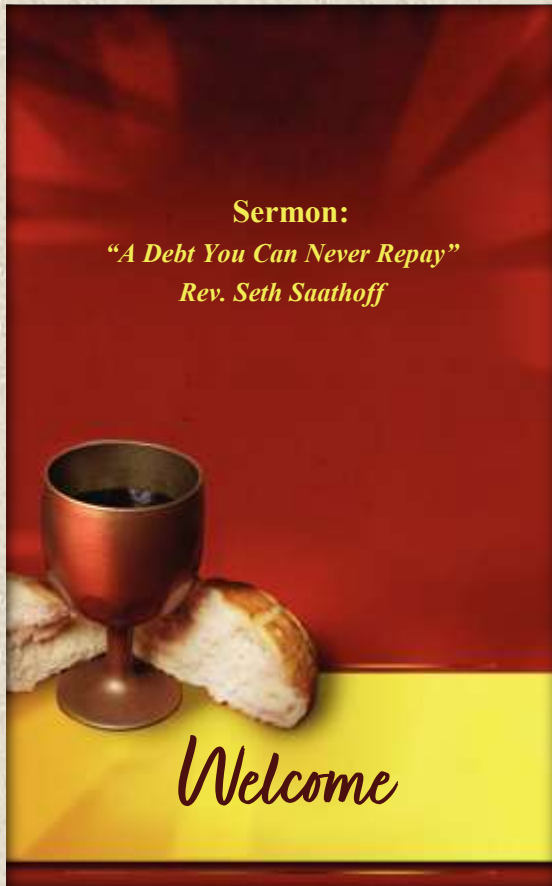


First Presbyterian Church

September 6, 2026



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Communion Sunday

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

Randy Blanton

Today's Flowers

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

Last Week's Attendance, August 30

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 128

Online Worship Attendance - 26

Total Attendance – 154

11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

I Just Came to Praise the Lord

Romero

Call to Worship

O God, your ways are righteous.

Blessed is the one who walks in the ways of the Lord.

Teach us your decrees that we may live in the light of your Word.

Your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.

Bless us with understanding.

That your Word would transform our minds.

And bless us with faith.

That we may rejoice in your love forever!

*Hymn

Draw Me Close

Draw me close to you.

Never let me go.

I lay it all down again

to hear You say that I'm Your friend.

You are my desire.

No one else will do,

'cause nothing else could take Your place

To feel the warmth of Your embrace.

Help me find the way.

Bring me back to You.

You're all I want.

You're all I've ever needed.

You're all I want.

Help me know You are near.

*Please stand if able.

Draw me close to you.
Never let me go.
I lay it all down again
to hear You say that I'm Your friend.
You are my desire.
No one else will do,
'cause nothing else could take Your place
To feel the warmth of Your embrace.
Help me find the way.
Bring me back to You.

You're all I want.
You're all I've ever needed.
You're all I want.
Help me know You are near.

You're all I want.
You're all I've ever needed.
You're all I want.
Help me know You are near.
Help me know You are here.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

God, we long to follow you and to walk in the ways you have shown us. We long to know your commandments and to practice them whole-heartedly.

But we confess that we are easily distracted, lured away by our own interests and desires, and enticed by the temptations of the world around us.

Forgive us. Forgive us for our wandering eyes and hearts. Forgive us for our thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors that lead us astray.

Turn our eyes away from the things that distract us from your way. Grant within us a desire to know you better and follow you more closely.

Give us a hunger for your Word and your ways, that you may sustain us in the ways of life.

In Christ's name we pray... Amen.

***Silent Prayer of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Our God is gracious and merciful; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

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 *Well Done, My Faithful Servant*

Choplin

***Doxology**

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Choral Response**

The Word

Scripture Reading

Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"A Debt You Can Never Repay"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

Responding to God's Word

Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Communion Anthem *For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

Julia Aldrich, violinist and Rolethial McKelvey, pianist

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #482**

Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty

1. Praise ye the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!
All ye who hear, Now to His temple draw near;
Join me in glad adoration!
2. Praise ye the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under His wings, yea, so gently sustaineth!
Hast thou not seen How thy desires e'er have been
Granted in what He ordaineth?
3. Praise ye the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!
All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!
Let the amen Sound from His people again;
Gladly for aye we adore Him.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Choral Response**

Awesome God

Our God is an awesome God;
He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, pow'r, and love.
Our God is an awesome God!

Our God is an awesome God;
He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, pow'r, and love.
Our God is an awesome God!

Our God is an awesome God;
He reigns from heaven above
with wisdom, pow'r, and love.
Our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God!
Our God is an awesome God!

***Postlude**

This Week's Scripture Readings

Psalm 119:33-40

³³ Teach me, Lord, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end. ³⁴ Give me understanding, so that I may keep your law and obey it with all my heart. ³⁵ Direct me in the path of your commands, for there I find delight. ³⁶ Turn my heart toward your statutes and not toward selfish gain. ³⁷ Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word. ³⁸ Fulfill your promise to your servant, so that you may be feared. ³⁹ Take away the disgrace I dread, for your laws are good. ⁴⁰ How I long for your precepts! In your righteousness preserve my life.

Romans 13:8-10

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet," and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Notes

Copyright Information

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"Draw Me Close to You"

by Kelly Carpenter

CCLI Song # 1459484

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"I Just Came to Praise the Lord"

by Wayne Romero

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803 18th Ave., So., Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

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"Well Done, My Faithful Servant"

by Pepper Choplin

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Happy 25th Anniversary, First Presbyterian Church!

Twenty-five years ago, we opened our doors here and began a new chapter in our congregation's journey. For a quarter of a century, these walls have been filled with prayers, joyful celebrations, meaningful friendships, and God's faithful presence. We are grateful for everyone who has been part of our church family through the years and look forward with hope to all God has in store for the future.

School Safety Protocol

Due to safety protocols that are in place at PDS, only school employees and parents with students should use the FLC school entrance Monday through Thursday during school hours. All church members and visitors should come to the church side and sign in at church office. Please be sure to wear your name badge so that PDS Staff knows you're supposed to be in the building. Thank you for your cooperation.

Dear FPC/PDS Family & Staff,

As part of our ongoing commitment to safety and security, we have recently installed a new door access system at our facility. Please be aware that this system includes audio and video recording capabilities at entry doors. The recordings are intended to enhance building security, support access monitoring, and help ensure the safety of everyone on campus. We wanted to make sure all staff and visitors are aware that audio and video recordings may occur at building entry points.

The card readers no longer work, so if you need to enter the building outside of normal operational hours, please contact Dena Sowden.

If you have any questions regarding the new system, please feel free to contact the office. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

REMINDER FOR SEPTEMBER 13

Next Sunday we will return to our 2-service format.

8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

We will also have **Rally Day next Sunday**, along with a potluck.

Please use the following link to sign up:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1onzR-BvlxylsPweAlvQ2fdDvH-EvPsu1wKlqDJBgedk/edit?usp=drivesdk>

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.

Science & God Study Group: Hosted by Matthew Laletas

Introduction:

For our upcoming season of Wednesday Night Live, we are excited to introduce a new group study entitled "Science and God." This group is designed for anyone curious about how our understanding of the natural world intersects with our Christian faith.

For some, the most profound moments happen when Biblical truth and scientific discovery meet. We believe that God created this marvelous universe, gifting us the intelligence to unravel its mysteries layer by layer as we grow in knowledge and spirit.

What we will explore:

- Scripture: Deep dives into Genesis, Job, and Psalms.
- Literature: Insights from *The Case for a Creator* by Lee Strobel.
- Current Events: Modern scientific articles and emerging theories.

Questions:

If you have questions or are interested in joining us, please reach out to Matthew Laletas (302)-593-6877, or contact Dena Sowden for more information. We look forward to exploring the wonders of creation with you!

Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i> <i>September 6</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) 4:00-5:00 p.m. Through the Bible in a Year Study (Rm. 105) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)
<i>Monday</i> <i>September 7</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor) NOT MEETING TODAY
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>September 9</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)

<i>Sunday September 13</i>	8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary) 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 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) 4:00-5:00 p.m. Through the Bible in a Year Study (Rm. 105) 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)
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Save the Date

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
October 10-31	Pumpkin Patch
October 12	PDS Closed for school holiday
October 24	Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

Prayer List

Members: Paula Shepherd, Nedra Murphy, Virginia Tamborello, Tildon Hebert, John Lancaster, John Gutekunst, Ron Bailey, Marcia Park and family, Steve and Connie Tibbetts, Jean Heasley, Fred Kate, 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), 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), Blade B., Judy N. (Dukes), Michael R. (Dwyer), Tom J. & family, Bill M. (Browder), Tony N. (Spinks), 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)

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	Marilu Howard (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

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Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842
Website: www.fpcConroe.org

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