

# First Presbyterian Church

## September 7, 2025



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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](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***

*Martha Haines*

#### ***Today's Flowers***

*Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Jean Heasley,  
in loving memory of Kellye and Scott Heasley.*

#### ***Last Week's Attendance, August 31***

*11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 149*

*Online Worship Attendance - 24*

***Total Attendance – 173***

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Blessed are those who do not walk in the way of the wicked,  
But delight in the law of the Lord.  
They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
Bearing fruit in due season, their leaves never withering.  
The Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the wicked will perish.

**Come, let us walk in God's way, rooted in God's Word.**

We come to worship the Lord, our source of life and strength!

\*Hymn #387

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
2. Thou hast promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to Thee;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to Thee.

\*Please stand if able.

3. Early let us seek Thy favor;  
Early let us do Thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
With Thy love our bosoms fill:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Happy are we, holy people, when we walk in the ways of our God.  
**Happy are we, beloved ones, as we receive God's forgiveness.**  
Happy are we, family of God, because we are made whole through Jesus Christ.

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

Psalms 1; Philemon 1:1-21

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**"This Changes Everything"**  
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

## Grace Greater Than Our Sin

1. Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain:

Grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that is greater than all our sin!

2. Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
points to the refuge, the mighty cross.  
(Refrain)

3. Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,  
brighter than snow you may be today.  
(Refrain)

4. Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see his face,  
will you this moment his grace receive?  
(Refrain)

## \*Charge and Benediction

## \*Postlude

## 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

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

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

*We Will Glorify*

*Paris*

Call to Worship

Blessed are those who do not walk in the way of the wicked,  
But delight in the law of the Lord.  
They are like trees planted by streams of water,  
Bearing fruit in due season, their leaves never withering.  
The Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
But the way of the wicked will perish.

**Come, let us walk in God's way, rooted in God's Word.**

We come to worship the Lord, our source of life and strength!

\*Hymn #387

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
Much we need Thy tender care;  
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
For our use Thy folds prepare:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
2. Thou hast promised to receive us,  
Poor and sinful though we be;  
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,  
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Early let us turn to Thee;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
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\*Please stand if able.

3. Early let us seek Thy favor;  
Early let us do Thy will;  
Blessed Lord and only Savior,  
With Thy love our bosoms fill:  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still;  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,  
Thou hast loved us, love us still.

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you are the creator of all things, seen and unseen. On our best days, our delight is in your word, and it fills our lives with joy.

But for the times when we listen to the advice of wicked; Lord, have mercy.

For those times when we stray from your ways; Christ, have mercy.  
For those times when we do not bear the fruits of your abundance;  
Lord, have mercy.

Renew us, we pray, by your Spirit, that we may prosper in your ways and live in your light, now and always. Amen.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Happy are we, holy people, when we walk in the ways of our God.

**Happy are we, beloved ones, as we receive God's forgiveness.**

Happy are we, family of God, because we are made whole through Jesus Christ.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

\*Gloria Patri

Minute for Mission

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*In Christ Alone*

*Hayes*

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Choral Response

## *The Word*

Scripture Reading

Psalm 1; Philemon 1:1-21

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**“This Changes Everything”**

*Rev. Seth Saathoff*

## *Responding to God’s Word*

Affirmation of Faith

*(The Nicene Creed)*

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



## The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Anthem

Prayer of Thanksgiving

\*Hymn

Grace Greater Than Our Sin

1. Marvelous grace of our loving Lord,  
grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt!  
Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured,  
there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt.

Refrain:

Grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;  
grace, grace, God's grace,  
grace that is greater than all our sin!

2. Sin and despair, like the sea waves cold,  
threaten the soul with infinite loss;  
grace that is greater, yes, grace untold,  
points to the refuge, the mighty cross.  
(Refrain)

3. Dark is the stain that we cannot hide.  
What can avail to wash it away?  
Look! There is flowing a crimson tide,  
brighter than snow you may be today.  
(Refrain)

4. Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,  
freely bestowed on all who believe!  
You that are longing to see his face,  
will you this moment his grace receive?  
(Refrain)

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Choral Response

Trust (Medley)

(Standing on the Promises)

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King!

Through eternal ages let His praises ring.

"Glory in the highest!" I will shout and sing,

Standing on the promises of God.

Standing, standing,

Standing on the promises of God, my Savior;

Standing, standing,

I'm standing on the promises of God.

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

†

**"In Christ Alone"**

by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend, and Mark Hayes

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**"We Will Glorify" by Twila Paris**

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**"Trust (Medley)"**

Arranged by Camp Kirkland

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CCL # 2714264

# *Notes*

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

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### Psalm 1

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are those  
    who do not follow the advice of the wicked  
or take the path that sinners tread  
    or sit in the seat of scoffers,  
<sup>2</sup> but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  
    and on his law they meditate day and night.  
<sup>3</sup> They are like trees  
    planted by streams of water,  
which yield their fruit in its season,  
    and their leaves do not wither.  
In all that they do, they prosper.
- <sup>4</sup> The wicked are not so  
    but are like chaff that the wind drives away.  
<sup>5</sup> Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment  
    nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous,  
<sup>6</sup> for the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,  
    but the way of the wicked will perish.

### Philemon 1:1-21

- <sup>1</sup> Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,  
    To our beloved coworker Philemon, <sup>2</sup> to our sister Apphia, to our  
fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:
- <sup>3</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.
- <sup>4</sup> I thank my God always when I mention you in my pray-  
ers, <sup>5</sup> because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward  
the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup> I pray that the partnership of your faith may become  
effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. <sup>7</sup> I  
have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love,  
because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my  
brother.

<sup>8</sup> For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, <sup>9</sup> yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. <sup>11</sup> Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. <sup>12</sup> I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. <sup>13</sup> I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, <sup>14</sup> but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. <sup>15</sup> Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, <sup>16</sup> no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

<sup>17</sup> So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. <sup>18</sup> If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. <sup>19</sup> I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. <sup>20</sup> Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. <sup>21</sup> Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.



### *Called Meeting of the Congregation*

There will be a called meeting of the congregation on September 28, 2025 in order to elect an Officer Nominating Committee. Please plan to join us for this event after the 11:00 worship service.

### ***Christmas Boxes for the International Seafarers' Center, Port of Houston***



For many years Presbyterian Women of our church, with the help of our entire congregation, have packed 100 shoe boxes a year with non-perishable items (such as hygiene supplies, socks, caps, and Texas souvenirs) and delivered them to the Port of Houston for distribution to ships that come in from mid-November through December. This is a Christmas project for faith communities in the Houston area, and thousands of seafarers are reached in this way. **It is an important opportunity to offer a gesture of "hospitality" to some of those who serve us all year long.**

If you would like to help with monetary support for this project, please make a **donation through the church, marked clearly for the "Seafarer's boxes."** Our shopping is now in progress and will continue during through October, in order to meet a November 6 packing date. Our boxes will be dedicated in Worship **November 9 and delivered to the Seafarers' Center the following week.** If you have questions or need more information about this opportunity, please call the church office (936) 756- 8884 or Liz Kessler (713) 818-1006.

*Thanks to the generosity of the Friday Men's Breakfast Group, boxes will be purchased this year, so no donated shoe boxes are needed.*

## *Serve Our Neighbor Day September 27*

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> 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!**



## *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](mailto: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.

## *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>September 7</i></p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)</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) <b>Studying "More Parables from the Back Side" by J. Ellsworth Kalas, taught by Deborah Geddes, Glenna Lang and Glenn Elms.</b></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. Seekers' Bible Study with Randy Blanton</b> (Library) <b>Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday</b> (Contact Randy Blanton to join by Zoom).</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. FPC Kids' Sunday School</b> (Rm. 203)</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 <a href="http://www.com/fpcConroe">www.com/fpcConroe</a> or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Committee Meetings</p> <p><b>5:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study</b> (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>September 8</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>September 10</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 September 14</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)  <b>Paul's Letter to the Romans on Sunday</b> (Contact Randy Blanton to join by Zoom).  <b>9:30 a.m. FPC Kids' 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)  <b>5:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study</b> (Rm. 105)  5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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## Save the Date

- 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
- October 1          Wednesday Night Live Kickoff
- October 10         Pumpkin Delivery
- October 11-30     Pumpkin Patch

## Prayer List

Members: Fred Kate, Penny Bell, 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 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	TBA (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