thy tears,
God shall lift up thy head.
2. Through waves and clouds and storms
God gently clears thy way;
Wait patiently; so shall this night
Soon end in joyous day.
3. **Leave to God's sovereign sway**
To choose and to command;
So shalt thou, wondering, own God's way,
How wise, how strong God's hand!
4. On God the Lord rely,
And safe shalt thou go on;
Fix on God's work thy steadfast eye,
So shall thy work be done.

Scripture Reading

Judges 21:1-25

Sermon

"Wives for the Benjamites"

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 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 #467

How Great Thou Art

1. O Lord my God! when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, how great Thou art!

3. And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin; (Refrain)
4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! (Refrain)

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

He Lives

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me

Along life's narrow way.

He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!

You ask me how I know He lives?

He lives within my heart.

*Postlude

Copyright Information

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"Jesus Paid It All"

Arr. by Robert Sterling (ASCAP)

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"How Great Thou Art"

by Carl Gustav Boberg and Stuart K. Hine

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CCL # 2714264

This Week's Scripture Readings

Romans 1:18-21, 28-32

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and injustice of those who by their injustice suppress the truth. ¹⁹ For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. ²⁰ **Ever since the creation of the world God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been seen and understood through the things God has made. So they are without excuse,** ²¹ for though they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their senseless hearts were darkened.

²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to an unfit mind and to do things that should not be done. ²⁹ They were filled with every kind of injustice, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, they are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, rebellious toward parents, ³¹ foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² **They know God's decree,** that those who practice such things deserve to die, yet they not only do them but even applaud others who practice them.

Judges 21:1-25

¹ **Now the Israelites had sworn at Mizpah, "No one of us shall give his daughter in marriage to Benjamin."** ² And the people came to Bethel and sat there until evening before God, and they lifted up their voices and wept bitterly. ³ **They said, "O Lord, the God of Israel, why has it come to pass that today there should be one tribe lacking in Israel?"** ⁴ On the next day, the people got up early and built an altar there and offered burnt offerings and sacrifices of well-being. ⁵ **Then the Israelites said, "Who out of all the tribes of Israel did not come up in the assembly to the Lord?" For a solemn oath had been taken concerning whoever did not come up to the Lord to Mizpah, saying, "That one shall be put to death."** ⁶ But the Israelites had compassion for Benjamin their kin and said, **"One tribe is cut off from Israel this day.** ⁷ What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since we have sworn by the Lord that we will not give them any of our daughters as wives?"

⁸ Then they said, "Is there anyone from the tribes of Israel who did not come up to the Lord to Mizpah?" It turned out that no one from Jabesh-gilead had come to the camp, to the assembly. ⁹ For when the roll was called among the people, not one of the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead was there. ¹⁰ So the congregation sent twelve thousand soldiers there and **commanded them, "Go, put the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead to the sword, including the women and the little ones.** ¹¹ This is what you shall do; every male and every woman who has lain with a male you shall devote to **destruction."** ¹² And they found among the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead four hundred young virgins who had never slept with a man and brought them to the camp at Shiloh, which is in the land of Canaan.

¹³ Then the whole congregation sent word to the Benjaminites who were at the rock of Rimmon and proclaimed peace to them. ¹⁴ Benjamin returned at that time, and they gave them the women whom they had saved alive of the women of Jabesh-gilead, but they did not suffice for them.

¹⁵ The people had compassion on Benjamin because the Lord had made a breach in the tribes of Israel. ¹⁶ So the elders of the congregation said, **"What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since there are no women left in Benjamin?"** ¹⁷ And they said, **"There must be heirs for the survivors of Benjamin, in order that a tribe may not be blotted out from Israel.** ¹⁸ **Yet we cannot give any of our daughters to them as wives."** For the Israelites had sworn, **"Cursed be anyone who gives a wife to Benjamin."** ¹⁹ So they said, **"Look, the yearly festival of the Lord is taking place at Shiloh, which is north of Bethel, on the east of the highway that goes up from Bethel to Shechem and south of Lebonah."** ²⁰ And they instructed the Benjaminites, saying, **"Go and lie in wait in the vineyards** ²¹ and watch; when the young women of Shiloh come out to dance in the dances, then come out of the vineyards and each of you carry off a wife for himself from the young women of Shiloh and go to the land of Benjamin. ²² Then if their fathers or their brothers come to complain to us, we will say to them, 'Be generous and allow us to have them, because we did not capture in battle a wife for each man. But neither did you incur guilt by giving your daughters to them.' " ²³ The Benjaminites did so; they took wives for each of them from the dancers whom they abducted. Then they went and returned to their territory and rebuilt the towns and lived in them. ²⁴ So the Israelites departed from there at that time by tribes and families, and they went out from there to their own territories.

²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel; all the people did what was right in their own eyes.



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.



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 randyblanton@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.

Young Adult Retreat at Mo Ranch March 20-22, 2026

Reignite your purpose and strengthen your spirit. Join us for a transformative retreat designed for those navigating the post-college years. Connect with a supportive community, explore life planning, vocational discernment, and creative budgeting, all while deepening your faith through worship, prayer, and **interactive workshops.** Together, let's build a future of meaning, purpose, and connection. Details regarding this retreat can be found at: <https://www.moranch.org/attend-a-conference/adult-conferences/young-adult-retreat/>

Good News!!

As of July 31, 2025, the church has used proceeds received from the Capital Campaign to pay down the outstanding debt by \$341,330. This amounts to a reduction in operating expenses of \$32,500/year! Total pledges to the three-year campaign now stand at slightly over \$988,000.

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

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.

Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>August 10</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>August 11</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>August 13</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 August 17</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>12:30 p.m. Session Meeting</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

Prayer List

Members: Judy Weinburger and family, Sylvia Dopp, 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: Polly P. (Perciful), 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)

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

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Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842
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