

First Presbyterian Church

September 27, 2026



Sermon:

"Drafting a Winning Team"

Rev. Seth Saathoff

8:30 Worship with Communion	Page 3
11:00 Worship Service	Page 6
Scripture Readings	Page 11
The Connection	Page 13
Prayer List	Page 17
Calendar of Events	Page 18

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

Karis Morton

Today's Flowers

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

Last Week's Attendance, September 20

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 15

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 140

Online Worship Attendance - 19

Total Attendance – 174

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Give ear, O people of God, and listen to the story of God's faithfulness.

We will remember the wonderful things God has done.

God has made his works known to the people.

We will share the story of God's steadfast love and mighty deeds.

Let us worship the God who is faithful in every generation.

We come to worship our faithful God.

*Hymn #142

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all!

3. Let every kindred, every tribe,

On this terrestrial ball,

To Him all majesty ascribe,

And crown Him Lord of all!

To Him all majesty ascribe,

And crown Him Lord of all!

4. O that with yonder sacred throng

We at His feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song,

And crown Him Lord of all!

We'll join the everlasting song,

And crown Him Lord of all!

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

God does not hold our sins against us but offers us forgiveness and new life through Jesus Christ. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

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

Exodus 17:1-7; Matthew 21:23-32

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Drafting a Winning Team"

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 #153

He Is King of Kings

Refrain:

(He is) King of kings,

He is Lord of lords,

Jesus Christ, the first and last,

No one works like Him.

1. He built His throne up in the air,

No one works like Him,

And called His saints from everywhere,

No one works like Him. O He is... (Refrain)

2. He pitched His tents on Canaan ground,
No one works like Him,
And broke oppressive kingdoms down,
No one works like Him. O He is...(Refrain)

3. I know that my Redeemer lives,
No one works like Him,
And by His love sweet blessing gives,
No one works like Him. O He is... (Refrain)

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

Copyright Information

†

"I Just Came to Praise the Lord"

by Wayne Romero

© Copyright 1975 and Arr. © Copyright 1979 by Paragon Music Corp. (ASCAP),
803 18th Ave., So., Nashville, Tennessee 37202.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

"He Is King of Kings"

African-American Spiritual Arranged by Joseph T. Jones

Adaptation © 1990 Melva W. Costen

CCL # 2714264

"The Wondrous Cross"

By Christy Nockels, Jonny Pike, Jorge Mhondera, Molley Moody, Nathan Nockels,
and Willie Weeks, Arranged by Cliff Duren © Copyright 2015 Thankyou Music (PRS)
(Administered worldwide at CapitolCMGPublishing.com excluding the UK which is administered by
Integrity Music, part of the David C. Cook family. songs@Integritymusic.com) /worshiptogether.com
Songs / sixsteps Music / Sweater Weather Music (ASCAP)(Administered at CapitolCMGPublish-
ing.com) / David Platz Music, Inc. (Administered by The Royalty Network, Inc.) / StarRockMusic
(PRS)(Administered by Song Solutions CopyCare excluding North America which is administered
by Watershed Music Co.). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

Give ear, O people of God, and listen to the story of God's faithfulness.

We will remember the wonderful things God has done.

God has made his works known to the people.

We will share the story of God's steadfast love and mighty deeds.

Let us worship the God who is faithful in every generation.

We come to worship our faithful God.

*Hymn #142

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!

1. All hail the power of Jesus' name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem,

And crown Him Lord of all!

3. Let every kindred, every tribe,

On this terrestrial ball,

To Him all majesty ascribe,

And crown Him Lord of all!

To Him all majesty ascribe,

And crown Him Lord of all!

4. O that with yonder sacred throng

We at His feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song,

And crown Him Lord of all!

We'll join the everlasting song,

And crown Him Lord of all!

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful Lord, you came not to reward the righteous, but to call sinners and to shape our lives by your righteousness. When things seem at their worst, in us and in our world, you come by the Spirit to bring out the best in us. Despite our faith, despite our efforts to love one another, despite our attempts to be the salt and light of the world, we do not always get it right.

Forgive us for our anger, tension, and anxiety that distort our vision. Forgive us for worrying small things way out of proportion and for often making the wrong things the big things. Because you have promised to hear us, and are able to change us, we ask that you hear our prayer and change our lives until we reflect the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

God does not hold our sins against us but offers us forgiveness and new life through Jesus Christ. In Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and made new.

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

The Wondrous Cross

Duren

Scripture Reading

Exodus 17:1-7

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn

Lead Me, Lord

Lead me, Lord, lead me in thy righteousness;

make thy way plain before my face.

For it is thou, Lord, thou, Lord only,

that makest me dwell in safety.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 21:23-32

Sermon

“Drafting a Winning Team”

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 Ho-

ly 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 co

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 #153

He Is King of Kings

Refrain:

(He is) King of kings,

He is Lord of lords,

Jesus Christ, the first and last,

No one works like Him.

1. He built His throne up in the air,
No one works like Him,
And called His saints from everywhere,
No one works like Him. O He is... (Refrain)
2. He pitched His tents on Canaan ground,
No one works like Him,
And broke oppressive kingdoms down,
No one works like Him. O He is...(Refrain)
3. I know that my Redeemer lives,
No one works like Him,
And by His love sweet blessing gives,
No one works like Him. O He is... (Refrain)

***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

Exodus 17:1-7

¹ The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² So they quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink."

Moses replied, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?"

³ But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

⁴ Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

⁵ The Lord answered Moses, "Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Matthew 21:23-32

²³ Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

²⁴ Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. ²⁵ John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

²⁹ “‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ “Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

³¹ “Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

Notes



Called Meeting of the Congregation October 4

We will have a Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 4, 2026, during the 11:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of approving nominations for the 2026 Church Officer Nominating Committee. Please join us.

Veterans Day Observance November 8

FPC is requesting photos of your loved ones who have served or are serving in our nation's armed services. Please send your photos to Randy Blanton at randyblanton@yahoo.com in a jpeg format, and include the name, branch of service, rank, and years of service. We plan to stream the photos of women and men who have served that are still with us prior to the 11:00 AM worship service on November 8, 2026.

Christmas Boxes for the International Seafarers' Center



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.

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 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 (Rm. 203) 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 September 28</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday September 30</i>	9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105) 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal and Cakewalk Bingo (FLC) 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

<i>Sunday October 4</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 (Rm. 203) 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)
------------------------------------	---

Save the Date

September 30	WNL Kickoff
October 4	Called Congregational Meeting
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

• • • •

Mailing Address:

2257 N Loop 336 W
Suite 140, # 349, Conroe, TX 77304