

First Presbyterian Church

September 20, 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

Sean Morton

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Marty Taylor, in gratitude and thanks to the glory of God.

Last Week's Attendance, September 13

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 14

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 149

Online Worship Attendance - 22

Total Attendance – 185

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

We come now to worship the God of our salvation.

Give praise to the Lord!

We proclaim to the world what God has done for us.

Give praise to the Lord!

In remembering God's mighty acts, we seek God's face.

Give praise to the Lord!

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Give praise to the Lord!

***Hymn #455**

All Creatures of Our God and King

1. All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Call to Confession**

***Silent Prayer of Confession**

*Please stand if able.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Lord is compassionate and gracious, 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**

The Word

Scripture Reading

Psalm 145:1-8; Matthew 20:1-16

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"When God Isn't Fair"

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 #446**

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation's walls surrounded,
Thou may'st smile at all thy foes.

2. See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

***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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"How Great is Our God"

CCLI Song # 4348399 Chris Tomlin / Ed Cash / Jesse Reeves
© 2004 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worship together.com songs;
Wondrously Made Songs. For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use.
All rights reserved. www.ccli.com. CCLI License # 2714264

"Joy of the Lord"

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Thankyou Music Admin. Worldwide at CapitolCMGPublishing.com excluding
Europe which is Admin. by Integrity Music, part of the David C. Cook family.
songs@integritymusic.com
Alletrop Music Admin. by Music Services
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

by Francis of Assisi, music from Geistliche Kirchengesäng
Text: © 1926 (Renewed) J. Curwen & Songs Ltd.
Music: From the English Hymnal, 1906
CCL # 2714264

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

We come now to worship the God of our salvation.

Give praise to the Lord!

We proclaim to the world what God has done for us.

Give praise to the Lord!

In remembering God's mighty acts, we seek God's face.

Give praise to the Lord!

Let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

Give praise to the Lord!

***Hymn**

How Great Is Our God

Verse 1

The splendor of the King
Clothed in majesty
Let all the earth rejoice
All the earth rejoice
He wraps Himself in light
And darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice
And trembles at His voice.

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

*Please stand if able.

Verse 2

And age to age He stands
And time is in His hands
Beginning and the end
Beginning and the end
The Godhead Three in One
Father Spirit Son
The Lion and the Lamb
The Lion and the Lamb (Chorus)

Bridge

Name above all names
Worthy of all praise
My heart will sing
How great is our God (Repeat)

Chorus

How great is our God
Sing with me
How great is our God
And all will see how great
How great is our God

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, it seems that we cannot make up our minds. We cry for your salvation but then complain when things don't go according to our plans. We cry out for nourishment and sustenance, but bicker and argue when you give us what we need and not necessarily what we want. We say we will live to serve others but end up only looking out for ourselves. We claim to live in a way that honors Christ but only do so when it is convenient for us. We believe that the gospel can transform us but we would rather transform the gospel into what we want it to mean. We are forgetful and fickle people.

Lord, in your mercy, forgive us. Instead of grumbling about what we want, may we be thankful for your grace. Instead of continual complaining, may we carry compassion. Instead of whining about the way things are, may we be employed with Jesus Christ to reach out and bring the kingdom of God to everyone we meet.

***Silent Prayer of Confession**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Lord is compassionate and gracious, 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

***Doxology**

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

***Choral Response**

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem

Joy of the Lord

Angerman

Scripture Reading

Psalm 145:1-8

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***Hymn #455**

All Creatures of Our God and King

1. All creatures of our God and King,
Lift up your voice and with us sing,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou burning sun with golden beam,
Thou silver moon with softer gleam,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

2. Thou rushing wind that art so strong,
Ye clouds that sail in heaven along,
O sing ye! Alleluia!
Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,
Ye lights of evening, find a voice!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Scripture Reading

Matthew 20:1-16

Sermon

“When God Isn’t Fair”

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 #446

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

1. Glorious things of thee are spoken,
Zion, city of our God;
God, whose word cannot be broken,
Formed thee for a blest abode.
On the rock of ages founded,
What can shake thy sure repose?
With salvation’s walls surrounded,
Thou may’st smile at all thy foes.

2. See, the streams of living waters,
Springing from eternal love,
Well supply thy sons and daughters
And all fear of want remove.
Who can faint while such a river
Ever flows their thirst to assuage?
Grace, which like the Lord the giver,
Never fails from age to age.

***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 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name forever and ever. ² Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.

³ Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom. ⁴ One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. ⁵ They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty and I will meditate on your wonderful works. ⁶ They tell of the power of your awesome works and I will proclaim your great deeds. ⁷ They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

⁸ The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

Matthew 20:1-16

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

³ "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' ⁵ So they went.

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. ⁶ About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

⁷ "'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

⁸ “When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.’

⁹ “The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² ‘These who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said, ‘and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.’

¹³ “But he answered one of them, ‘I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn’t you agree to work for a denarius?’ ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you.

¹⁵ Don’t I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?’

¹⁶ “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

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.

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.



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!



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.

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, or if you have an old keycard, please contact Dena Sowden to get a replacement keycard. If you have any questions regarding the new system, please feel free to contact the office. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

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.

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, Virginia Olivier

Members' Relatives & Friends: Alfred H. (Harshbarger), 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), 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)

Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i> <i>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 (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 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 21</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>September 23</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 27</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 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

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