

First Presbyterian Church

September 14, 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. 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

Matt Laletas

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God. To God be the glory!

Last Week's Attendance, September 7

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 28

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 139

Online Worship Attendance - 43

Total Attendance – 210

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The foolish say, "There is no God; we are alone."

We gather to declare the glory of God in our lives.

The foolish say, "It is your life; you are accountable to no one."

We gather, strengthened by the Spirit, trusting that Christ dwells in our hearts.

The foolish say, "Everything I have is mine; I owe nothing to anyone."

We gather to praise the One who calls us to serve others in love.

*Hymn #144

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

1. Alleluia! Sing to Jesus!

His the scepter, His the throne!

Alleluia! His the triumph,

His the victory alone!

Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion

Thunder like a mighty flood;

Jesus out of every nation

Hath redeemed us by His blood.

2. Alleluia! Not as orphans

Are we left in sorrow now.

Alleluia! He is near us;

Faith believes nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received Him,

When the forty days were o'er,

Shall our hearts forget His promise,

"I am with you evermore"?

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; 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

The Word

Scripture Readings

Psalms 14; I Corinthians 1:18-24

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"A Word to the Wise"

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 #263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

*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

The foolish say, "There is no God; we are alone."

We gather to declare the glory of God in our lives.

The foolish say, "It is your life; you are accountable to no one."

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2. Alleluia! Not as orphans

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Alleluia! He is near us;

Faith believes nor questions how.

Though the cloud from sight received Him,

When the forty days were o'er,

Shall our hearts forget His promise,

"I am with you evermore"?

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Far too often, O God, we desire to look wise in the eyes of the world. We have not spoken truth with our hearts. We have said and done hurtful things to our friends. We have forgotten our true identity, wandering into ways that are not yours. We have lost the path of true worship, focusing on form and words rather than deeds. We have forgotten what true discipleship is. And because of this, you have a quarrel with us.

Forgive us and help us live into becoming the people you have created and called us to be: people of justice and love and truth and humility, and yes, even foolishness. May we be fools for Christ, embracing **our true identity, even in the face of the world's scorn and derision.**

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Friends, who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; 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

Minute for Mission

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

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

*Choral Response

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem *All Hail the Power of Jesus Name*

Drennan

Scripture Reading

Psalms 14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

1. I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, if You please?
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.
[Refrain]

3. When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.
[Refrain]

Scripture Reading

I Corinthians 1:18-24

Sermon

"A Word to the Wise"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to God's 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 #263

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1. Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.
2. Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.
3. To all, life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
Then wither and perish; but naught changeth Thee.

*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

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"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Arr. by Patti Drennan

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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

This Week's Scripture Readings

Psalm 14

¹ **Fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.” They are corrupt; they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.**

² The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

³ They have all gone astray; they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.

⁴ Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread and do not call upon the Lord?

⁵ There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous. ⁶ You would confound the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge.

⁷ O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

I Corinthians 1:18-24

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

**“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”**

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Notes



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



A Churchwide Day of Service

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!**

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

Wednesday Night Live Kickoff

Join us October 1, from 5-7:00 pm

Dinner Served 5:00-5:45 pm

\$5/person (Under 12 & 90+ eat FREE)

THEN.....

Bingo from 6 - 7 pm

All events in the FLC Gym



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/>

Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>September 14</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 uplifting letter to the church at Philippi.</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>9:30 a.m. FPC Kids' Sunday School (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 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>September 15</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>September 17</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 21</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 uplifting letter to the church at Philippi. 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. 9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) 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). 9:30 a.m. FPC Kids' Sunday School (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 www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe) 12:30 p.m. Session Meeting 5:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study (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 25	Fall Festival
October 11-31	Pumpkin Patch

Prayer List

Members: Kyle Walker, Fred Kate, Penny Bell, Sylvia Dopp, Gordon Juhl, Roy Kessler, John Wright, Ruth Masters, 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:

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

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