

First Presbyterian Church

October 11, 2026



8:30 Worship with Communion	Page 3
11:00 Worship Service	Page 6
Scripture Readings	Page 11
The Connection	Page 14
Calendar of Events	Page 16
Prayer List	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

Mark Sowden

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Judy Weinburger, in memory of parents, Bob & Marjorie Johnson, and Al & Evelyn Weinburger.

Last Week's Attendance, October 4

8:30 a.m. Worship Service - 12

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 140

Online Worship Attendance - 17

Total Attendance – 169

8:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

Preparing to Receive God's Word

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

From where we are, to where you meet us.

Come, God the Father.

From what we are, to what you can make of us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

From lives that are locked and platitudes that are predictable.

Come, Holy Spirit.

For depths unexplored, down paths we have not followed, in beauty we have missed.

Open our hearts, cleanse our minds, and renew our souls.

*Hymn #387

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.

2. Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

God does not turn away from us in our impatience or stubbornness. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our idols are cast aside, and we are welcomed again into the life of God's kingdom.

Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

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

*Gloria Patri

The Word

Scripture Readings

Exodus 32:1-14; Matthew 22:1-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Come as You Are... Dress Accordingly"

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude

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a division of The Benson Company.

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"Gentle Shepherd"

By William J. Gaither

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"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

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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

From where we are, to where you meet us.

Come, God the Father.

From what we are, to what you can make of us.

Come, Lord Jesus.

From lives that are locked and platitudes that are predictable.

Come, Holy Spirit.

For depths unexplored, down paths we have not followed, in beauty we have missed.

Open our hearts, cleanse our minds, and renew our souls.

*Hymn #387

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,
Much we need Thy tender care;
In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,
For our use Thy folds prepare:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
2. Thou hast promised to receive us,
Poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us,
Grace to cleanse, and power to free:
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus,
Early let us turn to Thee.

*Please stand if able.

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you know us better than we know ourselves. You know how impatient we are and how stubborn we can be. In our impatience, we demand instant answers from you. And when we do not like what we hear, we sometimes turn to idols of our own making. When you do speak to us and invite us to participate in your kingdom, we blow you off and go our own way.

In your great mercy, forgive what we have been and help us become more, that our lives may reflect your heavenly kingdom where the last are first, the sick are made whole, and the dead are raised. Amen.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

God does not turn away from us in our impatience or stubbornness. In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, our idols are cast aside, and we are welcomed again into the life of God's kingdom.

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

*Doxology

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

*Choral Response

The Word

Children's Time

Anthem

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Duren

Scripture Reading

Exodus 32:1-14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #145

Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!

1. Rejoice ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:

Rejoice! rejoice! rejoice,
Give thanks, and sing!

2. Yes, on through life's long path,
Still chanting as ye go;
From youth to age, by night and day,
In gladness and in woe. (Refrain)

4. Then on, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
The cross of Christ your King. (Refrain)

Scripture Reading

Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon

"Come as You Are... Dress Accordingly"

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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In His arms He'll take and shield thee;
thou wilt find a solace there.

*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

Exodus 32:1-14

¹ When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, "Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don't know what has happened to him."

² Aaron answered them, "Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me." ³ So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, "These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt."

⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, "Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord." ⁶ So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward, they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

⁷ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. ⁸ They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf. They have bowed down to it and sacrificed to it and have said, 'These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.'

⁹ "I have seen these people," the Lord said to Moses, "and they are a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now leave me alone so that my anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them. Then I will make you into a great nation."

¹¹ But Moses sought the favor of the Lord his God. “Lord,” he said, “why should your anger burn against your people, whom you brought out of Egypt with great power and a mighty hand? ¹² Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out, to kill them in the mountains and to wipe them off the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce anger; relent and do not bring disaster on your people. ¹³ Remember your servants Abraham, Isaac and Israel, to whom you swore by your own self: ‘I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and I will give your descendants all this land I promised them, and it will be their inheritance forever.’” ¹⁴ Then the Lord relented and did not bring on his people the disaster he had threatened.

Matthew 22:1-14

¹ Jesus spoke to them again in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his servants to those who had been invited to the banquet to tell them to come, but they refused to come.

⁴ “Then he sent some more servants and said, ‘Tell those who have been invited that I have prepared my dinner: My oxen and fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet.’

⁵ “But they paid no attention and went off—one to his field, another to his business. ⁶ The rest seized his servants, mistreated them and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his army and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.

⁸ “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those I invited did not deserve to come. ⁹ So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.’ ¹⁰ So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, the bad as well as the good, and the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. ¹² He asked, ‘How did you get in here without wedding clothes, friend?’ The man was speechless.

¹³ “Then the king told the attendants, ‘Tie him hand and foot, and throw him outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

¹⁴ “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

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

Veterans Day Breakfast November 11

On November 11th, PDS will be hosting breakfast for FPC and PDS Veterans. If you would like to take part in this special morning, please plan to meet in the FLC at 8:30 a.m. We hope you will 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 randyjblanton@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.

SAVE THE DATE

THE GREAT PUMPKIN
patch & festival

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026
4:00-8:00 PM

PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL
2727 N. LOOP 336 W
CONROE, TX 77304
ACROSS FROM H-E-B

- FOOD & GAMES
- TRUNK-A-TREAT & SHOP
- PUMPKIN PATCH
- RAFFLES
- HAYRIDE & MORE

MOVIE AMONG THE PUMPKINS
showing
"It's The Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown!"

WWW.PDSCONROE.COM

Calendar of Weekly Events

<i>Sunday</i> <i>October 11</i>	8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary) 9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Studying the book of Malachi, the last of the written prophets. 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.
<i>Monday</i> <i>October 12</i>	1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)
<i>Tuesday</i> <i>October 13</i>	10:00 a.m. Ruth Circle (Parlor) 5:15 p.m. Lydia Circle (Youth area)
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>October 14</i>	9:30 a.m. Martha Circle (Parlor) 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</i> <i>October 18</i>	8:30 a.m. Worship with Communion (Sanctuary) 9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105) Studying the book of Malachi, the last of the written prophets. 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 10-31 Pumpkin Patch
- October 12 PDS Closed for school holiday
- October 24 Fall Festival & Trunk or Treat
- November 1 All Saints' Day



Prayer List

Members: 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)

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