

# First Presbyterian Church

December 12, 2021



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Annual Christmas Pageant



Remarks

Rev. Dr. David H. Green

Our Christmas Carol: Christmas Present

*“And the crowds asked him, ‘What then shall we do?’”* (Luke 3:10)

Dedication

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation to the Table

Prayers of the People

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer of thanksgiving

\*Hymn #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. (Refrain)

2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Charge and Benediction

3. Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

\*Postlude

Pastoral Symphony

Handel

\*Please stand if able.

### *Copyright Information*

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†

**“All is Well” Words and Music by Michael W. Smith and Wayne Kirkpatrick Arr.**  
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### *Visitors, Welcome to FPC*

First Presbyterian Church of Conroe welcomes you. 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 [fpconroe.org](http://fpconroe.org) and fill out the Visitor form online, or on page 17 of this bulletin. We appreciate you joining us for services today, whether online or in person.

# WELCOME

# 11:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE

## Preparation

Opening Music

## Adoration

Introit

*Praise Him, O Praise Him*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Don and Elizabeth Yates

Call to Worship

\*Hymn #9

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!
2. O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by Thine advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

## Confession

\*Call to Confession

\*Prayer of Confession

God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you move toward us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

\*Silent Prayer of Confession

\*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

*The Holly and the Ivy*

*Rawsthorne*

\*Doxology

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

\*Choral Response

*Proclamation*

**Children's Pageant**

\*Hymn #2

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

1. Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.
2. Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
Rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all-sufficient merit  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Scripture Reading

Luke 3:10-18

Sermon

Rev. Dr. David H. Green

Our Christmas Carol: Christmas Present

*"And the crowds asked him, 'What then shall we do?'"* (Luke 3:10)

## Dedication

### Prayers of the People

\*Hymn #29

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light. (Refrain)

2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! above the earth,  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

### Charge and Benediction

3. Down in a lowly manger  
The humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

\*Closing Response

\*Postlude

*Pastoral Symphony*

*Handel*

\*Please stand if able.

## ***This Week's Scripture Readings***

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Scripture Reading:

Luke 3:10-18

<sup>10</sup> And the crowds asked him, "What then shall we do?"

<sup>11</sup> And he answered them, "Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise."

<sup>12</sup> Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?"

<sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do."

<sup>14</sup> Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages."

<sup>15</sup> As the people were in expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

<sup>18</sup> So with many other exhortations he preached good news to the people.



# *Notes*



### *Meeting of the Congregation December 19, 2021*

Next Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, we will have a Meeting of the Congregation to formally elect our new church officers. This will take place during the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We hope you will join us for this important occasion.

### *Christmas Joy Offering*

One of the three annual special offerings that our congregation has remained committed to, over many years, is the Christmas Joy Offering. Working with our Presbytery and The Presbyterian Mission Agency in Louisville, we provide funds to be used as follows: 50% for retired and current church workers who have encountered financial and physical problems, and 50% for educational needs for students at faith-based Presbyterian and minority schools and colleges. Traditionally, this offering is collected at our Christmas Eve Services. However, if you cannot attend these services, please help by sending your check to First Presbyterian Church and indicate that it is for the Joy Offering, or donate **online by going to our website at [fpcConroe.org](http://fpcConroe.org) and click on the "Give" tab.** If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Thank you and Merry Christmas.

### *Gingerbread House Event & Movie Night December 18<sup>th</sup>*



Join us for hot dogs, hot chocolate and family fun in the Family Life Center as you decorate your gingerbread house, The cost is **only \$5 per house.** We'll decorate from 6:00-7:00 p.m., then enjoy Family Movie Night with **"Mickey's Christmas Carol"** from 7:00-7:30 p.m.

Register today for \$5.00 at the FPC or PDS office, or contact Dena Sowden at [DSowden@fpcconroe.org](mailto:DSowden@fpcconroe.org) or call 936-756-8884.

*Reminder: This is the last day for poinsettia dedications.  
Forms are on the tables in the back of the Sanctuary.*

*Financial Report*  
(2021 YTD as of 11/30/21)

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Revenue	\$644,875	\$619,195
Expenses	\$680,125	\$665,910

*Stewardship Campaign for 2022*

To fellow members of FPC-C:

I would like to update you on the status of our current Stewardship Campaign for the 2022 Budget. As of December 16, 2021, we have received 74 pledges (10 of which are new pledges) for a total amount of \$445,873.12 or an average of \$6,025.31 per pledge. This puts us about 75% of the way to a pledge income total needed to balance the 2022 Operating Budget. While this is a good start, there are still 33 pledging units (~\$133,000 in potential revenue) who made a commitment for the 2021 budget but have not, as of today, responded to the 2022 budget campaign. I would encourage those who have not responded to prayerfully consider continuing your financial support of the church. If you intend to pledge, please submit your pledge card in next couple of weeks, so that we may finalize our 2022 Budget prior to year-end. I continue to pray (and hope that you do also) for the welfare and programs of our church.

REMINDER! For those of you who are considering making a donation of stock to the church or making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly from your IRA to the church for the calendar year 2021, this memo is to remind you that the transaction must be completed by 12/31/2021 if you want the contribution to be a tax deduction for 2021. However, please try to complete transactions before **the last week in December to avoid a last minute “glitch” that may keep you from being eligible for a 2021 tax deduction.** Sharon VanSchuyver has paperwork in the church office that greatly facilitates the stock donation process, so please feel to contact Sharon if you wish to donate stock.

Also, for those who intend to pre-pay their pledge for 2022 in the calendar year 2021, please note that this should be completed before the last week in December as mentioned above.

-Fred Kate; Stewardship/Finance Coordinator

## Prayer List

Members: The family of Doris Myers, Roy Kessler, Mary Hudson, Jean Ball, George Shackelford, Margaret Hill, Kim Phillip, Flem Keathley, Carolyn Hebert, Paul Ivison, Lorraine Bosse, Don and Doris Myers, Margaret Carson, Fay Harrison, Clyde Cruikshank, Virginia Tamborello, Ben Hughes, Jeanette DeFee, Polly Miller, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier, Tom Braaten

Members' Relatives & Friends: Jack W. and Jenny C. (Cannon), William W. (Weinburger), Freddy G. (Taylor), Lynda H. and Amy D. (Ebanks), Sherry B. (Harrison), Mitchell B. (Blott), Maria H. (Hughes), Kellye H. and Jeffrey H. (Heasley), Sabra S. (Swoboda), Deborah R. (Rose), Jack S. and Jay, Katie B. (Pohla), Wendy S. (Adamson), Harry S., Jr. (Havens), 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)**, 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, December 5<sup>th</sup>

8:30 a.m. Prayer and Communion - 11

11:00 a.m. Worship Services - 175

Online Worship Attendance - 96

Total Attendance - 305

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

Mark Sowden

### ***Today's Flowers***

Today's flowers are given for the glory of God by:

Bob and Paula Shepherd, in celebration of Christ's birth.

Kellye Heasley, in loving memory of her father, Lynnwood Heasley.

## Calendar of Weekly Events

<p>Sunday <i>December 12</i></p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Communion and Prayer (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Fellowship (Bistro)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship class with Cara Wood: An <b>Advent study based on Isaiah 9:6 and the book by Walter Brueggemann, <i>Names for the Messiah</i></b>. (Room 204 or 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>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 &amp; U Sunday School Class (young adults and university age students) (Library and Zoom <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86497519299?pwd=cktiTmZ5SEM1SWZpNWRLUWhwS1lxQT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86497519299?</a> Meeting ID: 864 9751 9299 Passcode: 77304)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith (Rm. 207) <i>The Master Plan: My Journey from Life in Prison to a Life of Purpose</i>, by Chris Wilson, together with <i>Restoring Peace: Using Lessons From Prison to Mend Broken Relationships</i>, by Kirk Blackard.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Wanderers (Parlor) <i>Christmas from the Backside</i>, by J. Ellsworth Kalas.</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Facebook Live <a href="http://www.facebook.com/fpcConroe">www.facebook.com/fpcConroe</a> or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p>
<p>Monday <i>December 13</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Afternoon Bible Study (Youth Commons Area)</p>
<p>Tuesday <i>December 14</i></p>	<p>7:30 a.m. Tuesday Morning Bible Study (Zoom Meeting ID: 844 897 863, Password: 77304))</p>
<p>Wednesday <i>December 15</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)</p> <p>10:30 a.m. FPC Staff Meeting (Zoom ID available by invitation)</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary)</p> <p>The Spark (Gym)</p> <p>Disciple Bible Study (Room 105 and Zoom 879 2931 2569 passcode 77304) WILL RETURN JANUARY 5</p> <p>7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Sanctuary)</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Sunday December 19</p>	<p>8:30 a.m. Communion and Prayer (Sanctuary)</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Fellowship (Bistro)</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship class with Cara Wood: An <b>Advent study based on Isaiah 9:6 and the book by Walter Brueggemann, <i>Names for the Messiah</i></b>. (Room 204 or 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>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 &amp; U Sunday School Class (young adults and university age students) (Library and Zoom <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86497519299?pwd=cktiTmZ5SEM1SWZpNWRLUWhwS1lxQT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86497519299?pwd=cktiTmZ5SEM1SWZpNWRLUWhwS1lxQT09</a> Meeting ID: 864 9751 9299 Passcode: 77304))</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith (<i>Rm. 207</i>) <i>The Master Plan: My Journey from Life in Prison to a Life of Purpose</i>, by Chris Wilson, together with <i>Restoring Peace: Using Lessons From Prison to Mend Broken Relationships</i>, by Kirk Blackard.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Wanderers (<i>Parlor</i>) <i>Christmas from the Backside</i>, by J. Ellsworth Kalas.</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narhex)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Facebook Live <a href="http://www.facebook.com/fpcConroe">www.facebook.com/fpcConroe</a> or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Session Meeting (Rm. 105)</p>
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## Save the Date

December 18	Family Movie Night
December 19	Session Meeting
December 24	Christmas Eve Services
December 25	Christmas Day
December 26 & 27	Christmas Day Observed (FPC office closed)

January 1

A graphic with a dark background and a vertical wood-grain texture. The text "Happy New Year!" is written in a golden-yellow, serif font, centered on the image.

## Ministry Leaders

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

# A Handful of Weeds

A young, poor girl was on her way to church on Christmas Eve. She had no money for a Christmas gift for the church; so on her way to mass, she stopped and picked a handful of “weeds” from the side of the dusty road. The girl brought the native Mexican “weeds” into the church and set them on the altar during the service. The “weeds” burst into brilliant, bright red color as they lay in the church.



Since then, poinsettias, which require short days to bloom, have been a traditional part of the people’s holiday. This legend might explain why many people today still use the poinsettia to decorate their home during the Advent season.

We, at First Presbyterian Church, will fill our sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season because of their vibrant colors. The red symbolizes God’s love for us and the green symbolizes everlasting life.

To help us bring these meanings to life in the church, you may purchase a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, a special occasion or a relevant event. Simply complete the information below, and enclose \$12 for each poinsettia. Place your form and cash/check in the collection plate or return to the church office. Thank you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of desired poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Dedicated to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Please print clearly)



## Visitor Form

*Thank you for coming! We would love to get to know you.*

Please complete this form and drop it in the offertory box at the back of the church. Or, if you would prefer to complete this form online, please visit our website at [www.FPCConroe.org](http://www.FPCConroe.org).

### Member Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

### Spouse's Information

Spouse's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

### Children's Information

Children's Names (Please indicate last name if different):

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Getting Involved in the Life of the Church

(Please check all that apply)

- I would like more information about membership
- I would like information about baptism
- I would like to be contacted by a Stephen Minister
- Contact me about getting involved in the church

## Please contact me regarding:

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Sunday School

\_\_\_\_\_ Bible Studies

\_\_\_\_\_ Children & Nursery

\_\_\_\_\_ Men's groups

\_\_\_\_\_ Women's groups

\_\_\_\_\_ Greeters

\_\_\_\_\_ Handbells/Choir

\_\_\_\_\_ Youth choir

Other:

## How did you first hear about us? (Please circle one)

Facebook

Drive by

Website

Friend/Family

Other

**Member Information for Church Directory**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Conroe**

Please list all information you would like included in the new directory. There is not a limit to phone numbers or email addresses.

**Member Information**

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

**Spouse's Information**

Spouse's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY): \_\_\_\_\_

**Children's Information**

Children's Names (Please indicate last name if different):

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Staff and Church Information

### 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



First Presbyterian Church  
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Website: [www.fpccconroe.org](http://www.fpccconroe.org)