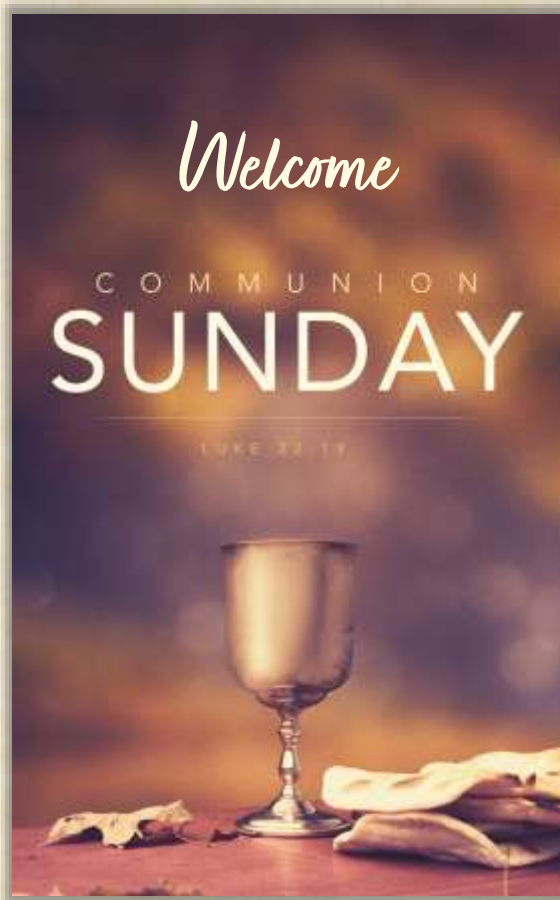


First Presbyterian Church

October 4, 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

Mark Sowden

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Sandy Davis, in memory of Bryan Davis, and by Greg Scott, in memory of Irma Scott.

Last Week's Attendance, September 27

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 12

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 116

Online Worship Attendance - 14

Total Attendance – 142

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

The heavens are proclaiming the glory of God.

And the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Your law, O God, is perfect. It revives our souls.

Your law is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey.

Let our words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you.

O God, our rock and our redeemer!

*Hymn #507

Come with Joy

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord,
Forgiven, loved and free,
In awe and wonder to recall
His life laid down for me,
His life laid down for me.
2. I come with Christians far and near
To find, as all are fed,
The new community of love
In Christ's communion bread
In Christ's communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share
Each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one,
And strangers now are friends,
And strangers now are friends

*Please stand if able.

4. And thus with joy we meet our lord.
His presence, always near,
Is in such friendship better known:
We see and praise Him here,
We see and praise Him here

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

God's grace is greater than the sum of all our sins. God's mercies are new every morning.

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 19; Philippians 3:3-14

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Everything Is Trash"
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 #423

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.

3. People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.
4. Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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By William J. Gaither

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"We Are"

By Butler, Tealy, McBride, and Cash

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"Cover Me with the Night"

by Andrea Ramsey

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by Keith Getty, Stuart Townend, Kristyn Lennox Getty, and Douglas Nolan
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11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Opening Music

Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Surely the Presence of the Lord Is in This Place* Wolfe/Brown

Call to Worship

The heavens are proclaiming the glory of God.

And the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

Your law, O God, is perfect. It revives our souls.

Your law is more precious than gold and sweeter than honey.

Let our words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable to you.

O God, our rock and our redeemer!

*Hymn

We Are

Every secret, every shame,
every fear, every pain,
live inside the dark,
but that's not who we are.
We are children of the day.

So wake up, sleeper, lift your head.
We were meant for more than this.
Fight the shadows, conquer death,
make the most of the time we have left.

*Please stand if able.

Chorus:

We are the light of the world.

We are the city on a hill.

We are the light of the world, and

we gotta, we gotta, we gotta let the light shine.

We are the light of the world.

We are the city on a hill.

We are the light of the world, and

we gotta, we gotta, we gotta let the light shine.

Let the light shine, let the light shine.

We are called to spread the news,

to tell the world the simple truth.

Jesus came to save, there's freedom in His Name.

So, let His love break through.

(Chorus)

Bridge:

We are the light, we are the light, we are the light.

So, let your light shine brighter.

We are the light, we are the light, we are the light.

Jesus, You are the light, You are the light, You are the light.

We will lift You high and shine, shine, shine.

(Chorus)

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

God's grace is greater than the sum of all our sins. God's mercies are new every morning.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*Gloria Patri

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Cover Me with the Night

Ramsey

*Doxology

*Prayer of Dedication

*Choral Response

The Word

Scripture Reading

Psalm 19; Philippians 3:3-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Everything Is Trash"

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 *Behold the Lamb*

Nolan

Given by the FPC Interns and Youth

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Hymn #423

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
Does its successive journeys run,
His kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
3. People and realms of every tongue
Dwell on His love with sweetest song,
And infant voices shall proclaim
Their early blessings on His name.
4. Blessings abound where'er He reigns;
The prisoners leap to lose their chains,
The weary find eternal rest,
And all who suffer want are blest.

Called Congregational Meeting

*Charge and Benediction

*Choral Response

Gentle Shepherd

Gentle Shepherd, come lead us,
For we need You to help us find our way.
Gentle Shepherd, come and feed us,
For we need your strength from day to day.
There's no other we can turn to
Who can help us face another day;
Gentle Shepherd, come and lead us,
For we need You to help us find our way.

*Postlude

This Week's Scripture Readings

Psalm 19

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. ² Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. ³ They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. ⁴ Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun. ⁵ It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, like a champion rejoicing to run his course. ⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens and makes its circuit to the other; nothing is deprived of its warmth.

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. ⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. ⁹ The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. ¹¹ By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹² But who can discern their own errors? Forgive my hidden faults. ¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins; may they not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Philippians 3:3-14

³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Notes



FINANCIAL REPORT
(YTD as of 9/30)

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Revenue	\$591,370	\$575,760
Expenses	\$591,405	\$582,290

To the FPC-C church family:

If you've been paying attention, I'm sure that you're aware that our ongoing Capital Campaign has been a terrific success. To date, we have reduced our outstanding debt by more than \$1,000,000 and lowered our yearly debt payments by over \$70,000! Despite this wonderful success story, we are facing yet another financial challenge. If you look at the church's financial results as of 9/30/2026, we now have a small budget deficit for the first time in almost four years. If left unchecked, however, the projected deficit at year-end would be almost \$20,000. The good news is that we still have three months to turn this around. The last time we faced this challenge (2022), we were able to achieve a balanced budget by year-end because of the generous response of the entire congregation. With God's help, we can make it happen again. Every dollar counts. Are you willing to help?

Fred Kate
Church Treasurer

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.

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.

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 have an old keycard, please contact Dena Sowden to get a replacement. If you have any issues gaining access to the building with the new system, contact Dena at (979) 255-2096, so that she can grant access immediately.

Prayer List

Members: Family of Suzie King, Susan Juhl, Paula Shepherd, 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: The Spence family (Elliott), Alfred H. (Harshbarger), Cynthia M. (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>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) 12:00 p.m. Committee Meetings 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>October 5</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Tuesday</i> <i>October 6</i>	10:00 a.m. Rebecca Circle (Parlor)
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>October 7</i>	9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105) 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Live Meal 5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary) 7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Choir Room)

<i>Sunday October 11</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) No meal or programming during Pumpkin Patch
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Save the Date

- 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

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

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Suite 140, # 349, Conroe, TX 77304