



*Welcome*  
*8:30 a.m. Worship Service*

*Order of Worship*  
*September 19, 2021*

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Conroe

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*Preparation*

**Prelude**

**Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

*Marc Jordan*

*Adoration*

**Call to Worship**

**\*Hymn #150**

**Come, Christians, Join to Sing**

1. Come, Christians, join to sing Alleluia! Amen!  
Loud praise to Christ our King; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let all, with heart and voice, before His throne rejoice;  
Praise is His gracious choice; Alleluia! Amen!
2. Come, lift your hearts on high; Alleluia! Amen!  
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia! Amen!  
He is our guide and friend; to us He'll condescend;  
His love shall never end; Alleluia! Amen!
3. Praise yet our Christ again; Alleluia! Amen!  
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

*Confession*

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**GOD OF MERCY: JUDGE US WITH LOVE AND LIFT THE BURDEN OF OUR SIN. WE CONFESS THAT WE ARE TWISTED BY PRIDE. WE SEE OURSELVES PURE WHEN WE ARE STAINED. WE SEE OURSELVES GREAT WHEN WE ARE SMALL. WE FORGET TO BE JUST AND TURN AWAY FROM YOUR TRUTH. HAVE MERCY, O GOD, AND FORGIVE OUR SIN, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS YOUR SON, OUR SAVIOR**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, believe the Good News.  
**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Presentation of Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

**I Know Whom I Have Believed**

*Roger Wilson*

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Commitment and the Lord's Prayer**

**Proclamation**

**Scripture Reading**

**Ezra 7:25-28**

<sup>25</sup> "And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God. And those who do not know them, you shall teach. <sup>26</sup> Whoever will not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on him, whether for death or for banishment or for confiscation of his goods or for imprisonment."

<sup>27</sup> Blessed be the Lord, the God of our fathers, who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king, to beautify the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem, <sup>28</sup> and who extended to me his steadfast love before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty officers. I took courage, for the hand of the Lord my God was on me, and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.

**Sermon**

Rev. Dr. David H. Green

**Restoring...**

*"And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God. And those who do not know them, you shall teach." (Ezra 7:25)*

**Dedication**

**The Sacrament of Communion**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Prayers of the People**

**Words of Institution**

**Distribution of the Elements**

**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**

**\*Closing Response**

3. Round each habitation hovering, see the cloud and fire appear  
For a glory and a covering, showing that the Lord is near.  
Thus deriving from their banner light by night and shade by day,  
Safe they feed upon the manna which God gives them when they pray.

**\*Postlude**

**Consolation**

*Felix Mendelssohn*

# Notes



*Welcome*

*Order of Worship*

*11:00 a.m. Service*

*September 19, 2021*

**PREPARATION**

Opening Music (10:45)

**ADORATION**

Prelude

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Marc Jordan

Introit

Call to Worship

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Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia! Amen!  
On heaven's blissful shore His goodness we'll adore,  
Singing forevermore, "Alleluia! Amen!"

**CONFESSIO**

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

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*Roger Wilson*

**\*Doxology**

**\*Prayer of Commitment and the Lord's Prayer**

**\*Choral Response**

**Anthem**

**Ubi Caritas**

*Snyder*

**PROCLAMATION**

**Scripture Reading:**

**Matthew 23:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, <sup>2</sup> "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat, <sup>3</sup> so do and observe whatever they tell you, but not the works they do. For they preach, but do not practice. <sup>4</sup> They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to move them with their finger. <sup>5</sup> They do all their deeds to be seen by others. For they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long, <sup>6</sup> and they love the place of honor at feasts and the best seats in the synagogues <sup>7</sup> and greetings in the marketplaces and being called rabbi by others. <sup>8</sup> But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. <sup>9</sup> And call no man your father on earth, for you have one Father, who is in heaven. <sup>10</sup> Neither be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Christ. <sup>11</sup> The greatest among you shall be your servant. <sup>12</sup> Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Time**

**\*Hymn #291**

**My Jesus, I Love Thee**

1. My Jesus, I love Thee, I know Thou art mine; for Thee, all the follies of sin I resign;  
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou; if ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
2. I love Thee because Thou hast first loved me, and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree;  
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow; if ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
4. In mansions of glory and endless delight, I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright.  
And singing Thy praises, before Thee I'll bow; if ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

3. Tie in a living tether the prince and priest and thrall, bind all our lives together, smite us and save us all;  
In ire and exultation aflame with faith, and free, lift up a living nation, a single sword to thee.

**Scripture Reading:**

**Ezra 7:25-28**

<sup>25</sup> “And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God. And those who do not know them, you shall teach. <sup>26</sup> Whoever will not obey the law of your God and the law of the king, let judgment be strictly executed on him, whether for death or for banishment or for confiscation of his goods or for imprisonment.”

<sup>27</sup> Blessed be the Lord, the God of our fathers, who put such a thing as this into the heart of the king, to beautify the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem, <sup>28</sup> and who extended to me his steadfast love before the king and his counselors, and before all the king's mighty officers. I took courage, for the hand of the Lord my God was on me, and I gathered leading men from Israel to go up with me.

**Sermon**

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**Restoring...**

*“And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God that is in your hand, appoint magistrates and judges who may judge all the people in the province Beyond the River, all such as know the laws of your God. And those who do not know them, you shall teach.” (Ezra 7:25)*

**DEDICATION**

**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.  
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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.  
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**\*Postlude**

**Consolation**

*Felix Mendelssohn*



### ***Wednesday Night Live (WNL) Dinners are Back***

The Fall WNL is back in full swing in the Family Life Center (FLC). A full dinner will be served both on-site and for takeout. Reservations are requested for both. Please make them by 5:00 p.m. each Tuesday. Take-out dinners will be ready for pick-up at 5:00 p.m. and on-site dining will begin at 5:15 p.m.

Regrettably, we must increase the cost of the meal to \$5, due to the increase in both food items and supplies. Children under 12 years old and adults over 75 years of age, are not charged. Reservations can be made through the FPC office (936) 756-8884 or by call/text Shirley Dukes, (93) 760-8655. Your Kitchen Crew looks forward to breaking bread with you once again.

### ***Disciple Bible Study***

If you want to build on your understanding of the Bible and build your friendships with others, the Disciple Bible Study may be for you. Disciple is a twelve-week series of discussion-oriented lessons. We will study the books of Luke and Acts using the Disciple Fast Track curriculum. You can purchase the Study Manual online or through the church office.

Beginning Wednesday, September 22, the Disciple class will begin at 6:00 p.m. You can join us in person or on online. Our Wednesday evening programs include an evening meal in the Gym (5:00). We then have an activity for youth and the Disciple Bible study at 6:00. Childcare is available for our families with young children. These activities end at 7:30.

Life and faith are strengthened when we can connect with the Word of God and with the people of God. Come join us as we work together to grow in our faith in God and our relationships with each other.. (Zoom Room Meeting ID: 879 2931 2569 (Passcode: 77304)).

### ***Help Needed for Sunday School Classes***

Do you want to help children learn about the Bible and see it in a new light? Would you like to see children learn the context and application of Biblical text and then apply it to their everyday lives? If so, you can make that difference in a child's faith life. Teachers are needed for Intermediate, Elementary and Pre-K classes. Even if you can only spare one Sunday per month, you can team up with other volunteers to help make a difference in our children's futures. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to help shape a child's faith, and contact Dena Sowden for details (979) 255-2096 or dsowden@FpcConroe.org.

### ***New Bible Study for The Wanderers Beginning Today***

The subject of the upcoming study is ***Ecclesiastes: The Search for Meaning in Modern Music***. Join The Wanderers Sunday School class in this seven-week study of Ecclesiastes through the lens of modern music. We'll explore songs like "Paper in Fire" by John Mellencamp, "Turn, Turn, Turn" by The Byrds, "The Wanderer" by U2 (with Johnny Cash), "Dust in the Wind" by Kansas, and more. In addition to studying the background of each song, we'll listen to the music and have a rich discussion about how the song relates to themes within Ecclesiastes, one of the most challenging and thought-provoking books of the Bible. This will be an intriguing study that will be eye-opening and fun. Invite a friend or two to wander with us through Ecclesiastes.

**Financial Report**  
**(2021 YTD as of August 31, 2021)**

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Revenue	\$469,000	<b>\$448,965</b>
Expenses	\$479,160	\$492,080

## Prayer List

**Members:** The family of Sarah Gutekunst, Sandy Davis, Jean Ball, George Shackelford, Margaret Hill, Kim Phillip, Flem Keathley, Carolyn Hebert, Paul Ivison, Leona Cowie, Lorraine Bosse, Don and Doris Myers, Margaret Carson, Fay Harrison, Clyde Cruikshank, Virginia Tamborello, Ben Hughes, Jeanette DeFee, Polly Miller, Pat Smith, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier, Evelyn Kenward, Tom Braaten



**Members' Relatives & Friends:** Sherry B. (Harrison), Mitchell B. (Blott), Margie E. (Hughes), Kellye H. and Jeffrey H. (Heasley), Sabra S. (Swoboda), Deborah R. (Rose), Jack S. and Jay, Katie B. (Pohla), Matt F. (Elms), Wendy S. (Adamson), Harry S., Jr. (Havens), Russell W. (Weinburger), Tim J. (Staff), Krissy P. & family (Kasmiersky), Judy N. (Dukes), Sherry M. (Garrison), Diane B., Pat S.'s family, Lindsey W., Ruby G., Beverly F. (S. Walker), Enrique E. (Moore), Ann (Ebanks), Paul M. (Alan Moore), Lee H. and Gene H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Lisa & her children (Webb), Gerald H. (Roberts), Tamara B. (Harrison), Leslie M. family and Martha K. (Juhl), Tucker H. (Hudson), Nikkia (Wilmberty), Virginia R. (Smith), Dana K. (Shorts)

## Good Things to Know

### **Attendance**

#### **Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service - 96

10:00 a.m. Online Worship Service - 53

Total Attendance - 149

### **Today's Worship Leader**

Sally DeStefano

### **Today's Flowers**

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by the Corbit family,  
in memory Jack and Nicole Davidson.

## Save the Date

### **Future Planning**

September 15 - Wednesday Night Live (WNL) Kick-off with Youth Praise Band

September 18 - Family Move Night

September 19 - Session Meeting

September 22 - Autumn begins

September 26 - Youth Sunday

## Calendar of Weekly Events

<b>Sunday</b> <i>September 19</i>	<p><b>8:30 a.m. Communion and Prayer Service</b> (Sanctuary)</p> <p><b>9:00 a.m. Fellowship</b> (Bistro)</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. Fellowship class with Cara Wood:</b> A Bible study on the C.S. Lewis Book, “<i>The Screwtape Letters</i>” (Zoom Meeting ID: 267 960 141, Password: 330714) <a href="https://zoom.us/j/267960141">https://zoom.us/j/267960141</a> (or call +1 346 248 7799, 267960141#)</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd</b> (Rm. 105): Paul's letter to the Colossians.</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. Young &amp; U Sunday School Class</b> (young adults and university age students) (Library)</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith –</b> (Rm. 207) <i>The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided By Politics And Religion</i>, by Jonathan Haidt.</p> <p><b>10:30 a.m. Fellowship</b> (Narthex)</p> <p><b>11:00 a.m. Worship Service</b> (Facebook Live <a href="http://www.facebook.com/fpcConroe">www.facebook.com/fpcConroe</a> or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p>
<b>Monday</b> <i>September 20</i>	<p><b>1:30 p.m. Monday Afternoon Bible Study</b> (Youth Commons Area)</p>
<b>Tuesday</b> <i>September 21</i>	<p><b>7:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study</b> (Pastor's office and Zoom Meeting ID: 844 897 863, Password: 77304)</p>
<b>Wednesday</b> <i>September 22</i>	<p><b>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing</b> (Rm. 105)</p> <p><b>9:30 a.m. FPC Staff Meeting</b> (Zoom Meeting ID available by invitation)</p> <p><b>5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice</b> (Sanctuary)</p> <p><b>6:00 p.m. The Spark</b> (Gym)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study (<i>Room 105</i>)</p> <p><b>7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice</b> (Sanctuary)</p>
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***If you have any questions about the calendar of events,  
please visit the website at [fpcconroe.org](http://fpcconroe.org), or contact the group leader.***

## **Christmas Boxes for the Houston International Seafarer's Center**

As part of an annual city-wide faith community outreach project, Presbyterian Women will fill, wrap and deliver shoe boxes with toiletries and personal items to the Seafarer's Center. These boxes benefit those on ships that visit Houston in the weeks before Christmas, and who are (by occupation) almost always away from their own homes in the holiday season. Congregation-wide support is what makes it possible for us



### **Christmas Gift 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 at-large, and thousands of seamen are reached out to in this way each season. 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 us 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 in order to meet a November 4<sup>th</sup> packing date.

If your family would like to pack its own box and have us take it to the Port along with ours, contact the church office (936) 756-8884 or Susan Buckley (936) 273-0098 with questions or for a list of recommended items.

Our boxes will be dedicated in Worship November 7<sup>th</sup> and delivered to the Seafarers' Center the following week.

# Ministry Leaders

## Ministry Team Leaders

<i>Administration:</i>	Jay Swoboda (2022, Chair)
<i>Building &amp; Grounds:</i>	Stephan Tibbetts (2022, Chair), David Perciful (2022)
<i>Care-Prayer:</i>	Bob Shepherd (2023, Chair)
<i>Discipleship:</i>	Anne Spinks (2021, Chair), Mark Sowden (2021)
<i>Fellowship:</i>	Shirley Dukes (2021, Chair)
<i>Membership:</i>	Donna Stewart (2021, Chair), Anna McNamara (2022), Abby Stewart (2022), Dena Sowden (2023)
<i>Missions:</i>	Tom Young (2021)
<i>PDS:</i>	Karen Clark (2021), Sharon Walker (2022)
<i>Worship:</i>	Chuck and Janet Pohla (2023, Chairs)

## Staff and Church Information

### First Presbyterian Church

2727 N. Loop 336 W., Conroe, TX 77304  
Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842  
Website: [www.fpcconroe.org](http://www.fpcconroe.org)



### Staff

Rev. Dr. David H. Green, Senior Pastor  
Dena Sowden, Director of Christian Education  
Stephanie Cooke, Interim Music Director  
Shirley Dukes, Parish Nurse  
Sharon VanSchuyver, Church Administrator  
Yvonne Rose, Office Assistant  
Louise Reed, Day School Director  
Sharon McLaurin, PDS Office Assistant