

First Presbyterian Church

February 22, 2026



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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, February 15

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 21

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 150

Online Worship Attendance - 19

Total Attendance – 190

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

After he was baptized by John, Jesus went by himself to the wilderness where he was tempted.

For forty days Jesus was tempted to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.

Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent, which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.

Let us worship God and walk the journey together, seeking the Spirit as our guide and companion along the way.

*Hymn #333

Seek Ye First

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

On this first Sunday of Lent, we remember how our Lord Jesus Christ was tempted in the wilderness, alone.

We, too, know the wilderness—of shame, sin, and doubt. Yet the good news is this: we are not alone. In Jesus Christ, God has gone before us, meeting us in our hunger, our weakness, and our wandering.

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 32; Matthew 4:1-11

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“The Devil Went Down to Jordan”

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 #476

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

1. O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.

4. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Copyright Information

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"Seek Ye First" by Karen Lafferty

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Music: Copyright © 1947 Mercury Music Corporation. Used by permission.
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"Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining"

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Music: Copyright © 1942, renewal 1970 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
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"He Never Failed Me Yet" by Robert Ray

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"This Little Light of Mine"

Arr. by Neil A. Johnson © 1979 Jenson Publications, Inc.
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11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining*

Call to Worship

After he was baptized by John, Jesus went by himself to the wilderness where he was tempted.

For forty days Jesus was tempted to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.

Today, we begin to journey with Jesus through the season of Lent, which brings us to face some of our own weaknesses and temptations.

Let us worship God and walk the journey together, seeking the Spirit as our guide and companion along the way.

*Hymn #333

Seek Ye First

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!
2. Ask and it shall be given unto you.
Seek and ye shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!

*Call to Confession

*Please stand if able.

*Prayer of Confession

Here we are in Lent, Lord. Ready to finally straighten out our lives, ready to eat better, lower our blood pressure, cut no one off in traffic, not utter any expletives, be better people. But you know us better than we know ourselves; and you know how helpless we are to fix ourselves.

Keep us from making Lent all about us. Help us to see that in Christ you have already entered this wilderness and experienced our **hunger**. **Don't let us turn Lent into a spiritual accomplishment we try to** achieve on our own. Instead, help us to look for your presence in this world in people we often do not see and in places we would rather not go. May this holy time be a period of self-forgetfulness, a sacred time to care for others, and a way of life that will lead us well beyond these forty days. This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

On this first Sunday of Lent, we remember how our Lord Jesus Christ was tempted in the wilderness, alone.

We, too, know the wilderness—of shame, sin, and doubt. Yet the good news is this: we are not alone. In Jesus Christ, God has gone before us, meeting us in our hunger, our weakness, and our wandering.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

Because of Christ's great love for us, we are forgiven!

*Gloria Patri

Minute for Mission

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

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

*Choral Response

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem *He Never Failed Me Yet* Ray

Scripture Reading Psalm 32

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #83 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High

1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
How passing thought and fantasy,
That God, the Son of God, should take
Our mortal form for mortals' sake.

4. For us He rose from death again;
For us He went on high to reign;
For us He sent the Spirit here
To guide, to strengthen and to cheer.

5. All glory to our Lord and God
For love so deep, so high, so broad;
The Trinity whom we adore
Forever and forevermore.
O Master, let me walk with Thee.

Scripture Readings Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon **“The Devil Went Down to Jordan”**
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 #476

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

1. O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.
4. Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
It streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
And sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
ev'ry day, ev'ry day, ev'ry day, ev'ry day,
I'm gonna let my little light shine.

*Postlude

This Week's Scripture Readings

Psalm 32

¹ Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ² Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit.

³ When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ⁴ For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer.

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."** **And you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

⁶ Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found; surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them. ⁷ You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. ⁹ Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. ¹⁰ Many are the woes of the wicked, but the **Lord's unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts** in him.

¹¹ Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ The tempter **came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."**

⁴ Jesus answered, **"It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"**

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶ **"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:**

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

⁷ Jesus answered him, **"It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"**

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ **"All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."**

¹⁰ Jesus said to him, **"Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"**

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Notes



Photos of Veterans

The Worship Committee is requesting photos of your loved ones who have served in the armed services and have passed. Please send your photos to Randy Blanton at randyjblanton@yahoo.com in jpeg format, and include the name, branch of service, rank, and years of service. Please send the photos and requested information to Randy no later than Thursday, May 7. We plan to stream the photos of the men and women who have served and passed on Sunday, May 24, 2026.



Looking Ahead: Youth Auction and Mystery Dinner

Mark your calendars! The Annual Youth Auction & Mystery Dinner has moved to AUGUST for planning and practical purposes. The exact date is TBD, but we'll announce it when we have a firm date set. Stay tuned for more information.

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/1xoFy67DqrB1Z58XiSOknjttL41HEL-LZXYpA7iaqUc/edit?usp=sharing>

*Registration for the Fifteenth Annual Sew-a-thon
Through February 22nd*

Registration ends today for the 15th Annual Sew-a-thon, which will be held on February 28th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in the Family Life Center. Stop by the registration table, located in the Narthex, and sign up to participate. At this all day event, **participants will make children's quilts for Bags of Love and Project Linus.** The quilts, along with age/gender appropriate books, games, toys, and toiletry items, go in the Bags of Love which are given to children in Montgomery County who are removed **from their homes by Children's Protective Services.** The quilts donated to Project Linus, Montgomery County Chapter, are **given to children hospitalized in local hospitals.** **If you don't sew,** there are other ways you can participate, such as ironing and tying quilts. If you are unavailable on the 28th, you can still help by contributing some of the items that go in the Bags of Love. You will find a list of needed items below. You may also make a monetary contribution to the project by writing a check to FPC, with a notation Bags of Love. Items (new or gently used) are also needed for the Silent Auction. Proceeds from the Silent Auction fund the work of the Mission Sewing Group. If you have questions or want more information, call Liz Kessler (713) 818-1006 or Linda Harshbarger (281) 610-6162.

Items Needed for the Bags of Love

Stuffed animals	Coloring books	Crayons
Books – all ages	Toddler toys	Baby rattles
Boy toys – all ages	Baby teething rings	Baby 3-in-1
Kids toothbrush	Kids toothpaste	Notebooks
Calculators	Kids 3-in-1 (body wash, shampoo, conditioner)	

*Items should be small enough to fit in Bags of Love

Quilt Raffle

The Mission Sewing Group will be holding a Quilt Raffle in conjunction with the upcoming Sew-a-Thon.

Tickets will be for sale at the Sew-a-Thon Registration Table, in the Narthex, before and after the 11:00 Service for the next four Sundays, and during the Sew-a-Thon on February 28. Tickets are \$ 5.00 donation for one ticket and \$20.00 donation for 5 tickets. The drawing will be at 2:00 p.m. on February 28.

The winner of the 2026 Quilt Raffle will choose either one quilt on display or one quilt from our "stash." Winner's choice!
Proceeds will go to the FPC Forever Fund.

Looking for Mo Men!



Interested in a weekend filled with food, fun and fellowship - in the beautiful Texas Hill Country? The annual Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch takes place Friday, May 1, through Sunday, May 3. It is a chance to experience incredible sermons, engaging workshops on a variety of "manly" topics (learn how to cook a brisket or how to play pickleball), as well as various Bible-

oriented classes), and enjoy the gorgeous scenery from throughout the facility. You can even test your bravery on the famous Mo-Ranch slide into the refreshing Guadalupe River. Last year, four men from our church "tested" the waters; this year, we're looking for more! We'll leave from the church on Friday morning and return by mid-afternoon on Sunday.

For more information, contact Steve Scheffler (scscheffler@sbcglobal.net or 281.851.1690). We will partner with The Woodlands Community Presbyterian Church to reserve our spots by early March, so give it some thought and save the date! You can also visit <https://www.moranch.org/attend-a-conference/adult-conferences/mens-conference-2/> for more details.



Crocheting Stuffed Animals

Interested in learning how to crochet, or do you love to crochet and want to gather with friends to help create stuffed animals that will be donated to help various children's organizations? If so, Kaleigh will have a kickoff class on Sunday, February 22, at 12:30 p.m. in Room 105. She will also have a crochet room during the Sew-A-Thon. If you are interested in participating, contact Kaleigh Riggs-Harpur or Dena Sowden for details.



Youth Mission Trip 2026

ALASKA MISSION TRIP



A wild and rugged frontier land, Alaska encompasses some of the most diverse geographical features in America. Alaskans are often very independent, isolated people which can make ministry challenging, but also very rewarding.

Travel with us throughout the Matanuska Valley, and the Kenai Peninsula to provide local churches and ministries with the Gospel of Christ in a friendly, yet initially, dark place. (Alaska is dark 24 hours a day in the winter, so many have candles lit in the evenings.)

On your mission trip, you'll be an encouragement to those you partner alongside, while building meaningful relationships and experiencing the unmatched beauty of Alaska.

WHY ALASKA?

- MOST UNCHURCHED STATE IN THE US
- POVERTY, ALCOHOLISM, ABUSE, AND HOMELESSNESS AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE NATION
- LOCAL PASTORS WANT THE HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF OUTREACH ORIENTED TEAMS
- INVEST IN AWESOME KIDS IN NEED OF CHRISTIAN ROLE MODELS
- EXPERIENCE THE RUGGED BEAUTY OF THE LAST FRONTIER: GLACIER-FED LAKES, LUSH FORESTS, AND SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS TEEMING WITH WILDLIFE

DATES **PRICE**

Prayer List

Members: Marty Craig and family, James Dopp, Marilyn Kasmiersky and family, Ron Bailey, Marcia Park and family, 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), 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. & 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>February 22</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 "The Promise of Heaven" STUDY guide (not the book), by Dr. David Jeremiah, 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) 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>10:35 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>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>February 23</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>February 25</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)</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>Saturday</i> <i>February 28</i></p>	<p>9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Annual Sew-a-Thon</p>

<p><i>Sunday March 1</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 "The Promise of Heaven" STUDY guide (not the book), by Dr. David Jeremiah, 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) 10:35 a.m. Praise band (Sanctuary) 11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary and Facebook Live www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe) 4:00 p.m. "A Year Through the Bible" Study (Rm. 105) 5:00-7:00 p.m. Youth Outing</p>
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Save the Date

- February 28 15th Annual Sew-a-Thon
- March 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- March 9-13 PDS Spring Break
- March 15 Annual Meeting of the Congregation
- March 29 Palm Sunday
- April 2 Maundy Thursday
- April 5 Easter Sunday

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

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