

# First Presbyterian Church

December 7, 2025



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Communion Sunday

## 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***

*Elizabeth Laletas*

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

*Today's flowers are given to the glory of God  
by the Corbit family, in memory of Nicole and Alex Corbit.*

#### ***Last Week's Attendance, November 30***

*8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 11*

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

*Online Worship Attendance - 31*

***Total Attendance – 177***

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Make straight his paths.  
Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

\*Hymn #48

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a flower bright,  
Amid the cold of winter  
When half-gone was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind:  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
She bore to men a Savior  
When half-gone was the night.

\*Please stand if able.

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

**God's justice flows like rain and his compassion stretches to the ends of the earth.**

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 11:1-10; Luke 3:1-16

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**"The Fruit of Repentance"**

*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 #37

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. Infant holy, Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging Angels singing,  
Noels ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
2. Flocks were sleeping; Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new.  
Saw the glory, Heard the story,  
Tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing Greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

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**"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

Music: Harmonization by A. E. Rusbridge (1917-1969).  
Used by permission of Rosalind Rusbridge.

**"Three Jazz Carols"**

Arranged by Donald Moore (ASCAP)  
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CCL # 2714264

**"Away in a Manger (A Medley of Traditional Carols)"**

Arr. by Mark Hayes. Copyright © MCMXCIX by Alfred Publishing Co., Inc.  
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**"Angels From the Realms of Glory (Come and Worship)"**

New Words and Music by Jared Haschek and Justin Michael  
Arr. by Gary Rhodes

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## **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      *Bonnie & Rigo Hernandez, Rosalin*

Leader: Prepare the way of the Lord! Make straight his paths. The Prince of Peace approaches.

People: We light the candle of peace.

Leader: A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse. He will wear righteousness and faithfulness. Wolf and lamb, leopard and goat, calf and lion will live together. And a little child will lead them.

Choir:              O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
                         and ransom captive Israel,  
                         that mourns in lonely exile here  
                         until the Son of God appear.  
                         Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
                         Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Leader: Watch and wait. The Savior of the world is coming.

People: And we will know the peace of Christ.

Call to Worship

A voice cries out in the wilderness:  
Prepare the way of the Lord!  
Make straight his paths.  
Let us walk in the light of the Lord!

\*Hymn #48

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
From tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
As men of old have sung.  
It came, a flower bright,  
Amid the cold of winter  
When half-gone was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
The Rose I have in mind:  
With Mary we behold it,  
The virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
She bore to men a Savior  
When half-gone was the night.

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know every time we have scoffed at the John the Baptists in our day, foolishly believing that we don't need forgiveness or help. You know every time we have written off your messengers because they said something we didn't like or didn't want to hear. You know how many times we have judged others based on outward appearances and first impressions while neglecting to judge our own hearts.

Help us to hear anew the cries of those leading us to Christ. Turn our ears from willful ignorance so that we may listen earnestly to the prophets and turn our hearts from cold cynicism so that we may partake in genuine repentance. Prepare us all for the coming of Christ so that we may accept him as Lord of all.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

God's justice flows like rain and his compassion stretches to the ends of the earth.

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

*Three Jazz Carols*

*Moore*

\*Doxology

\*Prayer of Dedication

\*Choral Response

\*Please stand if able.

## The Word

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 11:1-10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem     *Away in a Manger (A Medley of Traditional Carols)*     Hayes

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:1-16

Sermon

**"The Fruit of Repentance"**

*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 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

### \*Hymn #37

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. Infant holy, Infant lowly,  
For His bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, Little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swift are winging Angels singing,  
Noels ringing, Tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
2. Flocks were sleeping; Shepherds keeping  
Vigil till the morning new.  
Saw the glory, Heard the story,  
Tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow,  
Praises voicing Greet the morrow:  
Christ the babe was born for you.

Anthem *Angels from the Realms of Glory* *Haschek/Justin*

Called Congregational Meeting

### \*Charge and Benediction

\*Choral Response #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. (Refrain)
2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)
3. Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

\*Postlude

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

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### Isaiah 11:1-10

- <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
- He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,
- <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- <sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.
- <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
**and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.**
- <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.
- <sup>10</sup> On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

## Luke 3:1-16

<sup>3</sup> In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup> during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup> as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

**“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:**

**‘Prepare the way of the Lord;**

make his paths straight.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled,

and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight,

and the rough ways made smooth,

<sup>6</sup> **and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’ ”**

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup> Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, “What, then, should we do?” <sup>11</sup> In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none, and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup> He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.



### *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.

### *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

### ***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.

Our final practice will be held today 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).

## *Stewardship Campaign Update*

The Stewardship Campaign for 2026 pledges is off to a good start. To date, we have received 73 pledges for approximately \$478,400. This puts us almost 75% of the way towards our goal. There are still over 30 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.

### *Final Sunday for Poinsettia Purchases and Dedications*



As is our tradition, we will fill the Sanctuary with poinsettias for our Christmas worship services. Today is the final day that 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 at the Welcome Desk. You may place them in the offering basket today, or turn them in to the church office by December 11<sup>th</sup>.





**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)!





## 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)

## Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>December 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 <b>(Rm. 105) Paul's uplifting letter to the church at Philippi.</b></p> <p>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></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>4:00-8:00 p.m. Parents Night Out (Gym)</p> <p><b>4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study</b> (Rm. 105)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>December 8</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> <i>December 9</i></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (Parlor)</p> <p>5:15 p.m. Lydia Circle (Youth area)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>December 10</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Martha Circle (Parlor)</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 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) <b>Paul's uplifting letter to the church at Philippi.</b>  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>4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study</b> (Rm. 105)  5:00-9:00 p.m. Youth Progressive Dinner <b>NO SPARK TODAY</b></p>
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## Save the Date

December 12	Young Adult Christmas Party
December 14	<b>Children's Pageant / Youth Progressive Dinner</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</b> (Church office will be closed)

## 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