

# First Presbyterian Church

November 23, 2025

## Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story

Psalm 107:2



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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***

*Karis Morton*

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

*Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by From Marty Taylor,  
with thanks to Gob for His many blessings.*

#### ***Last Week's Attendance, November 16***

*8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 16*

*11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 142*

*Online Worship Attendance - 21*

***Total Attendance – 179***

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

\*Hymn #559

We Gather Together

1. We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;  
He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glory be Thine!
3. We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,  
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a brand 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

### The Word

Scripture Readings

Ezekiel 34:11-16; Matthew 25:31-40

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**"Telling the Story: The Least of These"**

*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

1. Let all things now living  
A song of thanksgiving  
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
Who fashioned and made us,  
Protected and stayed us,  
By guiding us on to the end of our days.

God's banners are o'er us,  
Pure light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:  
Till shadows have vanished,  
All fearfulness banished,  
As forward we travel from light into Light.

2. By law God enforces.  
The stars in their courses,  
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains,  
The rivers and fountains,  
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.

We, too, should be voicing  
Our love and rejoicing  
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:  
Till all things now living  
Unite in thanksgiving,  
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

## **11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

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

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

*Introit V*

*Folts*

Call to Worship

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods.

Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

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He chastens and hastens His will to make known;  
The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing,  
Sing praises to His name; He forgets not His own.
2. Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,  
Ordaining, maintaining His kingdom divine;  
So from the beginning the fight we were winning;  
Thou, Lord, wast at our side; All glory be Thine!
3. We all do extol Thee, Thou leader triumphant,  
And pray that Thou still our defender wilt be.  
Let Thy congregation escape tribulation;  
Thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Sovereign God, mighty Lord, everlasting King, we confess that we have not always worshipped you as we should, and we have not always regarded Your Son as Lord. We have given idols power over us, the idols of power and wealth, fame and security. We confess we have fallen into the ways of this world and have forgotten our kindred in Christ. We have lost sight of the reign of God here on earth and instead have allowed the idols of the world to rule over us. Forgive us.

Call us into Your reign, to declare You the One who has power over us because Your power is love. Call us to love our neighbors as ourselves, and to work for justice, show mercy, and love one another in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ prays for us.

Anyone who is in Christ is a brand 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

Minute for Stewardship

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

\*Doxology

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

\*Choral Response

## The Word

### **Children's Time**

Anthem

*A Celtic Thanksgiving*

*Martin*

Scripture Reading

Ezekiel 34:11-16

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn #551

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1. Come, ye thankful people, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home:  
All is safely gathered in,  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied:  
Come to God's own temple, come,  
Raise the song of harvest home.

3. For the Lord our God shall come,  
And shall take the harvest home;  
From each field shall in that day  
All offenses purge away;  
Give the angels charge at last  
In the fire the tares to cast,  
But the fruitful ears to store  
In God's garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come  
To Thy final harvest home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin;  
There forever purified,  
In Thy presence to abide:  
Come, with all Thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious harvest home.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:31-40

Sermon

**"Telling the Story: The Least of These"**

*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 #554

Let All Things Now Living

1. Let all things now living  
A song of thanksgiving  
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;  
Who fashioned and made us,  
Protected and stayed us,  
By guiding us on to the end of our days.  
  
God's banners are o'er us,  
Pure light goes before us,  
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night:  
Till shadows have vanished,  
All fearfulness banished,  
As forward we travel from light into Light.
2. By law God enforces.  
The stars in their courses,  
The sun in its orbit obediently shine;  
The hills and the mountains,  
The rivers and fountains,  
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
  
We, too, should be voicing  
Our love and rejoicing  
With glad adoration, a song let us raise:  
Till all things now living  
Unite in thanksgiving,  
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Choral Response

A Celtic Thanksgiving

Thank You, Lord!  
Yours is the power and glory.  
Thank You, Lord!  
Yours is the honor and praise.

I will give thanks to the Lord!  
This is my Father's world.  
I will give thanks to the Lord!  
This is my Father's world.  
I will give thanks! (I will give thanks!)  
I will give thanks! (I will give thanks!)

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

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**"Let All Things Now Living"**

by Katherine K. Davis

Text: ©1939, 1966, E. C. Schirmer Music Company, Boston.  
CCL # 2714264

**"A Celtic Thanksgiving"**

By Joseph M. Martin and J. Paul Williams

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CCL # 2714264

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

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### Ezekiel 34:11-16

<sup>11</sup> For thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. <sup>12</sup> As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup> I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup> I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup> I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. <sup>16</sup> I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

### Matthew 25:31-40

<sup>31</sup> **"When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.** <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say **to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world,** <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took **care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'** <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, **'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink?** <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, **'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'**

# *Notes*



*Today is Dedication Sunday*

***“Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story.” Psalm 107:2***

During today's services, we will have the opportunity to join in bringing our pledges for the work of the church for 2026. If you did not receive a pledge packet in the mail, one can be picked up at the Welcome Desk and in the church office.

Through your faithful support this year, FPC-Conroe has been able to meet our budgetary needs in 2025 and reduce our debt by almost \$400,000. By the end of our three-year Capital Campaign, we will have reduced our debt by almost \$1.2 million.

Looking ahead to 2026, the church needs our support to continue to tell the **story of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ. Through our active participation** in giving, we can ensure that this church is the hands, feet, and voice of Christ to our congregation and our community as we spread His message of hope.

Although it is helpful to have your pledge card turned in today, you may bring your pledge to the church office at your convenience, or mail it to First Presbyterian Church, 2257 N. Loop 336 W, Suite 140, #349, Conroe, TX 77304.

### *Poinsettia Purchases and Dedications*



As is our tradition, we will fill the Sanctuary with poinsettias for our Christmas worship services. From November 23<sup>rd</sup>, until December 7<sup>th</sup>, order forms will be available for you to order poinsettias and make dedications in honor or in memory of your loved ones, special events or grateful thanks. Poinsettias are \$15 each. Order

forms can be found on page 19 of this bulletin or at the Welcome Desk. You may place them in the offering basket or turn them in to the church office by December 11<sup>th</sup>.



### *Lunch and Learn with Our Very Own, Haley Baughman*

As many of you know, Haley Baughman grew up calling FPC-Conroe her church home. She is now a missionary in East Africa, and would like to share her story with you.

Please join us after the 11:00 worship on November 30<sup>th</sup> for a luncheon, as we hear more about Haley's ministry and how you can support this worthy cause.



**Chicken nuggets, corn dogs, fries & fruit will be served,  
or children can bring their own dinner.**

**We will have crafts and then end the night with a movie.**

**Pillows & blankets are encouraged.**

**Space is limited, so RSVP early.**

# Welcome

*Welcome to our newest member, Betty Hilton, who officially joined the church during the Session meeting on Sunday, November 16.*



## ***The Children's Pageant: Help Needed***

The Children's Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, during the 11:00 worship service. We need lots of little angels, shepherds, sheep, and wise men to recreate the Holy Night for the congregation.

Practices will be held on November 16, 23, 30 and December 7 after the 11:00 a.m. service. This is an invitation for any elementary-aged student, who would like to participate in the pageant, to contact Dena Sowden at (979) 255-2096 or [DSowden@fpccconroe.org](mailto:DSowden@fpccconroe.org).

## *Young Adult (C.L.A.P.) Christmas Party December 12*

The Young Adult Christmas party will be held on December 12, from 6:00-9:00 p.m., at 511 Blue Threadfin Ct., Willis. Please bring a white elephant gift and your favorite appetizer or dessert to share. **Let's celebrate!**

## *Through the Bible in One Year*

The new start time for this class will be 4:00 p.m. The class will remain a one-hour study.

The class has completed its study of the Old Testament, so on December 7<sup>th</sup>, we will begin a study of the New Testament. The class would like to extend an invitation to anyone who would like to participate in the New Testament study to plan to attend. We will begin with an overview of the New Testament, followed by our study of Matthew the following week. We will continue using Alan Stringfellow's "Through the Bible in a Year" as our guide. All are welcome (church members and community friends)!

## Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>November 23</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) <b>Paul's uplifting letter to the church at Philippi.</b></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><b>4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study</b> (Rm. 105) <b>ON BREAK UNTIL 12/07/25</b></p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>November 24</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>November 26</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105) <b>NO SEWING THIS WEEK</b></p> <p>4:00 p.m. Small Group Study (Rm. 206) <b>WILL NOT BE MEETING AGAIN UNTIL 1/07/26</b></p>



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## Save the Date

- November 24-28 Thanksgiving Holidays for PDS/CISD
- November 27 Thanksgiving Day (FPC Office Closed)
- November 30 Lunch and Learn with Haley Baughman (Gym)
- December 5 Life Line Screenings at FPC
- December 7 Seasonal Music Sunday / Parents Night Out
- December 12 Young Adult (C.L.A.P. Group) Christmas Party
- December 14 **Children's Pageant**

## Prayer List

Members: Steve and Connie Tibbetts, Nedra Murphy, Jean Heasley, Fred Kate, Sylvia Dopp, Gordon Juhl, Roy Kessler, John Wright, Ruth Masters, Jeannene Wendt, Reed Watson, John Lancaster, Kari Elliott, Tildon Hebert, Alice Helms, Jean Ball, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: Connor, Caroline and baby M. (Saathoffs), Gabrielle T. (Tanner), Noah G. (Simon), 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), Kenneth H., 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)

## A Handful of Weeds

A young, poor girl was on her way to church on Christmas Eve. She had no money for a Christmas gift for the church; so on her way to mass, she stopped and picked a handful of “weeds” from the side of the dusty road. The girl brought the native Mexican “weeds” into the church and set them on the altar during the service. The “weeds” burst into brilliant, bright red color as they lay in the church.



Since then, poinsettias, which require short days to bloom, have been a traditional part of the people's holiday.

The legend above was derived centuries ago in Mexico and might explain why many people today still use the poinsettia to decorate their home during the Advent season.

We, at First Presbyterian Church, will fill our sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season because of their vibrant colors. The red symbolizes God's love for us and the green symbolizes everlasting life.

To help us bring these meanings to life in the church, you may purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, a special occasion or a relevant event. Simply complete the information below, and enclose \$15 for each poinsettia. Place your form and cash/check in the collection plate or return to the church office by December 11. Thank you.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number\_\_\_\_\_

Number of desired poinsettias\_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed\_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated to\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly)

## 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