

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2026

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## THE CHURCH GATHERS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

Setting: J.S. Bach

## GOD CALLS US TO WORSHIP

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Frances Bius, Liturgist

Leader: In the laughter of children, we hear the voice of the Gate of the Way, and find our way home.

**People: In the lap of a parent, God’s compassion cradles us in the still waters of love.**

Leader: The Shepherd of our lives leads us through that door into life with him forever.

**People: We are baptized with living waters which refresh us, restoring us to follow Jesus all our days.**

Leader: The Holy Spirit, Keeper of truth, is the Light which guides us through every shadowed moment.

**People: The Breath of life stills our worries and fears, as we are led to that peaceful place of God’s heart.**

### \*HYMN #365 (see bulletin)

“Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us”

Thrupp/Bradbury

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

Day by day, God would lead us to the places of hope and healing, while moment by moment, we continue to follow sin down all the wrong paths. Let us confess our brokenness, as we draw near to the One who would restore us to wholeness. Join me as we pray together, saying,

### \*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

*The wrong paths to foolish lives and repeated mistakes? We know all too well where they are, Gate of our lives. Stirring up the waters with trouble comes all too easy to us, we confess. And locking the doors of our hearts so we don’t have to love others is second nature to us. Lord of Goodness and Mercy, forgive us. May our hearts overflow with hope for others, as you anoint us with healing oil. May we share from our abundance with all who hunger for life. May we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, to the places of service and life with you forever. ... Our prayers continue in silence...*

### \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: Our Comforter leads us to that place where God’s Table is spread with forgiveness and overflowing with grace. Here, we are called to life and love.

**People: We will live as God’s people: forgiven to serve, blessed to share, loved so we might care.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Share the peace of Christ with one another.

### \*HYMN #369 (see bulletin)

“Surely Goodness and Mercy”

Peterson/Smith

**WE RESPOND TO GOD WITH OFFERINGS AND PRAISE**

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Adagio”

Felix Mendelssohn

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

MESSAGE FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

**WE PROCLAIM GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us now pray for our ears and hearts to be open to God’s Word: O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. As the scriptures are read, we will listen for your voice. By your Spirit lead us out of our fears and into the knowledge of your love, through Jesus Christ, the Great Shepherd of our souls. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Psalm 23:1-6

ANTHEM

“Jesus Messiah”

Heather Sorensen

SECOND READING:

John 10:1-10

SERMON

“Jesus Our Good Shepherd”

Austin Pounds

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:**

(from the Confession of Belhar)

*We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another; that unity is, therefore, both a gift and an obligation for the church of Jesus Christ; that through the working of God’s Spirit it is a binding force, yet simultaneously a reality which must be earnestly pursued and sought: one which the people of God must continually be built up to attain. This unity must become visible so that the world may believe that separation, enmity and hatred between people and groups is sin which Christ has already conquered, and accordingly that anything which threatens this unity may have no place in the church and must be resisted.*

**\*HYMN #802** (see bulletin)

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

H.W. Baker/IRISH MELODY

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Leader: May you hear the Good Shepherd’s voice that guides you into all goodness.

May you remember that the Good Shepherd saves you from the forces that seek to steal and destroy

May you continue to walk in the paths of righteousness prepared for you

People: **And may we embody the loving kindness of our Good Shepherd to the rest of his beloved sheep. Amen!**

**\*POSTLUDE**

“Come, Christians, Join to Sing”

Arr.: Don Hustad

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(\*) *We stand as we are able*

*The plant arrangement in the sanctuary is to the glory of God.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ELDERS OF THE MONTH:** Dan Jeter and Marshall McCranie

Sunday, April 26 at 4 p.m. CONFIRMATION CLASS

Monday, April 27-29 CORNERSTONES TRIP TO ST. SIMONS

Wednesday, April 29 at 5:30 p.m. WATCH SUPPER

Thursday, April 30 at 12:30 p.m. adjusted time!! CORNERSTONES LUNCH ON THE ROAD

**Sunday, May 3 at Noon CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** to elect 1 member-at-large for the Nominating Committee

Sunday, May 3 at 5 p.m. PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIRTHDAY DINNER

Monday, May 4 COX ELEMENTARY TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST

Monday, May 4 at 7 a.m. BISCUITS & BLESSINGS (youth breakfast/study)

Wednesday, May 6 at 4 p.m. PRAYER SHAWL

Wednesday, May 6 at 5:30 p.m. LAST WATCH SUPPER

Sunday, May 10 – MOTHER'S DAY & BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIRTHDAY SUNDAY, MAY 3**

All women of the church are invited to the Presbyterian Women Birthday Celebration in the Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 3rd. Bring your favorite salad. We will provide hot chicken salad and, of course, birthday cake! Our speaker will be Liz Ruiz of Project Hope, an organization serving cancer patients.

### **2026 GRADUATES CONNECTED TO FPC**

FRANCES BIUS

MARY MADISON GREENE

JACK TAUNTON

*Baccalaureate will be Sunday, May 10.*

*Please take time to highlight and sign your name in the graduate Bibles in the fellowship hall.*

### **COX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MINISTRY**

As most of you know, our church serves Cox Elementary School through our Alice Griner Backpack ministry during the school year. This year the principal has asked if we would like to participate in **Teacher Appreciation Week**. We of course, said yes, and will be providing breakfast for the teachers and staff on Mon., May 4<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Elizabeth Strickland (891-4334). Monetary donations are welcome as well! (*Please make the check out to FPC and put "Cox School Teacher Appreciation" in the memo line*).

### **WATCH SUPPER**

**RESERVATIONS:** 229-985-3158 or [firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresmoultrie@gmail.com)

**MENU, Wednesday, April 29**

**Regular & Kids:** Chicken Wings (Lemon Pepper, BBQ & Mild), Mac n Cheese, Cabbage, Cream Corn and Salad Bar

**Diet:** Baked Chicken and Steamed Veggies

**Dessert:** Peach Cobbler, Cookies & Ice Cream