

First Presbyterian Church

July 19, 2026



11:00 Worship Service

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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

Mark Sowden

Today's Flowers

*Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Judy Weinburger,
in memory of Gary on his birthday.*

Last Week's Attendance, July 12

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 138

Online Worship Attendance - 22

Total Attendance – 160

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *We Gather Together*

Call to Worship

Come, for the God who created us is the God who hears us.
We come to worship the God who listens to the cries of his people.
When we seek our own way, God does not turn away from us.
When we wander, God remains faithful and calls us back.
God knows our hearts, our fears, and our desires.
God meets us with patience, wisdom, and grace.
Let us worship the Lord who responds with love and mercy.
Let us praise the God who is always at work among us.

*Hymn

Jesus at the Center

Jesus at the center of it all.
Jesus at the center of it all.
From beginning to the end
It will always be, it's always been You, Jesus, Jesus.

And nothing else matters;
Nothing in this world will do.
Jesus, You're the center.
Ev'rything revolves around You, Jesus, You.

Jesus, be the center of my life.
Jesus, be the center of my life.
From beginning to the end
It will always be, it's always been You, Jesus, Jesus.

*Please stand if able.

From my heart to the heavens,
Jesus, be the center.
It's all about You. Yes, it's all about You.

Jesus be the center of Your church.
Jesus be the center of Your church.
And ev'ry knee will bow,
And ev'ry tongue shall confess You, Jesus.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we confess that we often want you to give us what we desire rather than shape us into the people you call us to be. Like your people long ago, we look for earthly solutions to our deepest fears and place our trust in things that cannot save us.

Forgive us when we seek control instead of faith, when we demand our own way instead of listening for your voice, and when we forget that your wisdom is greater than our understanding.

Teach us to trust your presence even when your answers are not what we expect. Form our hearts to desire what is good, holy, and faithful. Remind us that you hear us, you love us, and you are always at work among your people.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

God does not abandon his people when they turn away. The God who listens to our prayers is also the God who extends mercy and restores us by his grace.

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

You Say

Scripture Reading

James 4:1-10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #551

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1. Come, ye thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home:
All is safely gathered in,
Ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
For our wants to be supplied:
Come to God's own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home.

3. For the Lord our God shall come,
And shall take the harvest home;
From each field shall in that day
All offenses purge away;
Give the angels charge at last
In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store
In God's garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come
To Thy final harvest home;
Gather Thou Thy people in,
Free from sorrow, free from sin;
There forever purified,
In Thy presence to abide:
Come, with all Thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest home.

Scripture Reading

I Samuel 8:4-20

Sermon

“God Responds”

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

Heart of Worship

Verse 1:

When the music fades all is stripped away
And I simply come longing just to bring
something that's of worth
that will bless Your heart

Pre-Chorus:

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself is not what You have required
You search much deeper within Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

Chorus:

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You all about You Jesus
I'm sorry Lord for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You
all about You Jesus

Verse 2:

King of endless worth no one could express
How much You deserve
Though I'm weak and poor all I have is Yours
Ev'ry single breath (Pre-Chorus)

(Chorus x2)

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Lord, Make Us More Holy

Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Lord, make us more holy,
Until we meet again.
Holy, holy, holy,
Until we meet again.

Lord, make us more faithful,
Lord, make us more faithful,
Lord, make us more faithful,
Until we meet again.
Faithful, faithful, faithful,
Until we meet again.

*Postlude

This Week's Scripture Readings

James 4:1-10

¹ What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? ² You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight. You do not have because you do not ask God. ³ When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁴ You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world means enmity against God? Therefore, anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you think Scripture says without reason that he jealously longs for the spirit he has caused to dwell in us? ⁶ But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says:

"God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble."

⁷ Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

I Samuel 8:4-20

⁴ So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵ They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

⁶ But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. ⁷ And the Lord told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. ⁸ As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. ⁹ Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will claim as his rights."

¹⁰ Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will claim as his rights: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. ¹² Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. ¹⁵ He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. ¹⁶ Your male and female servants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. ¹⁷ He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. ¹⁸ When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the Lord will not answer you in that day."

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. ²⁰ Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles."

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"Jesus at the Center"

Adam Ranney | Israel Houghton | Micah Massey

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"You Say"

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Heart of Worship

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Presbyterian Pilgrimage

Do you want to deepen your connection to the rich heritage of the Presbyterian faith? Next summer, you'll have the opportunity to journey to Scotland, the birthplace of Presbyterianism.

Join us for an information session on Sunday, July 26, at 12:30 p.m., in the Family Life Center. A light lunch will be provided.



“Through the Bible in One Year” by Alan Stringfellow

The series of “Through the Bible in One Year” will begin again on Sunday, August 30th, at 4:00 p.m. Classes will last one hour. The series will be led by Frank Denton, using a workbook by Alan Stringfellow (provided at no charge to participants). This very well received program was just completed by about 25 participants this past June. Several have indicated they intend to repeat the program. You are encouraged to visit with someone who has completed the program for their recommendation. As in the past, this program is open to the public as well as church members, or those from other denominations who might want to attend, so feel free to invite a friend.

This series will demonstrate how each book of the Bible is connected and relates to the other, in both the New as well as Old Testament. The unfolding drama of the coming of the Messiah, which comes together as a finely woven piece of cloth. Open to all ages, whether a Bible student or just getting started, all are welcome. No cost, no tests!

Please put your name on the sign-up sheet located in the church office so that enough workbooks can be ordered. We look forward to seeing you and beginning this exciting journey.

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.

Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i> July 19	9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) The most successful Old Testament prophet, Haggai. 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (Rm. 204) Studying "1 & 2 Peter", by Max Lucado, 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 OFF FOR THE SUMMER. (Children can check in at nursery for Sunday School hour) 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)
<i>Monday</i> July 20	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor) NOT MEETING AGAIN UNTIL AUGUST 3
<i>Wednesday</i> July 22	9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105) 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)



<i>Sunday</i> <i>July 26</i>	9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) The most successful Old Testament prophet, Haggai. 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class (Rm. 204) Studying “1 & 2 Peter”, by Max Lucado, 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 OFF FOR THE SUMMER. (Children can check in at nursery for Sunday School hour) 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) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)
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Save the Date

July 25	Active Shooter Defense training
July 26	Scotland Pilgrimage information session
August 9	Youth Auction
August 24	PDS first day of school
August 30	“Through the Bible in a Year” begins



Prayer List

Members: Tildon Hebert, John Lancaster, Soren Rose, Betty Blott and family, Josh and Kayleigh Riggs-Harpur, Marty Taylor, Susan Juhl, Cindy and Ron Massey, John Gutekunst, James Dopp, Ron Bailey, Marcia Park and family, Steve and Connie Tibbetts, Jean Heasley, Fred Kate, Sylvia Dopp, Roy Kessler, Jeannene Wendt, Reed Watson, Kari Elliott, Alice Helms, Jean Ball, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: Debbie R. (Rose), Mike S. (Haines), Luke W. (Murphy), Melissa and Mark M. (Miller), Connor, Caroline and baby M. (Saathoffs), Gabrielle T. (Tanner), Noah G. (Simon), David W. (Hart), 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), Danielle S. & kids, Stephanie R. & kids (Riggs-Harpur), Blade B., Judy N. (Dukes), 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)

Ministry Leaders

Administration	Cheryl Nichols (2027, Chair) Matthew Laletas (2028)
Building & Grounds	Bill Harshbarger (2026, Chair)
Care-Prayer	Randy Blanton (2026, Chair)
Discipleship	Elizabeth Laletas (2028, Chair) Sabrina Sowden (2027) Sean Morton (2027, Youth elder) Savannah Hector (2028, Youth elder)
Fellowship	Debbie Morse (2027, Chair)
Membership	David Nichols (2027, Chair)
Missions	Debra Slade-Redden (2028, Chair)
PDS	Pat Hudson (2027, Chair)
Worship	Mike Wisda (2026, Chair) Cynda Hector (2028)
Trustees	David Nichols (2026) Fred Kate (2027) Anne Spinks (2028)

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