



FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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JUNE 12, 2022 | 10:00 AM

# RINGING OF THE BELL

## PRELUDE

*Liebster Jesu*  
M.J. GALLOP - MUSIC MINISTER

Paul Manz

## WELCOME

Rev. Lynette Ross

*If you are visiting FCC, reach out to Rev. Lynette Ross (lynette@fcc-houston.org), our sabbatical Senior Minister to learn more about the church and its ministries. She would be happy to meet with you via Zoom, in person, or over the phone.*

\*HYMN NO. 477 *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

## PRAYER

## SCRIPTURE

John 16:12-15

I have much more to tell you, but you can't bear to hear it now. When the Spirit of truth comes, she will guide you into all truth. She won't speak on her own initiative; rather, she'll speak only what she hears, and she'll announce to you things that are yet to come. In doing this, the Spirit will give glory to me, for she will take what is mine and reveal it to you. Everything that Abba God has belongs to me. This is why I said that the Spirit will take what is mine and reveal it to you.

\*SUNG RESPONSE *Spirit, Open My Heart* WILD MOUNTAIN THYME  
(SEE INSERT)

SERMON *"How Do You Know What's True?"* Rev. Lynette Ross

\*HYMN NO. 226 *Come, Teach Us, Spirit of Our God* LAND OF REST

## PASTORAL PRAYERS

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (using debts/debtors)

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.  
Amen.†**

## BRING FORTH OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

Checks or cash donations may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the FCC office. The preferred method of giving electronically is through Zelle. Zelle is available through most major bank apps under transfers and incurs no additional fees to either the donor or FCC for the gift. To use Zelle, enter the following email address:

*financialsecretary@fcc-houston.org*. FCC members can also use the Realm app on their phone or computer to make electronic donations. If you don't have the Realm app, please contact Vicki Shimer at *vicki@fcc-houston.org* for an invitation.

## OFFERTORY

### \*DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**  
**Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low;**  
**Praise Holy Spirit evermore;**  
**One God, triune, whom we adore.**  
Amen.†

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Giver, Steward, and Guide, may these gifts we bring magnify beyond the boundaries of our community to create new possibilities in the world. Amen.†

### \*HYMN NO. 439

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

SPIRITUAL

### \*OUR MISSION

**Welcome all into an inclusive community;**  
**Seek to follow Jesus' teachings;**  
**Search for more truth and light;**  
**Support one another on our faith journeys;**  
**Strive for peace and justice.†**

### \*BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

**Bold indicates congregational response.**

\*Please stand if you are able.

† As an inclusive and open faith community, we attempt to convey gender neutral images, terms, and language of God. However, some hymns, anthems, and scriptures from the past will not be changed. See fourth paragraph, page V of Hymns of Truth & Light hymnal for more information.

## **WORSHIP NOTES:**

**THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE TODAY WERE DONATED BY** Shirley & Paul Titus in celebration of their 72nd anniversary.

**MUSIC COPYRIGHT INFO:** All music is reprinted under permission of our OneLicense.net account #A-727634.

### **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & HEARING DEVICES AVAILABLE:**

For more information or assistance, please speak to one of the ushers. They will be happy to assist you.

### **STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds which are raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. FCC will receive the Strengthen the Church Special Offering today. You may donate by placing cash or check in the special envelopes in the back of the pew in front of you or through Zelle by entering the following email address: [financialsecretary@fcc-houston.org](mailto:financialsecretary@fcc-houston.org). Make sure to put "STC" as the memo regardless of donation type. Please contact Rev. Lynette Ross with any questions about Strengthen the Church.

### **PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Family & friends of Carol Riley; Rhonda & Donald Sweeney; Katherine Garcia (Bahr Mahony's sister) Beth Stork; Graces Greves (Heidi Modaro's Niece); Family & Friends of Mary Thomas (Mona Rhines' friend); Henry Isaacs; Vivian Clemons & Ethan Beaty (wife & great-nephew of Chuck Clemons); Sharon Smith, (friend of Diane Brahm); Liz Tucker (daughter of Rachel & Jim Tucker); Brad Gowan (friend of Michael Schafer and Ellen Benninghoven), Family & friends of Shirley Gilford (friend of Joyce Huffman); Jennifer Novak (friend of Janice Vanderbur); Audra Firestone (friend of Naomi Black); Tom Johnson (Martha Johnson's brother); Lindsey Byrd (daughter-in-law of Paul & Mary Byrd); Martha Boyd (mother of Robin Stilwell); Carlene Shirk; Jade Allen; Lee Menard (friend of Tom O'Neill); Claire Cardwell; Jonathan & Carolyn Hutchison (Naomi Black's brother & sister-in-law); Joel Fokom (father of one of Heather Davis' Brownie Girl Scouts); Jennifer Schafer (Michael Schafer's daughter-in-law); John & Sue Anne Pieroni (Mary Harper's brother and sister-in-law); Jennifer Chapin (Robin Stilwell's friend); John Stroehlein (MaryBeth Baun Pappas' friend); Mark Scallan; Frances Davis (Mary Harper's friend); Jenny Johnston (Kryisia Lynes' friend).

### **NEXT WEEK: SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Sermon: "Thirsting for God" by Rev. Lynette Ross

Scripture: Psalm 42

## **COVID CONSCIOUSNESS REMINDER**

As we are sure you know from the news, there is an increase in COVID happening. Fortunately, most of us are fully vaccinated which lessens our risk significantly, but does not eliminate it entirely. We do have members testing positive and thankfully they are doing well. We encourage everyone to make thoughtful choices regarding wearing masks at church and in public.

## **COFFEE, TEA, & CONVERSATION**

Please join us in the Assembly Room on Sunday, immediately after worship, for fellowship and refreshments.

## **CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY**

There will be Children's Sunday School this Sunday for youth ages 5-13. If your child has not attended Sunday School in the past, please be sure to see Olivia in the Narthex before service to sign them up, or email [olivia@fcc-houston.org](mailto:olivia@fcc-houston.org).

## **KIDS' MEALS VOLUNTEER DAY • THIS TUESDAY, JUNE 14 THE MISSIONS BOARD HAS SET UP KIDS' MEALS EVENT FOR JUNE 14. HERE ARE 5 GREAT REASONS TO SIGN UP!**

1. Kids' Meals delivers about 4,600 meals per day to poverty level kids who are too young to access school based free meal programs. We, the volunteers, make those lunches. One in four preschool-aged children in Houston live with food insecurity - this work is vital.
2. Sign up is incredibly easy. Just go to this link: <http://firstc.kidsmealsinc.volunteerhub.com/>. If you have already volunteered at Kids' Meals, just follow the instructions. If this is your first time, they will ask you to set up an account first. Again, just follow the instructions. Or you could email Carlton Cook at [jcarltoncook@gmail.com](mailto:jcarltoncook@gmail.com) and he will be glad to assist you.
3. We will be making lunches in the kitchen at Kids' Meals (330 Garden Oaks Blvd.) from 9 AM until noon on June 14, and it is air conditioned!
4. It's a great way to visit with friends while you help with a worthy cause. We stand around big tables, make lunches, and chat.
5. It's an easy way to get to know fellow members or make new friends at FCC. You have built in conversation starters: "Pass the bread", "Where's the mayonnaise?", etc.

## **RSVP! YOUTH ASTROS GAME • FRIDAY JUNE 17**

We have rescheduled our Astros outing! Come out to the ball game on the evening of Friday, June 17 for fellowship and fun as the Astros take on the Chicago White Sox. Youth, parents, and friends of youth ages 7 & up are welcome, and youth transportation will be provided if enough people sign up. For more details or to register, email Olivia at [olivia@fcc-houston.org](mailto:olivia@fcc-houston.org).

## **SUMMER SUPPERS STARTING!**

Thank you for signing up for Summer Suppers! Those of you who have registered should have received an email about your groups. If you have not signed up yet, you still can! We will place you into a group on a rolling basis. If you would like to sign up to participate, or if you signed up but haven't heard from a group leader, please email Olivia at [office@fcc-houston.org](mailto:office@fcc-houston.org).

## **MAM: VOLUNTEER AT THE RESALE STORE IN THE HEIGHTS!**

Do you love thrift shopping? Do you consider yourself a people person? Would you like to put your time toward a meaningful cause in your community? If so, volunteering at our soon-to-open Heights location may be a great fit! The sales from MAM's Resale Store & Boutique help to fund MAM's programs, which help nearly 5,000 families each year with employment, English language skills, financial literacy, emergency financial assistance, mental health counseling, and other basic needs. We are looking for volunteers to help in the following ways:

- Resale Store: greet customers and clients, organize and restock the store, and create a welcoming environment.
- Donations Processing: help receive and sort donations, price incoming donations, and restock store with new inventory. Especially looking for folks with knowledge of ladies' and men's clothing, shoes, and accessories, as well as housewares.
- Volunteer Shifts will be 4 hours, 1x/week, for 6 months to start. MAM's new Resale Store will be opening in June, 2022.

Thank you for your interest! Questions? Call, text, or email Adrienne McGee at 713-396-5903 or [amcgee@mamhouston.org](mailto:amcgee@mamhouston.org).

## **ROBB ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEMORIAL FUND**

If you would like to help families affected by the Robb Elementary School Shooting, a Financial Local Designated Fund has been set up as the preferred option of assistance. You may donate by check, Zelle, or PayPal by following the instructions below.

- Donations can be received at any First State Bank branch.
- Make all checks payable to the "Robb School Memorial Fund." Please mail checks to 200 E Nopal St. Uvalde, TX 78801.
- For Zelle Donations, enter the following email as the recipient: [robbschoolmemorialfund@gmail.com](mailto:robbschoolmemorialfund@gmail.com).
- For PayPal Donations, visit the following link: [https://www.texasbankers.com/Foundation/Donate\\_/Foundation/Foundation/Donate/Foundation\\_Gift.aspx](https://www.texasbankers.com/Foundation/Donate_/Foundation/Foundation/Donate/Foundation_Gift.aspx).

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, email Lesli Remaly with UCC Disaster Ministries at [remaly@ucc.org](mailto:remaly@ucc.org).

## **REFUGEE ASSISTANCE UPDATE**

We are in our fourth month of the six-month commitment to support our refugee family. As you know, we are actually assisting 7 families to get resettled here in Houston in various ways. In addition to the activities listed below, here are a couple of activities new volunteers can assist with:

- Assist with baby-sitting during English lessons - call Phyllis Roberts at 281-352-6535 for more information or if you want to help.
- Moving Furniture - We will be moving furniture to a new refugee's home and/or storage, likely around June 11-12. Call Chuck Stilwell at 406-491-1129 or Jim Tucker at 301-807-9255 if you would like to help.

- We have helped seven Afghan families in various ways in the last 4 months in their effort to resettle here in Houston. All families now have a comfortable home apartment and jobs with a steady income. Here's some ongoing activities which we are doing with the refugee families we are assisting.
- Learning English - Volunteers continue to assist families in finding ways to learn English
- Upgrading/improving Jobs - We are assisting several families in finding better job situations. While all families currently have jobs, several have family members which are well educated and currently under-employed. Also, several want jobs which don't require a long commute (need job closer to home). FCC volunteers will assist these families in improving their job situations.
- Transportation options - Providing all families bicycles, and assisting them learn the Houston bus system. Some have entered driving school to get their driver's license.
- Finding homes for furniture and household goods - FCC has completed the furnishing of 7 families' apartments, but has a significant amount of donated furniture and household goods which needs to find a home. We plan to provide several other refugee homes with household goods.
- Sewing Machines - FCCers have donated multiple sewing machines for refugees. We will ensure they are all in working order, before distributing them. Several of the Afghan women who sew used foot-pedal-powered machines, so we will help them learn how to use electric machines.

We are still looking for volunteers to join our committee. Given the need of so many Afghan refugees recently arriving in Houston, we can do more if more volunteers are interested in helping out. We have weekly one-hour update calls on Wednesdays at 5pm, where we plan and coordinate our activities. Please contact Chuck Stilwell at 406-491-1129 or [chuckstilwell58@gmail.com](mailto:chuckstilwell58@gmail.com), or Jim Tucker at 301-807-9255 or [jtuckergeo@aol.com](mailto:jtuckergeo@aol.com) if you're interested in volunteering or helping with material goods. We are glad to answer any questions you may have.

Finally, in addition to the core group of 8-10 volunteers assisting with the families, we want to give a BIG THANK YOU to the numerous FCC members and visitors who have provided monetary and material donations over the last 4 months. Numerous household goods, personal items, and over \$3000 of donations have been received so far. This project has truly been a church-wide effort.

### **JOIN THE ANCHOR TEAM!**

If you would like to help visitors and new members feel more a part of FCC, join the Anchor Team. As visitors and new members join FCC, you will be paired up with them to invite them to events, checking in on them, and maybe getting lunch occasionally. If you are interested in being on the Anchor Team or have questions, please contact Olivia at [office@fcc-houston.org](mailto:office@fcc-houston.org).

### **WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

If you would like to submit an announcement or any other content to the Newsletter or Bulletin, please email your submissions to the office at [office@fcc-houston.org](mailto:office@fcc-houston.org) **before 2 PM** on Wednesdays. Submissions received after this time will be considered for publication the following week.

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HOUSTON

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## Church Council Members:

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In case of emergencies, contact Rev. Lynette Ross at 281-235-5394.



FCC is an Open and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ. We joyfully welcome everyone regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.