

# First Presbyterian Church

November 30, 2025



8:30 Worship with Communion	Page 3
11:00 Worship Service	Page 6
Scripture Readings	Page 11
The Connection	Page 12
Calendar of Events	Page 16
Prayer List	Page 18
Poinsettia Order Form	Page 19

## 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***

*Carly Hart*

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

*Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
with thankful hearts for all our blessings.*

#### ***Last Week's Attendance, November 23***

*8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 15*

*11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 135*

*Online Worship Attendance - 25*

***Total Attendance – 175***

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Our souls magnify the Lord,  
And our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.  
**God has done great things. Holy is God's name!**  
**God's love is from generation to generation!**

\*Hymn #41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord!

2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!  
(Refrain)

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

The truth of Advent is this: God is coming to us! We are not alone.  
In Christ, we are accepted. In Christ, we are loved. In Christ, we are set  
free.

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

Isaiah 2:1-5; Matthew 24:36-44

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**"What to Expect When You're Expecting"**

*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 #1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.

2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

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

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

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Lighting of Advent Wreath Candles *David and Cheryl Nichols*

**Leader:** It's almost time. The baby will be here before we know it. Now is the time for us to prepare for his coming.

**People:** We light the candle of hope.

**Leader:** The prophet Isaiah says there is one coming who will be the fulfillment of all our hope. Authority will rest on his shoulders. The nations will beat swords into plowshares and people will know war no more.

**People:** O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:**  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

**Leader:** God of promise, come into our darkness.

**People:** And we will walk in the light of hope.

Call to Worship

Our souls magnify the Lord,  
And our spirits rejoice in God our Savior.  
**God has done great things. Holy is God's name!**  
**God's love is from generation to generation!**

\*Please stand if able.

\*Hymn #41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him,  
Born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ, the Lord!

2. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing!  
(Refrain)

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, there is so much going on right now. Between shopping lists and Christmas parties, we easily lose sight of the purpose of the season. Forgive us for obsessing over the little things while neglecting the important things.

We can check our lists twice and deck our halls with boughs of holly, but we too easily forget that your son came into a world that had no room for him.

Forgive us for getting caught up, carried away, and distracted by the trappings of this passing world. By your mercy and grace, help us to let go of our grudges, to give each other the benefit of the doubt, to live in hope, and to work to bring the best out in each other. Amen.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

The truth of Advent is this: God is coming to us! We are not alone.  
In Christ, we are accepted. In Christ, we are loved. In Christ, we are set free.

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

*An Advent Invitation*

*Williams/Nolan*

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn #13

Prepare the Way

1. Prepare the way, O Zion,  
Your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley  
A level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory,  
Foretold in sacred story.  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name.



2. Christ brings God's rule, O Zion;  
He comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom,  
And justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding,  
For grace and joy abounding.  
O blest is Christ that came  
In God's most holy name.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon

**“What to Expect When You’re Expecting”**

*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 #1

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.
2. Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Choral Response

Three Jazz Carols

Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

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**"An Advent Invitation"**

Words by J. Paul Williams (ASCAP)

Music by Douglas Nolan (BMI)

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**"Three Jazz Carols"**

Arranged by Donald Moore (ASCAP)

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CCL # 2714264

**"Prepare the Way, O Zion"**

by Frans Mikael Franzen, Augustus Nelson, and Charles Price.

Words © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, 380 S Main Pl, Carol Stream, IL 60188

CCL # 2714264

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

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### Isaiah 2:1-5

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the **Lord's house shall be established** as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it.

<sup>3</sup> **Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.**

<sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more.

<sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

### Matthew 24:36-44

<sup>36</sup> **"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.** <sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.



### *Christmas Gifting*

FPC-C is truly blessed to have a devoted and hard-working staff. In the past, we have given each of our staff a monetary Christmas gift to show our appreciation for their dedication. We would like to continue that tradition this year and, to that end, we would like to give everyone in our congregation an opportunity to participate. If you would like to donate to this very worthy effort, please be sure that you designate your donation for Staff Appreciation. Because we would like to distribute this gift to each staff member before Christmas, we are asking that you submit your donations to the church office on or before 12/14/2025. Thank you in advance for your support.

Administration Committee

### *Lunch and Learn with Haley Baughman Today*



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 for a luncheon, as we hear more about Haley's ministry and how you can support this worthy cause.

### ***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 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@fpcconroe.org](mailto:DSowden@fpcconroe.org).

## *Called Meeting of the Congregation December 7*

There is a Called Congregational Meeting on December 7, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of the 2025 Officer Nominating Committee presenting its slate of officers. We hope you will join us.

## *Stewardship Campaign Update*

The Stewardship Campaign for 2026 pledges is off to a good start. To date, we have received 57 pledges for approximately \$340,000. This puts us slightly over halfway towards our goal. There are still over 50 individuals who pledged in 2025 that have not, as yet, committed to pledging for 2026. If you have already pledged to give for the 2026 Budget, thank you for your very generous support. If you plan to pledge, but were unable to attend Dedication Sunday last week, or forgot to bring your card, or simply have not had time to fill it out yet, PLEASE do so in the near future. Either put your completed card in the collection plate this Sunday or drop it by the church office at your convenience. **If we are to balance the budget in 2026, we need everyone's commitment.**

Yours in Christ,

Administration Committee

## *Christmas Service Dates to Remember*

December 24: Please make note of a slight change in schedule for our Christmas Eve service. The worship service will begin at 6:00 p.m.

December 28: **We will have "Lessons and Carols"** at the 11:00 a.m. service. There will not be an 8:30 service that day.

## *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>.



YOUNG ADULT

# Christmas PARTY

DECEMBER

12

6:00-9:00

511 BLUE THREADFIN CT WILLIS 77318

BRING A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT AND YOUR  
FAVORITE APPETIZER OR DESSERT TO SHARE

LET'S CELEBRATE!



**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.**

*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 30</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>12:00 p.m. Lunch and Learn with Haley Baughman (Gym)</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>December 1</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> <i>December 2</i></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>December 3</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)</p> <p>4:00 p.m. Small Group Study (Rm. 206) <b>WILL NOT BE MEETING AGAIN UNTIL 1/07/26</b></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 December 7</i></p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary)  9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd  <b>(Rm. 105) Paul's uplifting letter to the church at Philippi.</b>  9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class <b>(Rm. 204) 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 (Contact Randy Blanton to join by Zoom).</b>  <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>4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study</b> (Rm. 105)  4:00-8:00 p.m. Parents Night Out (Gym)</p>
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## Save the Date

December 5	Life Line Screenings at FPC
December 7	Called Congregational Meeting / Seasonal Music Sunday / Parents Night Out
December 12	Young Adult (C.L.A.P. Group) Christmas Party
December 14	<b>Children's Pageant</b>
December 24	Christmas Eve Service at 6:00 p.m.
December 25	Christmas Day (Church office will be closed)
December 28	Lessons and Carols (11:00 worship service only; there will not be an 8:30 service)
January 1	<b>New Year's Day (Church office will be closed)</b>

## 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), 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