

Big, Bold Stories

June 22, 2025

Welcome

to Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church

We seek to offer an inclusive and welcoming community to all those hoping to grow an intentional life of faith. We strive to share the Good News of God's love through ministries of care and compassion, working for justice and peace both in our community and around the world. As a congregation affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we affirm the dignity and belovedness of all people and welcome the gifts of every person into the life and ministry of the Church.

Notes About Our Worship Service:

- An asterisk denotes standing—in body or spirit.
- Bold text means the congregation is invited to speak aloud together.
- Notes in the margins are included to provide background and increase understanding of our service.
- Children are fully welcome in worship. Please do not worry if your child makes noise or gets the wiggles! They are an important part of our church community. Wiggle bags and books are available just outside the entrance to the sanctuary. The nursery is open for children ages 3 and under during worship. After the Time with Young Disciples kindergarten and under may leave for activities. The room to the left of the pulpit is a cry/wiggle room for when children or caregivers need to move around or have a good cry.
- Our congregation is committed to using expansive and inclusive language for God and God's people. While an element of worship may use language that assigns a particular gender to God, we strive to maintain a balance so that God's fullness might be honored.
- For our early and non-readers, icons are provided throughout the bulletin to include their participation. We suggest you encourage children to follow along using these icons throughout the service.



SPEAKING



SCRIPTURE



MUSIC



PRAY



BAPTISM



COMMUNION



OFFERING



LISTEN


Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church


Big, Bold Stories

June 22, 2025

THE GATHERING


 WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Christine Coy Fohr

 OPENING VOLUNTARY Improvisation on *The Summons* Baker


 *CALL TO WORSHIP Christine Coy Fohr
Come, children of God!
See what it is to serve our God.
See what it is to follow. See what it is to trust.
See what it is to live a life of faith.
Come, children of God!
**See what it is to serve with
energy, intelligence, imagination and love.**

 *HYMN 307 *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA


 CALL TO CONFESSION Jim Hubert


 PRAYER OF CONFESSION
Gracious God, we long for big, bold reminders of your presence — a dream in the night, a bush set ablaze, a voice in the wilderness. We want a clear message telling us when to act, how to be, and where you would have us go. And without a thundering voice leading our way, we stall. We waver. We doubt. Forgive us for hesitating in our service to you, O God. Forgive us for questioning your call. Empower us with boldness and service, that we might live as the people you have formed us to be.

Silence is kept for personal prayer.

 POURING OF THE WATERS REMINISCENT OF BAPTISM
Remember your baptism and be thankful!

 WORDS OF ASSURANCE

 *SUNG RESPONSE (HYMN 623) PEACE LIKE A RIVER
*I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river; I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.*

 *PASSING OF THE PEACE
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you!**

Every person ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) is asked the question: "will you seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love?" This month, we are looking at some of scripture's big stories and thinking about how they demonstrate ways to serve God with energy, intelligence, imagination and love. Consider how these stories instruct you as you embark on the big story of your life.



*SUNG RESPONSE (HYMN 623)

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

*I've got love like an ocean; I've got love like an ocean;
 I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.
 I've got love like an ocean; I've got love like an ocean;
 I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.*



TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

Katherine Kuper

THE WORD



PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Annie McClure



THE FIRST READING

Psalm 139: 1-6

O Lord, you have searched me,
 and you know me.
 You know if I am standing or sitting,
 you read my thoughts from far away.
 Whether I walk or lie down, you are watching;
 you are intimate with all of my ways.
 A word is not even on my tongue, O Lord,
 before you know what it is:
 you hem me in, before and behind,
 shielding me with your hand.
 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
 a height my mind cannot reach!



The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



THE SECOND READING

Esther 4: 1-17

When Mordecai learned all that had been done, Mordecai tore his clothes and put on sackcloth and ashes and went through the city, wailing with a loud and bitter cry; he went up to the entrance of the king's gate, for no one might enter the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. In every province, wherever the king's command and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting and weeping and lamenting, and most of them lay in sackcloth and ashes.

When Esther's maids and her eunuchs came and told her, the queen was deeply distressed; she sent garments to clothe Mordecai, so that he might take off his sackcloth, but he would not accept them. Then Esther called for Hathach, one of the king's eunuchs who had been appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what was happening and why. Hathach went out to Mordecai in the open square of the city in front of the king's gate, and Mordecai told him all that had happened to him and the exact sum of money that Haman had promised to pay into the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews. Mordecai also gave him a copy of the written decree issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show it to Esther, explain it to her, and charge her to go to the king to make supplication to him and to entreat him for her people.

The big, bold story of Esther is set in the Persian capital of Susa. Like Joseph and Daniel, it tells the story of Jewish people living in close proximity to foreign rulers. The book of Esther is remarkable for several reasons, including its engaging storytelling and having a woman as its central figure. Most extraordinarily, God is not once mentioned in the entire book.

Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai: "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that, if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law: to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days." When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not think that in the king's palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this." Then Esther said in reply to Mordecai, "Go, gather all the Jews to be found in Susa, and hold a fast on my behalf, and neither eat nor drink for three days, night or day. I and my maids will also fast as you do. After that I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish." Mordecai then went away and did everything as Esther had ordered him.

🗣️ The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

👂 SERMON

Christine Coy Fohr

🗣️ *AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (from A Brief Statement of Faith) Katherine Kubar

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

🕯️ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE + THE LORD'S PRAYER

Katherine Kubar

*Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.*

Our Father, 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.

🙏 INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Christine Coy Fohr

🎵 OFFERTORY

How Can I Keep From Singing
Summer Choir

arr. Mark Schweizer

🎵 *DOXOLOGY (Hymn 837)

SHOWALTER

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,*

The Prayers of the People invite us to bring our prayers to God for ourselves, our communities and our world.

To give your offering online, simply scan the QR Code below.



*leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.*



***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We dedicate these gifts to you, O God:

to your realm of compassion and peace.

May these offerings be used to your glory,

offering hope and empowering love in word and deed. Amen.

THE SENDING

*Written by John Bell
and Graham Maule,
our closing hymn
reminds us that each of
us is called into the big,
bold story of God's
love.*



***HYMN**

We Rejoice to be God's Chosen

NETTLETON

*We rejoice to be God's chosen
not through virtue, work or skill,
but because God's love is generous,
unconformed to human will.
And because God's love is restless
like the surging of the sea,
we are pulled by heaven's dynamic
to become not just to be.*

*We rejoice to be God's chosen,
to be gathered to God's side,
not to build a pious ghetto
or be steeped in selfish pride;
but to celebrate the goodness
of the One who sets us free
from the smallness of our vision
to become, not just to be.*

*We rejoice to be God's chosen,
to align with heaven's intent,
to await where we are summoned
and accept where we are sent.
We rejoice to be God's chosen
and, amidst all that we see,
to anticipate with wonder
that the best is yet to be.*

***Just as the Opening
Voluntary prepares us
for worship, the Closing
Voluntary sends us
forth with God's
blessing. You are
welcome to remain
seated or to leave
during the Closing
Voluntary. If you
choose to leave, please
do so quietly, waiting
until you are in the
Foyer to enjoy
fellowship with one
another.*



***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Christine Coy Fohr



****CLOSING VOLUNTARY *God of Grace and God of Glory***

arr. Paul Manz

Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Christine Coy Fohr, Pastor
Rev. Katherine Kubar, Associate Pastor for Discipleship
Renata DeWees, Director of Youth Ministries (6th — 12th)
Kristy Hubert, Co-Coordinator of Pastoral Care
Rev. Jim Hubert, Co-Coordinator of Pastoral Care
Larry Brandenburg, Minister of Music
Tim Baker, Organist/Assistant Director of Music
Beth Brandenburg, Director of Children's Choir
Tessy Farrell, Nursery Coordinator
Amy Squires, Harvey Browne Preschool Director
Cheryl Granger, Church Administrator
Grace Graves, Administrative Assistant
Tim Miller, Building Manager
James Logan, Assistant Building Manager
Carl Enoch, Sign Language Interpreter

THE SESSION

Moderator: Rev. Christine Coy Fohr
Clerk of Session: Anne Hughes
Treasurer: Tom Hughes

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Laura Krausen, Christian Education	Ben Blake, Welcome	Alex Bumpas, Personnel
Marcia Lewis, Finance	Mary Esch, Welcome	Ben Durham, Welcome
Mike Hunter, Property	Tom Frentz, Personnel	Kim Harrod, Worship & Music
Becky Evans, Preschool	Linda Garrett, Congregational Life	Tom Hughes, Finance
Doug Grogg, Christian Education	Lynn Overstreet, Property	Jean Wolph, Outreach

TRUSTEES

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Lance Christell	Brian Pollock, Chair	George Creznic
Dee Pregliasco	Leslie Whitehouse	Sara Sutphin, Vice-Chair

BOARD OF DEACONS

Class of 2026	Class of 2027	Class of 2028
Nancy Pollock	Angie Schulte	Nancy Rissler
Bob Smith	Ellen Zuber	
Bill Bliven		

*big***BOLD**STORIES

SERVING GOD WITH ENERGY.
INTELLIGENCE, IMAGINATION, & LOVE

JUNE 1

JOSEPH

Genesis 45: 1-15, 25-28

JUNE 8

TOWER OF BABEL

Genesis 11: 1-9

JUNE 15

DANIEL

Daniel 6: 10-23

JUNE 22

ESTHER

Esther 4: 14

JUNE 29

ISRAELITES' EXODUS

Exodus 13:17-22



Harvey Browne Memorial Presbyterian Church
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www.harveybrowne.org Facebook: hbpres