

First Presbyterian Church

August 23, 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

Elizabeth Laletas

Today's Flowers

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

Last Week's Attendance, August 16

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 148

Online Worship Attendance - 31

Total Attendance – 179

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Sing a New Song to the Lord*

Call to Worship

Once we were estranged from God and each other.

But in Christ, we have been brought near.

Christ has broken down the walls that divide us.

Christ has made us one and given us peace.

Come, let us worship the God who unites what has been divided.

We worship the God who makes us one in Christ.

*Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing Thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of thy redeeming love!
2. Here I raise my Ebenezer;
hither by Thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by Thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger,
interposed His precious blood.

*Please stand if able.

3. O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
let that goodness, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart, O take and seal it,
seal it for Thy courts above.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, you have called us to be one, yet we so often allow differences to divide us. We build walls where you have built bridges, hold onto grievances rather than offering forgiveness, and look for reasons to separate rather than opportunities to draw near.

Forgive us for the ways we have contributed to division. Tear down the walls we have built between one another, soften our hearts toward, and teach us to see one another as members of the body of Christ.

Make us one in Christ, that our lives may bear witness to the peace and reconciliation you have given us. Amen.

***Silent Prayer of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Christ has destroyed the barrier that separates us from God. Christ is our peace. In him, we have reconciliation with God and each other.

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

God Is My Rock

Pote

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 2:11-22

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Hymn #101**

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1. When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.
3. See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?
4. Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a present far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Scripture Readings

II Samuel 5:1-10

Sermon

"God Unites"

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.

Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elder

Constitutional Questions

Prayer of Ordination

Declaration of Installation

***Hymn**

Onward, Christian Soldiers

1. Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.
Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;
forward into battle see His banners go!

Refrain:

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,
with the cross of Jesus going on before.

3. Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane,
but the church of Jesus constant will remain.
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail;
we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.
(Refrain)
4. Onward then, ye people, join our happy throng,
blend with ours your voices in the triumph song.
Glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King,
this through countless ages with the angels sing.
(Refrain)

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response**

I Will Praise You

I will praise You, O Lord, with all my heart,
I will tell of all of Your wonders.
I will be glad and rejoice in You,
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High, Most High.

***Postlude**

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"God Is My Rock"
by Allen Pote
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This Week's Scripture Readings

Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called “uncircumcised” by those who call themselves “the circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands)—¹² remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

II Samuel 5:1-10

¹ All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. ² In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’”

³ When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel.

⁴ David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. ⁵ In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

⁶ The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, “You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off.” They thought, “David cannot get in here.” ⁷ Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion—which is the City of David.

⁸ On that day David had said, “Anyone who conquers the Jebusites will have to use the water shaft to reach those ‘lame and blind’ who are David’s enemies.” That is why they say, “The ‘blind and lame’ will not enter the palace.”

⁹ David then took up residence in the fortress and called it the City of David. He built up the area around it, from the terraces inward. ¹⁰ And he became more and more powerful, because the Lord God Almighty was with him.

Notes



Lunch Delivery to Salvation Army

Do you have time for a worthy mission service project? We need someone to prepare and deliver 60 sack lunches to the Salvation Army on the third Monday of every month. This could be an individual or a group project. For more information, please contact Debra Slade-Redden at (936) 520-8929.

Change of Venue for CLAP Gathering August 28

CLAP young adult group will meet **at the church on August 28, from 6-9:00 p.m.**, for a game night and potluck. Child care will still 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.

***Children's Church and Sunday School
Volunteers Needed***

Seeking volunteers for Children's Church and Children's Sunday School, which will be starting September 13. Please contact Dena to volunteer (DSowden@fpccconroe.org).

Upcoming Scotland Pilgrimage



JOIN US FOR A

SCOTLAND

Pilgrimage

— JUNE 9-18 2027 —

 **\$6498***
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS BY
OCTOBER 15 AND JANUARY 15

 FOR MORE INFORMATION,
EMAIL SETH SAATHOFF
ssaathoff@fpccconroe.org

Prayer List

Members: Paula Shepherd, Nedra Murphy, Virginia Tamborello, Tildon Hebert, John Lancaster, Josh and Kayleigh Riggs-Harpur, John Gutekunst, Ron Bailey, Marcia Park and family, Steve and Connie Tibbetts, Jean Heasley, Fred Kate, 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., Trey H., 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

<i>Sunday</i> <i>August 23</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 “Living Life Backward” by David Gibson, a study of Ecclesiastes, 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) 12:30 p.m. Session Meeting 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)
<i>Monday</i> <i>August 24</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>August 26</i>	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)

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Save the Date

August 30	“Through the Bible in a Year” begins
September 7	Labor Day (PDS and Church offices closed)
September 13	Resume 2-service schedule / Rally Sunday
September 18	Lifeline Screening at FPC
September 30	WNL Kickoff

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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