

First Presbyterian Church

June 18, 2023



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Preparation

Opening Music

Adoration

Introit

Holy Spirit, Lord of Love

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

*Hymn #476

O Worship the King, All Glorious Above!

1. O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing God's power and God's love;
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.
2. O tell of God's might, O sing of God's grace,
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
The chariots of heaven the deep thunderclouds form,
And bright is God's path on the wings of the storm.
5. Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
In Thee do we trust, nor find Thee to fail;
Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
Our maker, defender, redeemer, and friend.

Confession

*Call to Confession

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we are not an obedient church. We ignore your law and fail to do your will. We resist your love and cannot hear the cry of others. Forgive us, we pray, and free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Silent Prayer of Confession

*Assurance of Pardon

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

*Gloria Patri

Welcome and Announcements

Minute for Mission

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

*Doxology

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

*Choral Response

*Anthem

Father of Light

Courtney

Proclamation

Scripture Reading

Hosea 11:1-2

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Time

*Hymn #260

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.
2. Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth, His Name, from age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.
4. That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him Who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

Scripture Reading

Luke 15:11-32

Sermon

A Father's Freedom

Rev. Victor Harris

Dedication

*Prayers of the People

*Hymn #281

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

*Charge and Benediction

*Closing Response

Spirit of God

Spirit of God, Spirit of God,
Be with us daily, With us abide
While we are busy, While we are tired,
While we are joyous,
While we are worried
While we are longing for You.
Spirit of God, Spirit of God,
Show us Your presence, Always be by our side.

*Postlude

*Please stand if able.



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 fpcConroe.org. There you can fill out the Visitor form online, or you can do so now, on page 15 of this bulletin. We appreciate you joining us for services today, whether online or in person.

WELCOME

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"Father of Light" lyrics by Susan Bentall Boersma, music by Craig Courtney

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CCL # 2714264

"Spirit of God" by Brandon Folts. Copyright © 2009. All rights reserved

This Week's Scripture Readings

OT Scripture Reading

Hosea 11:1-2

¹ When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. ² The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

NT Scripture Reading

Luke 15:11-32

¹¹ And he said, **“There was a man who had two sons.** ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to [a](#) one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ **“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!** ¹⁸ **I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.** ¹⁹ **I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”** ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ **And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’** ²² **But the father said to his servants, [a](#) ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.** ²³ **And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.** ²⁴ **For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.**

²⁵ **"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew** near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, **'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.'** ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he **answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I** never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the **fattened calf for him!'** ³¹ **And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with** me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother **was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"**

Notes



The Wanderers' Summer Sunday School Schedule

The Wanderers Sunday School class is taking a break in June, but will begin meeting again on Sunday, July 10th, to study "Unfinished: Filling the Hole in Our Gospel", by Richard Stearns. If you are interested in joining the class, or want additional information, please contact Steve or Catherine Scheffler at scscheffler@sbcglobal.net.

Save the Dates - New Church Directory Photos

FPC will publish a new churchwide directory this fall. Our photography dates will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, August 29-31, here at the church. More details, including sign-up instructions, will be communicated soon.

Pastoral Care

Greetings from Reverend Callie Candee! I'm so grateful to have been asked to assist with pastoral care duties here at First Presbyterian Church-Conroe. I'll be available for phone and home visits while Dr. Green is out on medical leave. I'm carrying the church's emergency phone and can be contacted directly at (936) 290-4535.

Sunday Greeters Needed

Sunday morning greeters are needed for the 11:00 a.m. service. If you would like to volunteer, please call or text Judy Weinburger at (713) 202-8458.

Presbyterian Day School Registration



PDS enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year is growing in number. If you, or someone you know, is seeking exceptional care and a stimulating curriculum, let them know about our program

VBS Help Wanted

We will be having a volunteer meeting on Sunday, July 9, from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Afterward, there will be a work/set-up afternoon as we prepare for VBS. New volunteers should really try to be at the volunteer meeting if possible. Any help with set-up would be greatly appreciated!

Contact Dena Sowden to volunteer to help with VBS, even if just for a day. (979) 255-2096 or email DSowden@FPCConroe.org. Every little bit helps and this is an amazing opportunity to spread the love of Christ in your very own community.

Montgomery County Women's Shelter Outreach

Thanks to the response requesting assistance in preparing a meal for the **Montgomery County Women's Shelter, we are now ready to launch this latest opportunity to serve** our community. Volunteers to prepare the meal have stepped forward and the Missions Ministry has generously donated the funding.

We will be alternating the third Saturday with our sister church, Woodlands Community Presbyterian. Our first meal preparation will be Saturday, July 15, at 10:00 a.m. in the FLC Kitchen. Therefore, we will be responsible for providing a meal for six months per year.

It is not too late to join this worthwhile cause. If you are unable to help in the kitchen, donations of desserts or other food items are always welcome. We will not be serving the meal, but instead be sending it to the shelter. Non-food items, such as disposable cooking pans and take-out containers are needed, so there are several ways for you to participate.

Thank you for considering serving. Your participation would provide great comfort to the men, women, and children in need of Christian love and a nutritious wholesome meal. Please contact Shirley Dukes at (936) 760-8655 by phone or text.

We Welcome Guest Speaker, Rev. Victor E. Harris, Jr.

Rev. Harris is a member of PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, an organization that trains lay chaplains who serve in hospitals across Greater Houston and surrounding counties, seven states and five international locations. We are excited and grateful that he is here at FPC to share his insights with us this Sunday.



POP Staff: L to R: Chaplain
AnneMarie Wallace: Rev. Kelvin Cox,
Sr.; Rev. Victor Harris, Jr.
and Cherie Brown

Prayer List

Members: Andrea Spengel, Joanne Deaver, Tildon Hebert, Fay Harrison, Rev. David Green, Audrey Christie, Ron Bailey, Alice Helms, Polly Miller, Cindy Watson, Jean Ball, Roy Kessler, Mary Hudson, Flem Keathley, Carolyn Hebert, Paul Ivison, Don Myer, Margaret Carson, Clyde Cruikshank, Virginia Tamborello, Jeanne Leverette, Virginia Olivier, Tom Braaten

Members' Relatives & Friends: Beth D. (Davis), Lynn G. (Shepherd), the family of Allen H. (FPC Staff), the family of Ryan H. (Hughes), Lonnie H. and Vivian M. (Hammonds), Betty C. (Gill), Geneveve W. (Morton), Wendy C. and Marty M. (Harshbarger), Kathy S. (Kate), Betty C. (Powell), Wendy C., Christy V. (Massey), Steve T. (Neva & Dana), Eddie S. & Harry S., Jr. (Havens), Cherlyn R., Carrie U., Gloria S. (Ganek), Ethan H. (Lowery), John R. (Hethershaw), Mitch B. (Blott), James M., Patty M., Enrique E. (Moore), William W. (Weinburger), Sherry B. (Harrison), Jeffrey H. & Leah H. (Heasley), Deborah R. (Rose), Katie B. (Pohla), Wendy S. (Adamson), Krissy P. & family (Kasmiersky), Judy N. (Dukes), Sherry M. (Garrison), Lee H. (Helms), Caleb & Michaela W. (Henderson), Lena & her children (Webb), Gerald H. (Roberts), Tamara B. (Harrison), Sydney H. and Martha K. (Juhl), Tucker H. (Hudson), Nikkia (Wimberly), Dana K. (Shorts)

Good Things to Know

Attendance

Sunday, June 11th

11:00 a.m. Worship Service - 117

Online Worship Attendance - 28

Total Attendance – 145

Today's Worship Leader

Mark Sowden/FPC Youth

Ministry Leaders

Administration	Cheryl Nichols (2025, Chair)
Building & Grounds	Stephan Tibbetts (2025, Chair)
Care-Prayer	Bob Shepherd (2023, Chair)
Discipleship	Mark Sowden (2024, Chair) Dena Sowden (2023) Jeselyn Graham (2024) Alex Williams (2024)
Fellowship	Audrey Christie (2024, Chair)
Membership	Steve Scheffler (2025)
Missions	Bobby Ezell (2024, Chair) Catherine Scheffler (2025)
PDS	Sharon Walker (2025, Chair)
Worship	Chuck and Janet Pohla (2023, Chairs)

Calendar of Weekly Events

<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>June 18</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105): The Book of Jude, "Contending for the Faith".</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class with Cara Wood (Rm.204). "<i>Knowing the Bible: James, a 12-Week Study</i>".</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206) .</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Facebook Live www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
<p><i>Monday</i> <i>June 19</i></p>	<p>1:30 p.m. Monday Bible Study (Parlor)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday</i> <i>June 21</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mission Sewing (Rm. 105)</p> <p>5:45 p.m. Handbells Practice (Sanctuary)</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Small Bible Study Group (Room. 206)</p> <p>7:00-8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice (Sanctuary)</p>



<p><i>Sunday</i> <i>June 25</i></p>	<p>9:30 a.m. Bereans Sunday School Class with Bob Shepherd (Rm. 105): The Book of Jude, “Contending for the Faith”.</p> <p>9:30 a.m. Fellowship Class with Cara Wood (Rm.204). <i>“Knowing the Bible: James, a 12-Week Study”.</i></p> <p>9:30 a.m. Exploring Our Faith with Susan Buckley (Rm. 206)</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Fellowship (Narthex)</p> <p>11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Facebook Live www.com/fpcConroe or YouTube.com/fpcConroe)</p> <p>5:00-7:00 p.m. The Spark (Gym)</p>
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Save the Date

June 19-22 PDS Art Day Camp

July 4 Independence Day
(Church Office Closed)

July 10-14 Vacation Bible School

July 16 VBS Sunday



Staff and Church Information

Staff

Rev. Dr. David H. Green, Senior Pastor
Dena Sowden, Director of Christian Education
Sharon VanSchuyver, Director of Communications
Stephanie Cooke, Music Director
Rolethial McKelvey, Accompanist
Jackye Cannon and Jane Corbit, Bookkeeping
Yvonne Rose, Office Manager
Shirley Dukes, Parish Nurse



First Presbyterian Church
2727 N. Loop 336 W., Conroe, TX 77304
Church Office (936) 756-8884 Fax (936) 756-8842
Website: www.fpcConroe.org

Visitor Form

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

Please complete this form by tearing it off and dropping it in the offertory plate. Or, if you would prefer to complete this form online, please visit our website at www.fpcConroe.org.

Contact Information

Name(s): _____

Home phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

Birth date (MM/DD/YYYY): _____

Children's Information

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

Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Name: _____ Birth date: _____

Name: _____ Birth date: _____

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