

Confession

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken, we confess that we turn away from our neighbors and desert our friends. We run in fear when we should be loyal. Have mercy on us, weak and willful people. Lead us once more to table, and unite us to Christ, who is bread of life, to whom be praise forever.

*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

Peaceful Rest

Smith

*Doxology

*Prayer of Commitment and the Lord's Prayer

Proclamation

Scripture Reading

Ezra 5:11-17

¹¹ And this was their reply to us: "We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished. ¹² But because our fathers had angered the God of heaven, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried away the people to Babylonia. ¹³ However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree that this house of God should be rebuilt. ¹⁴ And the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple that was in Jerusalem and brought into the temple of Babylon, these Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to one whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor; ¹⁵ and he said to him, 'Take these vessels, go and put them in the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its site.' ¹⁶ Then this Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of the house of God that is in Jerusalem, and from that time until now it has been in building, and it is not yet finished. ¹⁷ Therefore, if it seems good to the king, let search be made in the royal archives there in Babylon, to see whether a decree was issued by Cyrus the king for the rebuilding of this house of God in Jerusalem. And let the king send us his pleasure in this matter."

Sermon

Rev. Dr. David H. Green

Rebuilding After Tragedy

"Then this Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of the house of God that is in Jerusalem, and from that time until now it has been in building, and it is not yet finished." (Ezra 5:16)

Dedication

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Hymn #478**

1. Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; to His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.
3. Fatherlike He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.
4. Angels, help us to adore Him: Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

***Charge and Benediction**

(Refer to slide for lyrics)

***Postlude**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

Lord, I Give Myself to You

Jordan

Notes



Order of Worship

11:00 a.m. Service

September 12, 2021

PREPARATION

Opening Music (10:45)

ADORATION

Prelude

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Blake

Introit

Lord We Come to Worship You

Folts

Call to Worship

***Hymn #415**

Come Labor On

1. Come, labor on! Who dares stand idle, on the harvest plain
While all around him waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say, Go work today.
2. Come, labor on! Claim the high calling angels cannot share—
To young and old the Gospel gladness bear;
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.
3. Come, labor on! The enemy is watching night and day,
To sow the tares, to snatch the seed away;
While we in sleep our duty have forgot, He slumbered not.
4. Come, labor on! Away with gloomy doubts and faithless fear!
No arm so weak but may do service here:
By feeblest agents may our God fulfill His righteous will.
5. Come, labor on! No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
Till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,
And a glad sound comes with the setting sun, well done, well done!
6. Come, labor on! The toil is pleasant, the reward is sure;
Blessèd are those who to the end endure;
How full their joy, how deep their rest shall be, O Lord, with Thee!

CONFESSIO

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

God of the future: you are coming in power to bring nations under your rule. We confess that we do not expect your kingdom. We live casual lives and ignore your promised judgment. Judge us, O God, for we are slow to serve you. Forgive us, for the sake of your faithful servant Jesus, our Savior, whose triumph we want and eagerly wait for.

*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 *Peaceful Rest* Smith

*Doxology

*Prayer of Commitment and the Lord's Prayer

*Choral Response

Anthem *A Prayer for Our Time* Martin

PROCLAMATION

Scripture Reading:

Mark 16:1-8

¹ When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

⁴ And looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back—it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe, and they were alarmed. ⁶ And he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you." ⁸ And they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children's Time

*Hymn #291

O God of Earth and Altar

1. O God of earth and altar, bow down and hear our cry, our earthly rulers falter, our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us, the swords of scorn divide, take not thy thunder from us, but take away our pride.
2. From all that terror teaches, from lies of tongue and pen, from all the easy speeches that comfort cruel men,
From sale and profanation of honour and the sword, from sleep and from damnation, deliver us, good Lord!

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 5:11-17

¹¹ And this was their reply to us: "We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished. ¹² But because our fathers had angered the God of heaven, he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean, who destroyed this house and carried away the people to Babylonia. ¹³ However, in the first year of Cyrus king of Babylon, Cyrus the king made a decree that this house of God should be rebuilt. ¹⁴ And the gold and silver vessels of the house of God, which Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple that was in Jerusalem and brought into the temple of Babylon, these Cyrus the king took out of the temple of Babylon, and they were delivered to one whose name was Sheshbazzar, whom he had made governor; ¹⁵ and he said to him, 'Take these vessels, go and put them in the temple that is in Jerusalem, and let the house of God be rebuilt on its site.' ¹⁶ Then this Sheshbazzar came and laid the foundations of the house of God that is in Jerusalem, and from that time until now it has been in building, and it is not yet finished. ¹⁷ Therefore, if it seems good to the king, let search be made in the royal archives there in Babylon, to see whether a decree was issued by Cyrus the king for the rebuilding of this house of God in Jerusalem. And let the king send us his pleasure in this matter."

Sermon

Rev. Dr. David H. Green

Rebuilding After Tragedy

*"But because our fathers had angered the God of heaven,
he gave them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, the Chaldean,
who destroyed this house and carried away the people to Babylonia." (Ezra 5:12)*

DEDICATION

Prayers of the People

***Hymn #478**

Praise My Soul the King of Heaven

1. Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven; to His feet thy tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.
3. Fatherlike He tends and spares us; well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hands He gently bears us, rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.
4. Angels, help us to adore Him: Ye behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.

***Charge and Benediction**

***Closing Response**

Lord, I Give Myself to You

(Refer to slide for lyrics)

***Postlude**

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Jordan



Covid Protocol

With the increase of Covid cases in Montgomery County, and in an effort to follow CISD protocol, we are asking that everyone who visits the church or day school sign in before entering the building. Face masks are still optional for church services and activities, but anyone entering the day school while children are present are asked to wear a mask. Thank you for understanding.

Wednesday Night Live (WNL) Dinners are Back September 15th

The Fall WNL season opens September 15th 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.

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 to meet a goal of 100 boxes.

If you would like to make a contribution toward the purchase of items for the boxes, please make checks payable to the church with a notation that it is for "Seafarer's boxes". Shopping will be underway through October, with packing being done on November 4th. Please call Susan Buckley for additional information as to how you can help.

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 September 19th

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	\$448,965
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 5th

10:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service - 95

10:00 a.m. Online Worship Service - 120

Total Attendance - 215

Today's Worship Leader

Martha Haines

Today's Flowers

Today's flowers are given to the glory of God by Jean Heasley and Kellye Helleck & family,
in memory of Scott Heasley.

Save the Date

Future Planning

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

September 18 - Family Move Night

September 19 - Youth Sunday/Session Meeting

September 22 - Autumn begins

Calendar of Weekly Events

Sunday <i>September 12</i>	<p>8:30 a.m. Communion and Prayer Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Fellowship (Bistro)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship class with Cara Wood: A Bible study on the C.S. Lewis Book, “<i>The Screwtape Letters</i>” (Zoom Meeting ID: 267 960 141, Password: 330714) https://zoom.us/j/267960141 (or call +1 346 248 7799, 267960141#)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105): Paul's letter to the Colossians.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Young & U Sunday School Class (young adults and university age students) (Library)</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Facebook Live www.facebook.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p>
Monday <i>September 13</i>	<p>Labor Day Holiday (PDS and FPC Closed)</p>
Tuesday <i>September 14</i>	<p>7:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study (Pastor's office and Zoom Meeting ID: 844 897 863, Password: 77304)</p>
Wednesday <i>September 15</i>	<p>9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. FPC Staff Meeting (Zoom Meeting ID available by invitation)</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p> <p>7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Sanctuary)</p>
Sunday <i>September 19</i>	<p>8:30 a.m. Communion and Prayer Service (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Fellowship (Bistro)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship class with Cara Wood: A Bible study on the C.S. Lewis Book, “<i>The Screwtape Letters</i>” (Zoom Meeting ID: 267 960 141, Password: 330714) https://zoom.us/j/267960141 (or call +1 346 248 7799, 267960141#)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105): Paul's letter to the Colossians.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Young & U Sunday School Class (young adults and university age students) (Library)</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship in (Narthex)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Facebook Live www.facebook.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p>

***If you have any questions about the calendar of events,
please visit the website at fpcconroe.org, or contact the group leader.***



**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 4th 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 7th and delivered to the Seafarers' Center the following week.

Ministry Leaders

Ministry Team Leaders

<i>Administration:</i>	Jay Swoboda (2022, Chair)
<i>Building & 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



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