

*New Sermon Series
Beginning Ash Wednesday*



**JESUS AT
BETHANY:**
LESSONS
ABOUT FAITH
AND FRIENDS
AND FORGIVENESS

*Begins Ash Wednesday
February 17, 2021
6:00 P.M.*

*First Presbyterian Church
WWW.FPCCONROE.ORG*

We hope you will join us.

Upcoming Events

February 7-14 - Family Promise

February 15 - President's Day (PDS Holiday)

February 17 - Ash Wednesday

February 20 - Family Movie Night

March 10 - Blood Drive

March 14 - Daylight Saving Time begins

*If you have photos or events you
would like to see featured in **The
Link**, please submit them to
sharonv@fpccconroe.org.*



First Presbyterian Church of Conroe
2727 N. Loop 336 W.
Conroe, TX 77304

TO:



The Link

Your monthly newsletter from First Presbyterian Church of Conroe

February 2021

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New Church Officers Elected

During the recent Youth Chili Cookoff, a meeting of the congregation allowed for the election of new officers of the Church. Mark Sowden, chairperson of the Congregation's Officer Nominating Committee, talked about the work of the nominating committee and, acting on behalf of the committee, nominated candidates for election.

Congratulations to Ron Bailey and Greg Alger, who were elected to be Church Trustees. They join Cara Wood on this important team. Our trustees have wide-ranging responsibilities that include managing long-term investments and our risk management.

The congregation also elected new members to the Church's Session. In Presbyterian churches, the Session is the highest elected governing committee of each congregation. Its members include Dr. Green (the Pastor of the Church) along with church members who are each elected by the congregation. The Elders-Elect for the Session are:

Class of 2022: Anna McNamara (Youth Elder; Committee to be Determined)
Abby Stewart (Youth Elder; Committee to be Determined)
Jay Swoboda (Administration Committee)
Sharon Walker (Presbyterian Day School)

Class of 2023: Chuck Pohla (Worship Committee)
Janet Pohla (Worship Committee)
Bob Shepherd (Care/Prayer Team)
Dena Sowden (Membership)

(Continued on next page)



New Session Elders Elected (Continued)

The leadership transition ordinarily takes place in September each year. Because of Covid-related restrictions, several people were required to work for an extended period of time. The congregation benefited from their exceptional service. This includes Elders of the Session (Gabby Alvarez, Keith Stewart, Warren Taylor, Deck Yates, Hailey Simon, and Kyle Williams), and Trustees (Keith Stewart and Sam Ebanks).

Congratulations to those who have been elected to serve as Church Officers. Through the years, our congregation has been blessed by the great work of faithful leaders. Perhaps that has never before been more important than it is this year. We are grateful for our leadership teams and dedication of the team members.

(Submitted by Pastor Green)

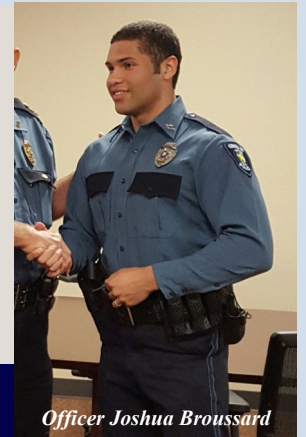


(Photos submitted by Dena Sowden)

Joshua Broussard, We Appreciate You

Hello, my name is Joshua Broussard. I love my pets and have a wide variety of reptiles. I enjoy exercising and eating very much.

I've been with CISD PD for four years and worked with the county in Corrections for two years. After working in Corrections, I learned that most of the inmates began a criminal history in their youth. At that point, I decided I wanted to work with juveniles to help them have a future, even when they felt like they couldn't have one. After that, I found my way to CISD PD. I enjoy being with y'all and appreciate the opportunity you have given me. Thank you.



CONROE ISD POLICE

Officer Joshua Broussard



During a year of so much uncertainty and insecurity, thank you for helping to ensure food is not one. Because of your generosity in 2020, we were able to serve 11,469,603 meals to 797,266 individuals, which is a 50% increase over 2019. With 2021 in full swing, we hope to continue to count on your support this year.

With gratitude,

Kristine Marlow, President & CEO

Lindy Johnson, Director of Development



*Thank you,
First
Presbyterian
Church of
Conroe*

Loving God • Investing in People • Living Generously

Letter From Dr. Green

This year, maybe more than ever, it is important that we pay attention to the arrival of spring-time and its visible signs of hope. Ash Wednesday is an example of this.

Our congregation has great – but peculiar – observances for Ash Wednesday. First, there is our menu. Our Wednesday Evening Supper is a pancake breakfast with lots of goodies. The old tradition was that Christians would enjoy the feast of Tuesday, and then fast on Ash Wednesday. But Presbyterians aren't great at fasting. So, we feast. Then there is our worship service. The tradition of our Reformed Faith does not practice the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. So, in place of ashes, we pray and typically offer a blessing with an anointing with oil.

This year, Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Our meal and the worship service will look and feel a bit different. As usual, the meal is scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m., and those who dine with us in the Gym will be spread out and socially distanced for their own safety. Many (maybe most) participants will pick up meals using our drive-thru procedures. Even the worship service will feel a bit different. Scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m., our prayer-filled worship service is not likely to include an anointing with oil.

In especially uncertain times, it's important for us to celebrate and to observe Ash Wednesday. This day is about an important transition. Ash Wednesday reminds us that, at a moment in time, Jesus turned his face towards Jerusalem. We are called to make a similar transition – to pry our focus away from the day-to-day, attention-grabbing distractions and to turn our attention to Jesus and his journey to the cross.

Every year – every Spring – Ash Wednesday is an important part of our Christian faith. This year, maybe more than ever, it is important that we celebrate Ash Wednesday and to show visible signs of hope.

All the best,
David

Family Movie Night February 20th

Don't forget to mark your calendars now for Family Movie Night on February 20th at 6:00 p.m. As always, we will watch the movie outdoors, in the FPC parking lot (weather permitting). This month's selection will be the new, non-animated movie, *Lady and the Tramp*. Refreshments will be provided at no charge. If it is cold out, you can watch from the comfort of your car by tuning in to 88.1. Hope to see you there.



FPC Church Programming

Sundays

9:00 AM	Fellowship Sunday School class with Cara Wood (Library) (Zoom Meeting ID: 267 960 141) (Password: 330714) https://zoom.us/j/267960141 (or call +13462487799, 267960141#)
10:00 AM	Sunday Morning Worship Service in Sanctuary and on Facebook Live (www.facebook.com/fpcConroe)
11:00 AM	Exploring Our Faith (Zoom) Youth Sunday School (Rm. 700) Elementary Sunday School (Rm. 202)
11:30 AM	Dr. Green Sunday School Class (David Green's office and Zoom Meeting ID: 839 3626 6040; Password: 77304) Intermediate Grade Sunday School (Rm. 702 and Zoom Meeting)

Mondays

1:00 PM	Monday Afternoon Bible Study Zoom Meeting ID available from Marty Taylor
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Tuesdays

7:30 AM	Tuesday Morning Bible Study (Rm. 105 and Zoom Meeting ID: 844 897 863 https://zoom.us/j/844897863 (Password: 77304) (or call +13462487799,,844897863#)
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Wednesdays

9:30 AM	FPC Staff Meeting Zoom Meeting; ID is available by invitation
5:45 PM	Handbell Choir (Sanctuary)
7:00 PM	Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

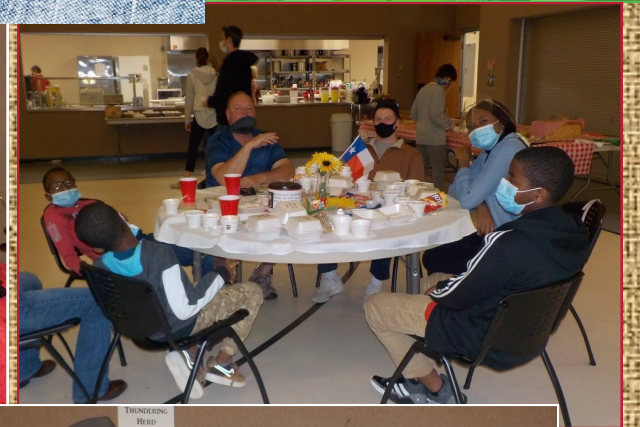
Fridays and Saturdays: FPC office closed.

11TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF



It is with sincerest thanks and deep humility that we say "Thank you" to our amazing church family for your support and generosity at this year's Chili Cook-Off. None of us knew what to expect with the present Covid restrictions, and y'all completely astonished us. From of our incredibly grateful youth, THANK YOU! We were hoping that we might be able to raise around \$5,000 +/- this year for our mission trips. As always, FPC came through in a HUGE way. Because of your love and selfless giving, we raised over \$8,000! Words can't describe our humble gratitude. Thank you so much for making this event such a tremendous success. The youth truly feel your love and support!

-Mark Sowden, Youth Director



1st Place Winners



2nd Place Winners



3rd Place Winners

