



*First  
Congregational  
Church of Houston*

THE EIGHTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST

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JULY 31, 2022 | 10:00 AM

# RINGING OF THE BELL

## PRELUDE

*Prelude on Beach Spring*  
GUEST ORGANIST CLOUD SSU-YUN WANG

Charles Callahan

## 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. 54

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

## PRAYER

### SCRIPTURE

Matthew 10:7-10, 40-42

Anna Carothers

As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food.

Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous, and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple - truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Naomi Black

## SUNG RESPONSE NO. 281

*Spirit of the Living God*

IVERSON

## SERMON

*"True Ambition"*

Rev. Lynette Ross

## HYMN NO. 68

*The Gift of Love*

GIFT OF LOVE

## 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 Anna Carothers

*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](mailto: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](mailto:vicki@fcc-houston.org) for an invitation.*

**OFFERTORY** *How Great Thou Art* arr. J. Wayne Kerr

**\*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**

**We bring our offerings with joy and thanksgiving. May they extend a welcome to friends and neighbors, strangers and foreigners. Let the message we send be one of welcome and acceptance. Amen.†**

**\*HYMN NO. 500** *O for a World* AZMON

## \*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

*O For a Thousand Tongues*

arr. Dan Miller

**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** Krysia Lynes in loving memory of her mother, Maria Lynes.

**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.

### **ABOUT OUR GUEST ARTIST: CLOUD SSU-YUN WANG, ORGAN**

Professional musician, Cloud Ssu-yun Wang, is originally from Taiwan. She is a multi-talented musician who plays piano, organ, handbell solo, carillon, and percussion; she also composes and arranges music. Cloud graduated from Berklee College of Music, majoring in jazz vibraphone performance. Being a church musician is a calling for Cloud. She has numerous experiences serving in Presbyterian, United Methodist, Anglican, Catholic, and non-denominational churches in the past 7 years. Cloud lives in Houston and loves city life. Besides music, she enjoys cooking, eating, traveling, and playing LEGO when she is off work. Please be sure to give her a warm welcome.

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

The women, people with uteruses, people of color, and people in the LGBTQ+ community who feel despair, anger, confusion, & fear at this time; Cathy Walsh, Lucy Caire's friend; Family & friends of Lanell Windham, friend of the Stilwells; Patt Ross, Diane Brahm's sister-in-law; Jake Stahl & his family; 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); Vivian Clemons, Jacqueline Lord, & Ethan Beaty (wife, niece, & 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); 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: THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

"Restore Me" - Service of Contemplation & Communion

### **MASKS IN WORSHIP**

Worship is mask optional, but given the rising numbers of COVID cases, we would prefer that you wear a mask, even if you are vaccinated.

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

Please join us in the Assembly Room after worship for fellowship & 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).

### **ST. PETER UNITED SHOE DRIVE • ENDING TODAY**

We are collecting new or gently used shoes for the St. Peter shoe drive! Shoes will be distributed to entrepreneurs in developing countries who need inventory to open local shoe stores. These stores will supply their families with income, provide employment opportunities, and place shoes on the feet of children and adults in their communities. Please drop off any shoes in the bin in the Narthex today. For questions about dropping off shoes, contact Olivia at [office@fcc-houston.org](mailto:office@fcc-houston.org). For questions about the project or to make a monetary donation, please contact St. Peter United at [shoes@stpeterunited.com](mailto:shoes@stpeterunited.com).

## **MAM BACK TO SCHOOL FUNDRAISER DONATION MATCH, NOW - AUGUST 14**

Do you remember how excited you were to go shopping for new clothes to wear heading back to school? Having well-fitting clothes or in many cases a required uniform helps students to feel confident and approach the school year with optimism. For many years Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM) has helped foster this effort in area districts including Spring Branch, CyFair, Aldine, and HISD. Up to 5,000 students identified by their schools will receive a \$50 gift card to Old Navy so that their family can go shopping for clothing.

Most of you know that First Congregational Church was one of the small number of westside faith communities that came together in 1983 to create MAM, believing that together we can do more than we can individually. Now, there are over 30 faith communities who are members of the MAM Council.

**Your contribution made to FCC via check or online to this effort will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$2,000 if your contribution is received by August 14.** We hope to help 5,000 children - that means \$250,000! Please consider making a donation in any amount to this worthy cause over the next two months. You can write a check with the memo "MAM Back to School" or give electronically with the same memo using the instructions in the offering section. For more information about the Back to School fundraiser, email Linda Kuhnen at [cwk49lfk@gmail.com](mailto:cwk49lfk@gmail.com).

## **PEACE CAMP HOUSTON • AUGUST 1 - 5**

The Church in Society Board (CIS) is announcing the upcoming Peace Camp session for grades 7-12 from August 1-5 at Houston Mennonite Church. Peace Camp is a day camp for students in grades 1-6 and 7-12 sponsored by the Houston Peace and Justice Center. While the session for students in grades 1-6 from July 18-22 was cancelled due to low registration numbers, other programs for younger children may still be organized for later in the Summer, and updates will be given as soon as possible. Details regarding registration, dates, and tuition can be found at [hpjc.org/peace-camp/](http://hpjc.org/peace-camp/). Scholarships are available. If you have further questions, call Janet Rexroad at 832-877-2813 or Robin Stillwell at 713-702-9448.

## **RAISE UP FAMILIES BACK TO SCHOOL MEAL MISSION EVENT AUGUST 5 - 6**

Volunteer to make the Raise Up Families Back to School Meal a success! There are several ways to contribute. On **Friday, August 5 at 10 AM**, we will gather in the FCC kitchen to prepare coleslaw & potato salad and cut up watermelon. We are hoping to go to lunch afterwards as a group for some fellowship time. On **Saturday, August 6, at 3:30 PM**, we will meet at The Refuge (13150 Memorial Drive) to set up and serve an early dinner to the participating families. **If you would like to contribute a dessert**, we are happy to accept bars or cookies on the morning of Friday, August 5, or you can place a plate in the fridge during the farmer's market on Saturday, August 6. Please label them so we know if it is gluten free, dairy free, egg free, or nut free. Please also indicate on the label that the dessert is for Raise Up Families. If you will be able to join us or have questions, please contact Kryisia at [missions@fcc-houston.org](mailto:missions@fcc-houston.org) or 919-636-1137. Hope to see you there!

## **UCC SOUTHERN REGIONAL WOMEN'S RETREAT • OCTOBER 14 - 16**

Greetings to the UCC Women of the Florida, South Central, Southeast, and Southern Conferences! You are invited to attend the Southern Regional UCC Women's Retreat at Camp Weed and the Cerveny Conference Center in Live Oak, Florida October 14-16, 2022. You will value the inspiration, camaraderie, making new friends and reconnecting with old ones, learning new skills, and listening to God in a natural setting. Visit the website at <https://www.uccfla.org/meetings> for more information.

## **WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

If you would like to make an announcement, please email your submissions to [office@fcc-houston.org](mailto:office@fcc-houston.org) **before 2 PM** on Wednesdays. All submissions received after this time will be considered for publication the following week.

### **Upcoming Board Meetings**

#### **Tomorrow, August 1**

- **Church in Society Board Meeting**

- 7 PM via Zoom

#### **Monday, August 8**

- **Deacons Board Meeting**

- 7 PM via Zoom

- **Missions Board Meeting**

- 7 PM via Zoom

#### **Tuesday, August 9**

- **Trustees Board Meeting**

- 7 PM via Zoom

#### **Wednesday, August 10**

- **Communications Meeting**

- 7 PM via Zoom

#### **Thursday, August 17**

- **Church Council Meeting**

- 7 PM via Zoom

*For meeting links, please refer to the newsletter. If you do not have access to the newsletter, email [office@fcc-houston.org](mailto:office@fcc-houston.org).*

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HOUSTON

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## Church Officers:

*Moderator:* Pat Rickey | [moderator@fcc-houston.org](mailto:moderator@fcc-houston.org)

*Vice Moderator:* Robin Stilwell | [moderator-elect@fcc-houston.org](mailto:moderator-elect@fcc-houston.org)

*Treasurer:* Shawn Gleason | [treasurer@fcc-houston.org](mailto:treasurer@fcc-houston.org)

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## Church Council Members:

*At-Large Member:* Eric Toskey | [daddyeric@me.com](mailto:daddyeric@me.com)

*At-Large Member:* John Fosseen | [fosseen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fosseen@sbcglobal.net)

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## UCC Delegates:

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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.