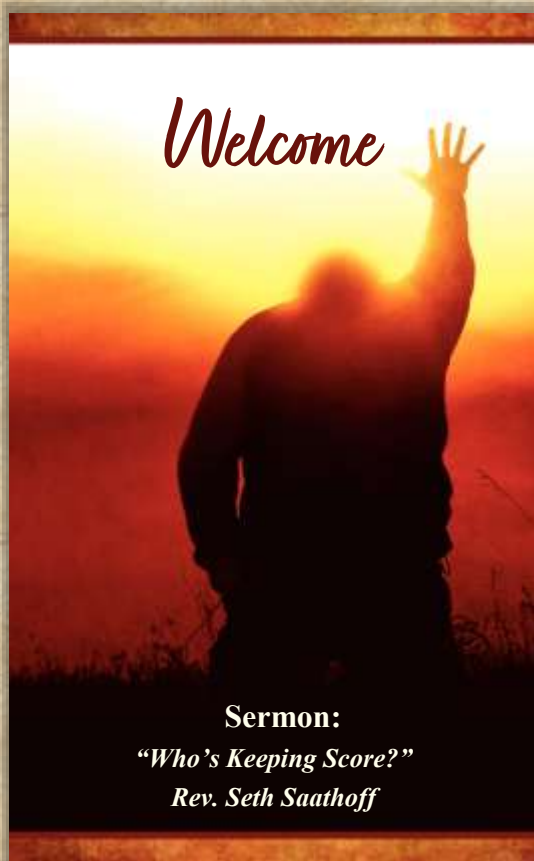


First Presbyterian Church

September 13, 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

Cynda Hector

Today's Flowers

*Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by David & Vivian Macdonald,
in memory of our parents, grandparents, and other family members
no longer with us.*

Last Week's Attendance, September 6

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 128

Online Worship Attendance - 36

Total Attendance – 164

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord, all the earth—everyone and everywhere!

We will praise God's holy name!

Praise the Lord, all the earth—everyone and everywhere!

Let all who dwell on earth sing to God's holy name!

Praise the Lord, all the earth—everyone, everywhere!

With heart, soul, mind, and voice, we will praise the Lord!

***Hymn #478**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;
To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.
2. Praise Him for His grace and favor
To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever,
Slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glorious in His faithfulness.
3. Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

*Please stand if able.

***Call to Confession**

***Silent Prayer of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; the new life is here!

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

***Gloria Patri**

The Word

Scripture Reading

Genesis 50:15-21; Matthew 18:21-35

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Who's Keeping Score?"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

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 #298**

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.
2. For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Postlude**

Copyright Information

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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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"Come, Lord, and Be with Us"

Arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

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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

Praise the Lord, all the earth—everyone and everywhere!

We will praise God's holy name!

Praise the Lord, all the earth—everyone and everywhere!

Let all who dwell on earth sing to God's holy name!

Praise the Lord, all the earth—everyone, everywhere!

With heart, soul, mind, and voice, we will praise the Lord!

*Hymn #478

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

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To His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
Evermore His praises sing:
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To His people in distress;
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3. Fatherlike He tends and spares us;
Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us,
Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Widely yet His mercy flows.

*Please stand if able.

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, you call us to a life of forgiveness, but too often we pretend we do not understand. It is easier to hold a grudge and harden our hearts than to let go of the pain. We get hurt and we hurt others; the cycle goes on and on and none of us are any closer to healing.

Lord, we pray that your grace overrides the times when we are not gracious. Grant your mercy for the days when we could have been merciful and chose otherwise. Remind us that when it comes to love there is no need for stinginess. O God, create in us clean and contrite hearts that we might truly understand what it means to forgive and be forgiven. Amen.

***Silent Prayer of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ. And Christ lived for us, Christ died for us, Christ rose in power for us, Christ prays for us. Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old life is gone; the new life is here!

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

Come, Lord, and Be with Us

Wagner

Scripture Reading

Genesis 50:15-21

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Hymn**

Bless His Holy Name

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me
Bless his holy name. (Repeat)

He has done great things,
He has done great things,
He has done great things,
Bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me
Bless his holy name.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

"Who's Keeping Score?"

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 #298

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy,
Like the wideness of the sea;
There's a kindness in God's justice,
Which is more than liberty.
There is no place where earth's sorrows
Are more felt than up in heaven;
There is no place where earth's failings
Have such kindly judgment given.
2. For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of the mind;
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful,
We would gladly trust God's word;
And our lives reflect thanksgiving
For the goodness of our Lord.

*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

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²² Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Notes



Christmas Boxes for the International Seafarers' Center, Port of Houston



For many years Presbyterian Women of our church, with the help of our entire congregation, have packed 100 shoe boxes a year with non-perishable items (such as hygiene supplies, socks, caps, and Texas souvenirs) and delivered them to the Port of Houston for distribution to ships that come in from mid-November through December. This is a Christmas project for faith communities in the Houston area, and thousands of seafarers are reached in this way. It is an important opportunity to offer a gesture of "hospitality" to some of those who serve us all year long.

If you would like to help with monetary support for this project, please make a donation through the church, marked clearly for the "Seafarer's boxes." Our shopping is now in progress and will continue through October, in order to meet a November 6 packing date. Our boxes will be dedicated in Worship November 8 and delivered to the Seafarers' Center the following week. If you have questions or need more information about this opportunity, please call the church office (936) 756- 8884 or Liz Kessler (713) 818-1006.

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.



Wednesday Night Live

~ Kick-Off ~

Cakewalk Bingo!

Join us September 30, from 5-7 pm

~ Dinner Served 5-5:45 pm ~

\$5/person (Under 12 & 90+ eat FREE)

THEN.....

Matt Laletas will give a brief overview
of his upcoming WNL Class

“Science & God”

Then....Cakewalk Bingo until 7 pm

All events in the FLC Gym

****Doors Open at 4:45 pm****

We need desserts for the Cakewalk Bingo.

If you love to bake, let Dena Sowden know what
dessert you would like to donate.



Wednesday Morning Office Volunteer Needed

We are in need of an office volunteer for Wednesday mornings, so that the staff is able to conduct their staff meeting with everyone present and without distraction. Please be comfortable answering the phone and doors. If you would be interested, please contact the church office (936) 756-8884.

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 old cards no longer work with the new card readers, 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.

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.

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!

Lifeline Screening at FPC September 18



Special screening package for \$129 for our members includes:

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Call to schedule an appointment near you!
800-324-9458 and use code: **HABC001**

LIFE LINE SCREENING
The Power of Prevention

The graphic features three circular inset images: a healthcare professional performing a carotid ultrasound on a patient, a woman holding a red apple, and a smiling couple embracing.

Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i> <i>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 (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 14</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>September 16</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 20</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) 12:30 p.m. Session Meeting 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 18 Lifeline Screening at FPC
- September 30 WNL Kickoff
- October 9 Pumpkin Delivery
- October 10-31 Pumpkin Patch
- October 12 PDS Closed for school holiday
- October 24 Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat

Prayer List

Members: Susan Juhl, Paula Shepherd, Nedra Murphy, Virginia Tamborello, Tildon Hebert, John Lancaster, John Gutekunst, Ron Bailey, Marcia Park and family, Jean Heasley, Fred Kate, Jeannene Wendt, Reed Watson, Kari Elliott, Alice Helms, Jean Ball, Mary Hudson, Paul Ivison, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: Steve R. (Rose), 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), 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

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