

First Presbyterian Church
August 17, 2025

Welcome

?

**Stranger
Scriptures
Sermon Series**

“The Bread No One Wants to Eat”

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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

Elizabeth Laletas

Today's Flowers

*Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Greg Scott,
in memory of Amy Scott Ochoa.*

Last Week's Attendance, August 10

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 140

Online Worship Attendance - 27

Total Attendance – 167

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

Come, people of God, come and worship the Lord.

We come with hearts open to God's presence.

This is the day the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

God calls us from our work and our rest, from our joys and our struggles.

We come to offer our praise and our prayers.

Let us worship the God who is faithful, loving, and true.

We lift our voices and our lives to the glory of God!

*Hymn

We Are

1. Every secret, every shame
Every fear, every pain
Live inside the dark
But that's not who we are
We are children of the day

Pre-Chorus:

So wake up sleeper, lift your head

We were meant for more than this

Fight the shadows conquer death

Make the most of the time we have left

*Please stand if able.

Chorus:

We are the light of the world
We are the city on a hill
We are the light of the world
We gotta, we gotta, we gotta let the light shine
We are the light of the world
We are the city on a hill
We are the light of the world
We gotta, we gotta, we gotta let the light shine
Let the light shine, let the light shine

2. We are called to spread the news
Tell the world the simple truth
Jesus came to save, there's freedom in His Name
So let His love break through (Chorus)

Bridge:

We are the light, We are the light, We are the light
So let your light shine brighter
We are the light, We are the light, We are the light
Jesus
You are the light, You are the light, You are the light
We will lift You higher
Shine, Shine, Shine (Chorus)

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Our hearts are made clean, and we are set free to live in God's love.

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

Ride On, King Jesus

Helvey

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 4:9-13

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

We Are Called to Be God's People

1. We are called to be God's people,

Showing by our lives His grace,

One in heart and one in spirit,

Sign of hope for all the race.

Let us show how He has changed us

And remade us as His own;

Let us share our life together

As we shall around His throne.

2. We are called to be God's servants,

Working in His world today;

Taking His own task upon us,

All His sacred words obey.

Let us rise, then, to His summons,

Dedicate to Him our all,

That we may be faithful servants,

Quick to answer now His call.

3. We are called to be God's prophets,

Speaking for the truth and right;
Standing firm for godly justice,
Bringing evil into light.
Let us seek the courage needed,
Our high calling to fulfill,
That we all may know the blessing
Of the doing of God's will.

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 4:4-17

Sermon

"The Bread No One Wants to Eat"

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 #275

God of Our Life

1. God of our life, through all the circling years,
We trust in Thee;
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears,
Thy hand we see.
With each new day, when morning lifts the veil,
We own Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail.

2. God of the past, our times are in Thy hand;
With us abide.
Lead us by faith to hope's true promised land;
Be Thou our guide.
With Thee to bless, the darkness shines as light,
And faith's fair vision changes into sight.
3. God of the coming years, through paths unknown
We follow Thee;
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone;
Our refuge be.
Be Thou for us in life our daily bread,
Our heart's true home when all our years have sped.

*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

Notes

Copyright Information

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“We Are”

By Butler, Cash, Tealy, and McBride

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“We Are Called to Be God’s People”

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“God of Our Life”

by Hugh Thomson Kerr and Charles Henry Purday

Copyright 1928, by F. M. Braselmann; renewed 1956 by Presbyterian Board of Christian Education;
from The Hymnal for Youth, published by Westminster Press.
CCL # 2714264

“Ride On, King Jesus”

Arr. by Howard Helvey

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This Week's Scripture Readings

I Corinthians 4:9-13

⁹ For I think that God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, as though sentenced to death, because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to humans. ¹⁰ We are fools for the sake of Christ, but you are sensible people in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are honored, but we are dishonored. ¹¹ To the present hour we are hungry and thirsty, we are naked and beaten and homeless, ¹² and we grow weary from the work of our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we speak kindly. We have become like the rubbish of the world, the dregs of all things, to this very day.

Ezekiel 4:4-17

⁴ **"Then lie on your left side and place the guilt of the house of Israel upon it; you shall bear their guilt for the number of the days that you lie there.** ⁵ For I assign to you a number of days, three hundred ninety days, equal to the number of the years of their guilt, and so you shall bear the guilt of the house of Israel. ⁶ When you have completed these, you shall lie down a second time, but on your right side, and bear the guilt of the house of Judah; forty days I assign you, one day for each year. ⁷ You shall set your face toward the siege of Jerusalem, and with your arm bared you shall prophesy against it. ⁸ See, I am putting cords on you so that you cannot turn from one side to the other until you have completed the days of your siege.

⁹ **"And you, take wheat and barley, beans and lentils, millet and spelt; put them into one vessel and make bread for yourself. During the number of days that you lie on your side, three hundred ninety days, you shall eat it.** ¹⁰ The food that you eat shall be twenty shekels a day by weight; at fixed times you shall eat it. ¹¹ And you shall drink water by measure, one-sixth of a hin; at fixed times you shall drink. ¹² You shall eat it as a barley cake, baking it in their sight on human dung." ¹³ The Lord said, **"Thus shall the people of Israel eat their bread, unclean, among the nations to which I will drive them."** ¹⁴ Then I said, "Ah Lord God! I have never defiled myself; from my youth up until now I have never eaten what died of itself or was torn by animals, nor has carrion flesh come into my mouth." ¹⁵ Then he said to me, **"See, I will let you have cow's dung instead of human dung, on which you may prepare your bread."**

¹⁶ Then he said to me, **"Mortal, I am going to cut off the supply of bread in Jerusalem; they shall eat bread by weight and with fearfulness, and they shall drink water by measure and in dismay.** ¹⁷ Lacking bread and water, they will look at one another in dismay and waste away under their punishment.



Rally Day August 24

Please plan to join us next Sunday, between Sunday School classes and our 11:00 worship service, for Rally Sunday. We will be available to provide information regarding the life of the church and the upcoming seasonal events, as well as how you can get involved. We will also enjoy some light snacks along the way, so we hope to see you there!

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

Funeral Service for Russell Weinburger

A funeral service for Russell “Russ” Weinburger will be held at FPC on August 23, at 11:00 a.m., in the Sanctuary. Please make plans to attend as we support Judy and her family during this difficult time.

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.

Life Line Screening Event at FPC

Special screening package for \$159 for our members includes:

- Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- FREE Hypertension Screening

Call to schedule an appointment
near you! 888-814-0466
and use code: HSCA001

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention



September 19, 2025

Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>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)</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>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>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>August 18</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>August 20</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 24</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>
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Save the Date

August 18	PDS begins new school year
August 24	Rally Sunday
September 1	Labor Day (PDS and 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), 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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