

First Presbyterian Church
August 24, 2025

Welcome

?

**Stranger
Scriptures
Sermon Series**

“Ehud, the Left-Handed Assassin!”

11:00 Worship Service

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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

Karis Morton

Today's Flowers

*Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Judy Hughes,
in memory of Ben Hughes.*

Last Week's Attendance, August 17

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 145

Online Worship Attendance - 42

Total Attendance – 187

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, all who are weary and searching for rest.
We come to find our hope in God.
Come, all who are joyful and full of song.
We come to give thanks to God.
Come, all who are broken and longing for healing.
We come to be made whole in Christ.
Come, all who are gathered here, with heart and voice.
We come to worship the Lord!

*Hymn #525

Here I Am, Lord

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard You calling in the night
I will go, Lord, if You lead me.
I will hold Your people in my heart.

*Please stand if able.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne My people's pain.
I have wept for love of them,
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
Give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak My word to them.
Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

3. I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them,
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
Till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give My life to them.
Whom shall I send? (Refrain)

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be obedient to your will. We have sought wisdom in our own ways and strength in our own power. We have turned from our neighbors in need and from you, the source of life.

Forgive us, we pray. Humble our pride, lift our burdens, and renew us by your grace, that we may walk in your ways and delight in your will, to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Who among us is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us; Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone, and the new life is here!

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

The Stand

Houston

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 1:26-31

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Hymn #166**

The Heavens Above Declare God's Praise

1. The heavens above declare God's praise,
The work God's hands have made;
Day after day the tale is told,
And night by night displayed.
2. There is no utterance or speech,
No voice has ever heard,
Yet to all nations comes the sound,
To every place their word.
3. Forth like a bridegroom comes the sun
From its appointed place,
And like a hero runs its course,
Rejoicing in the race.
4. It runs from east to farthest west
To make its course complete,
And nothing in the world beneath
Escapes its scorching heat.

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 #483

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

1. Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
The God of all creation,
The God of power, the God of love,
The God of our salvation;
With healing balm my soul is filled,
And every faithless murmur stilled:
To God all praise and glory!
2. What God's almighty power hath made,
God's gracious mercy keepeth;
By morning glow or evening shade
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;
Within the kingdom of God's might,
Lo! all is just and all is right:
To God all praise and glory!

*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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"Here I Am, Lord" by Daniel L. Schutte

© 1981, Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music,
P.O. Box 13248, Portland, OR 97213-0248.

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"The Heavens Above Declare God's Praise "

Text: © 1986 Christopher L. Webber.
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"The Stand" by Joel Houston

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CCLI Song # 4705248

This Week's Scripture Readings

I Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, **"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."**

Judges 3:12-30

¹² The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and the Lord strengthened King Eglon of Moab against Israel, because they had done what was evil in the sight of the Lord. ¹³ In alliance with the Ammonites and the Amalekites, he went and defeated Israel, and they took possession of the city of palms. ¹⁴ So the Israelites served King Eglon of Moab eighteen years.

¹⁵ But when the Israelites cried out to the Lord, the Lord raised up for them a deliverer, Ehud son of Gera, a Benjaminite, a left-handed man. The Israelites sent tribute by him to King Eglon of Moab. ¹⁶ Ehud made for himself a sword with two edges, a cubit in length, and he fastened it on his right thigh under his clothes. ¹⁷ Then he presented the tribute to King Eglon of Moab. Now Eglon was a very fat man. ¹⁸ When Ehud had finished presenting the tribute, he sent the people who carried the tribute on their way. ¹⁹ But he himself turned back at the sculptured stones near Gilgal and said, **"I have a secret message for you, O king."** So the king said, **"Silence!"** and all his attendants went out from his presence. ²⁰ Ehud came to him, **while he was sitting alone in his cool roof chamber, and said, "I have a message from God for you."** So he rose from his seat. ²¹ Then Ehud reached with his left hand, took the sword from his right thigh, and thrust it into **Eglon's belly**; ²² the hilt also went in after the blade, and the fat closed over the blade, for he did not draw the sword out of his belly, and the dirt came out. ²³ Then Ehud went out into the vestibule and closed the doors of the roof chamber on him and locked them.

²⁴ After he had gone, the servants came. When they saw that the doors **of the roof chamber were locked, they thought, “He must be relieving himself in the cool chamber.”** ²⁵ So they waited until they were embarrassed. When he still did not open the doors of the roof chamber, they took the key and opened them. There was their lord lying dead on the floor.

²⁶ Ehud escaped while they delayed and passed beyond the sculptured stones and escaped to Seirah. ²⁷ When he arrived, he sounded the trumpet in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went down with him from the hill country, having him at their head. ²⁸ **He said to them, “Follow after me, for the Lord has given your enemies the Moabites into your hand.”** So they went down after him and seized the fords of the Jordan against the Moabites and allowed no one to cross over. ²⁹ At that time they killed about ten thousand of the Moabites, all strong, able-bodied men; no one escaped. ³⁰ So Moab was subdued that day under the hand of Israel. And the land had rest eighty years.

Notes



Returning to Our Regularly Scheduled Programming

As Fall approaches, we want to remind you that we will be returning to our 2-service format on Sunday, September 7th, with worship and communion at 8:30 a.m., and our traditional worship service at 11:00 a.m.



Serve Our Neighbor Day September 27



Our 3rd annual Serve Our Neighbor Day will be taking place **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 this month, and sign-ups in the narthex begin today. Please make plans to **participate in this year's churchwide day of service!**

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.

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 randyiblantony@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.



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



September 19, 2025

Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>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)</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. Music (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 25</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>August 27</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 31</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

- 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
- September 28 Called Meeting of the Congregation

Prayer List

Members: 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: David G. (Rose), 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

Physical Address:

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Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842
Website: www.fpcConroe.org

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Mailing Address:

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