

# First Presbyterian Church

December 21, 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](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***

*Karen Clark*

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

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

#### ***Last Week's Attendance, December 14***

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

*11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 169*

*Online Worship Attendance - 47*

***Total Attendance – 224***

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

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

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Come, let us prepare the way of the Lord.  
Love is drawing near, born into our waiting world.  
God is with us, even now.  
Let us worship the One who comes in love.

\*Hymn #12

People, Look East

1. People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east:  
Love the guest is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east:  
Love the rose is on the way.
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People look east:  
Love the bird is on the way.

\*Please stand if able.

4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east:  
Love the star is on the way.

\*Call to Confession

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Although sin drives us apart, in Jesus Christ, God is drawing near, touching us with his grace, forgiving us in his mercy.

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

Psalm 80:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

**"Live In the Dream"**

*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 #53

What Child Is This

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
(Refrain)

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
(Refrain)

\*Charge and Benediction

\*Postlude

*Copyright Information*

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**"People, Look East"**

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Music: Harmonization © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

**"Three Jazz Carols"**

Arranged by Donald Moore (ASCAP)

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CCL # 2714264

## 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 *Choir members*

Leader: The virgin is with child. The time for birth quickly approaches. The love of God is now revealed.

People: We light the candle of love.

Leader: Mary will give birth to a boy, and he shall be called Emmanuel, which means "God is with us."

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: In Jesus Christ, God is coming into the world.

**People: And we shall abide in Christ's love forever.**

Call to Worship

Come, let us prepare the way of the Lord.

Love is drawing near, born into our waiting world.

God is with us, even now.

Let us worship the One who comes in love.

\*Please stand if able.

## \*Hymn #12

## People, Look East

1. People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east:  
Love the guest is on the way.
2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east:  
Love the rose is on the way.
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People look east:  
Love the bird is on the way.
4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east:  
Love the star is on the way.

## \*Call to Confession

## \*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, you come to us in ways we do not expect.

Like Joseph, we confess that we are often afraid of what your call might cost us. We hesitate to trust, we resist disruption, and we try to protect ourselves rather than obey your word.

Forgive us for the times we turn away from your surprising grace. Give us hearts willing to listen, courage to follow, and faith to believe that you are truly with us, even when the path ahead is uncertain.

In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, we pray. Amen.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*Assurance of Pardon

Although sin drives us apart, in Jesus Christ, God is drawing near, touching us with his grace, forgiving us in his mercy.

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

*Three Jazz Carols*

*Moore*

Scripture Reading

Psalm 80:1-7

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn #28

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
Ox and ass before Him bow,  
And He is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!



2. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
And we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
With heart, and soul, and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain the everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

**“Live In the Dream”**

*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 #53

What Child Is This

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
the Babe, the Son of Mary!

2. Why lies He in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading.  
(Refrain)

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
Come, one and all, to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.  
(Refrain)

\*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***

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### Psalm 80:1-7

<sup>1</sup> Hear us, Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth <sup>2</sup> before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh. Awaken your might; come and save us.

<sup>3</sup> Restore us, O God; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

<sup>4</sup> How long, Lord God Almighty, will your anger smolder against the prayers of your people? <sup>5</sup> You have fed them with the bread of tears; you have made them drink tears by the bowlful. <sup>6</sup> You have made us an object of derision to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.

<sup>7</sup> Restore us, God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

### Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream **and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”**

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> **“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).**

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.



## *Poinsettia Dedications*

- ◆ The Saathoff family: In honor of our Presbyterian Church family.
- ◆ Karla & Jason Morton: Dedicated to Terri Crump, Tara Duncan, Genevieve Nixon Williams.
- ◆ **Leslie Graham: Dedicated to those who can't be with us this year.**
- ◆ Jackye Cannon: In memory of George Cannon; in memory of my parents, Buck & Alma Cummings.
- ◆ Gunillo Oh: Dedicated to Karin Larsson, Jenny Engstrom.
- ◆ Bob & Paula Shepherd: To the glory of God.
- ◆ Marty Taylor: In gratitude to God for sending us Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Greg Scott: In memory of Irma Scott and Amy Scott Ochoa.
- ◆ Patrick Hudson: Dedicated to my wife, Mary, and to the glory of God!
- ◆ Karen Clark: In loving memory of Joe; in memory of parents, Marvin & Verna VornKahl; in memory of dear neighbor, Pat Moorby.
- ◆ **Henry & Betty Blott: Dedicated to Carlene Morrison ( Henry's sister), and Mitch Blott (our son).**
- ◆ Jane Corbit: In memory of Charlie Corbit; in memory of Nicole and Alex Corbit.
- ◆ Sandy Davis: In memory of Bryan Davis.
- ◆ Judy Hughes: In memory of Ben Hughes.
- ◆ Ann Johnson: In memory of Ole Johnson; in honor of our children, Lyn & Steve Jenkins, and Burt Johnson.

- ◆ Thad & Lucinda Marshall: In honor of Richard & Sharon West and all FPC prayer-givers.
- ◆ Jenni & Tommy Taylor: Dedicated to Loretta Taylor.
- ◆ Steve & Connie Tibbetts: Dedicated to parents and grandparents.
- ◆ Voorhees / Curran families: A blessed and happy Christmas to all!
- ◆ Roy Penny: In memory of Nancy Penny
- ◆ Virginia Tamborello & Debra Slade-Redden: In memory of our parents, James & Gladys Slade.
- ◆ Sharen & Richard West: In memory of Effie Bradford and Jack West.
- ◆ Linda Terbl: Dedicated to my parents.
- ◆ Andrea Spengel: In memory of John Spengel, Kenneth & Linette Siever, Henry & Dorothy Spengel.
- ◆ Annetta & Soren Rose: In loving memory of parents, Marge & John Rowe; Pauline & Elwood Rose.
- ◆ Betty Hilton: Dedicated to my parents, Carl and Charlotte Hilton.
- ◆ Roy & Liz Kessler: To the glory of God.
- ◆ Don & Marilyn Stewart: To our parents.
- ◆ David & Vivian McDonald: In memory of our parents and family members no longer with us.
- ◆ Sally Short: In memory of my husband, Philip, and son, Stephen Short.
- ◆ Janet & Chuck Pohla: To all those who cannot be home for Christmas.
- ◆ Penny Bell: In memory of loved ones.
- ◆ **Anne Bush: In memory of Pat & Bob Hathaway, and God's grace.**
- ◆ David & Mary Carol Awalt





### *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 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.



## ***Children's Church Volunteers Needed***

We need Children's Church volunteers for January through May. Please use the Google docs link to find a Sunday that works for you. We would appreciate your help.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1xoFy67DqrB1Z58XiSOknjtlL41HEL-LZXYpA7iaqlUc/edit?usp=sharing>

## ***Young Adult Retreat at Mo Ranch***

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>.

## ***Spiritual Direction with Rev. Callie Candee***

Christians have sought out silent prayer retreats for centuries; driven by a hunger for closer communion with God, we choose times of silence, of meditation **of Scripture, to hear God more clearly and to follow Jesus' invitation to 'come away with me to a quiet place and rest.'** In our ever too busy world, such an **invitation is a blessing, as we enter stillness, reflection upon God's Word, and open ourselves to hearing more fully God's response to us.** Rev. Callie Candee is offering one-on-one Spiritual Direction sessions for our congregation. She can be reached at [CallieCandee@yahoo.com](mailto:CallieCandee@yahoo.com).



## Prayer List

Members: The family of John Wright, Steve and Connie Tibbetts, Nedra Murphy, Jean Heasley, Fred Kate, Sylvia Dopp, Gordon Juhl, Roy Kessler, 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), 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 21</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</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)            12:30 p.m. Session Meeting  <b>4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study</b> (Rm. 105)            5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>December 22</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Tuesday</i> <i>December 23</i></p>	<p>5:00-7:00 p.m. Christmas Cookie Exchange <b>(Saathoff's home)</b></p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>December 24</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)            4:00 p.m. Small Group Study (Rm. 206) <b>WILL NOT BE MEETING AGAIN UNTIL 1/07/26</b>            6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service (Sanctuary)</p>

<p><i>Sunday December 28</i></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 (Contact Randy Blanton to join by Zoom).</b></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>WILL NOT MEET TODAY</b></p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym) <b>WILL NOT MEET TODAY</b></p>
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## Save the Date

December 23	Cookie Exchange (5:00-7:00 p.m.)
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>
January 7	Wednesday Night Live Kickoff - Trivia Night

## 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