

First Presbyterian Church

December 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

Carly Hart

Today's Flowers

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

Last Week's Attendance, December 7

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 13

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 159

Online Worship Attendance - 53

Total Attendance – 225

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

We gather because we are waiting.

We are waiting for the coming of Christ.

With joyful anticipation we prepare for Christ's coming.

Our joy is in Christ the Lord.

*Hymn #36

In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

3. Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air;
But His mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the beloved
With a kiss.

*Please stand if able.

4. What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him:
Give my heart.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Christ comes to us, not to judge and condemn, but to forgive and save.

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 35:1-10; Luke 1:46-55

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Magnificat"

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 #38

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heaven's all gracious King":
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

4. For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever circling years
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
FPC Handbell Choir

Bryant

Lighting of Advent Wreath Candles

Liz & Roy Kessler

Leader: Rejoice! Be glad! Sing songs of highest joy! For the savior of the world comes.

People: We light the candle of joy.

Leader: Mary's heart was filled with joy. She could not contain her excitement. She sang a song of praise and her spirit rejoiced in God.

Choir: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (v. 1)

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: The trees will clap their hands, the dry lands gush with springs, the hills and mountains shall break forth in singing!

People: And we shall go out in joy.

Call to Worship

We gather because we are waiting.

We are waiting for the coming of Christ.

With joyful anticipation we prepare for Christ's coming.

Our joy is in Christ the Lord.

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, in this season of joy we confess how often we choose fear instead. You call us to rejoice, but we cling to worries that weigh us down. You invite us to prepare the way, but we allow our pride, our impatience, and our selfishness to get in the way of rejoicing.

Forgive us. Clear a path in our hearts so that Christ may enter in with joy that dispels all our fears. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

Christ comes to us, not to judge and condemn, but to forgive and save.

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 Christmas Pageant (hymns displayed on slides)

O Little Town of Bethlehem #44 (verse 1)

Away in a Manger # 25 (all 3 verses)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing #31 (verse 1)

We Three Kings #66 (verses 1, 2, 3, & 5)

Joy to the World! #40 (verses 1 & 4)

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 1:46-55

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Magnificat”

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

*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)

*Postlude

This Week's Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10

¹ The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

³ Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to **those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."**

⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; ⁶ then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp; the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸ A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; **the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.** ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Luke 1:46-55

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant. Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed, ⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name; ⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. ⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones and lifted up the lowly; ⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors, **to Abraham and to his descendants forever."**



Stock Donation to FPC

REMINDER! For those of you who are considering donating stock to the church, or making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to the church for the calendar year 2025, this memo is to remind you that the transaction must be completed by 12/31/2025 if you want the contribution to be a tax deduction for 2025. However, please try to complete transactions **before the last week in December to avoid a last minute “glitch” that may keep** you from being eligible for a 2025 tax deduction. Yvonne Rose has paperwork in the church office that facilitates the stock donation process, so please feel free to contact Yvonne if you wish to donate stock.

Also, for those who intend to pre-pay their pledge for 2026 in the calendar year 2025, please note that this should be completed before the last week in December as mentioned above.

Stewardship Campaign Update

The Stewardship Campaign for 2026 pledges is progressing well. To date, we have received 78 pledges for approximately \$550,780. This puts us almost 85% of the way towards our goal. There are still 26 individuals who pledged in 2025 that have not, as of 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 just haven’t gotten around to it 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 earliest convenience. If we **are to balance the budget in 2026, we need everyone’s financial support. Remember** that no pledge is too small. If we all pull together, we can achieve our goal.

Yours in Christ,

Administration Committee

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

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.

Coupons for Families of Servicemen

Many thanks to all who have collected coupons for the families of servicemen. They have been much appreciated. However, due to the fact that there are now so few printed coupons, it has been decided to discontinue this program. Again, thanks to all who participated.

Welcome

Welcome FPC

Conroe's newest members, the Howards. Craig and Marilu joined the church by reaffirmation on Sunday, December 7. They, along with their young son, Theo, recently moved to the Conroe area from north Texas. Both are employed in higher education administration.





2ND ANNUAL

Christmas Cookie Exchange

BRING SOME COOKIES & TAKE SOME COOKIES!



Tuesday | Dec 23, 2025 | 5:00-7:00



The Saathoff's | 511 Blue Threadfin
Ct. Willis 77318

Extra cookies will
be delivered to first
responders working
on Christmas

Prayer List

Members: The family of Jeanne Leverette, 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, 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 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)</p> <p>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>4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:00-9:00 p.m. Youth Progressive Dinner NO SPARK TODAY</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>December 15</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>December 17</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) WILL NOT BE MEETING AGAIN UNTIL 1/07/26</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 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 4:00 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

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|-------------|---|
| 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 | New Year's Day (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

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Mailing Address:

2257 N Loop 336 W
Suite 140, # 349, Conroe, TX 77304