



## **BETTY, WE'RE SOOOO SORRY!**

I know how much folks, including myself, were looking forward to hearing the Word preached by our dear friend, the Rev. Betty Burris, on Sunday, June 28, 2020. Alas!, however, the technical gremlins had other ideas, and the audio portion of Betty's leadership in worship, including her sermon, were garbled and hard to hear.

We are sorry, Betty, and of course we are working hard to fix the problem so that it will not happen again. If it is any consolation, I have heard from my friends in other churches around the area that they, too, are plagued by these types of "glitches" as we all learn how to master the art of "virtual worship" during this pandemic.

Betty will be invited back-- of that you can be sure-- and when she returns, we make certain that our audio system is in top-notch condition so that all will be able to enjoy Betty's insightful preaching and her gracious leadership through the liturgy.

Thank you, Betty, for your faithful service to the Lord and to you friends at FPC-Victoria.



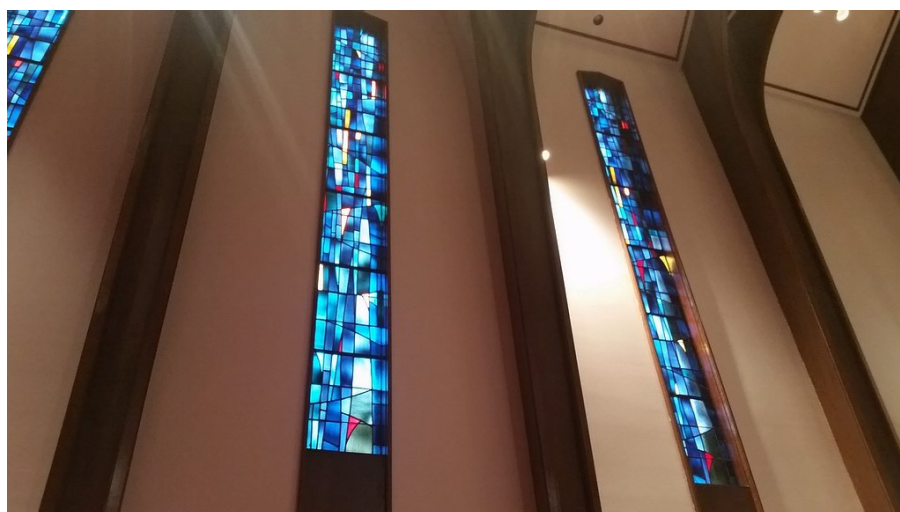
## **HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!**

As we celebrate our nation's blessings of independence and liberty during this Fourth of July weekend, let us remember the patriots who made our independence possible as well as all those who have followed them through the past 244 years, guarding our liberty with their service, their fortunes, and often their lives.

As with all blessings from God, independence and liberty must not only be cherished but nourished and protected as well. Let us thank God for the freedom we have to worship our Creator according to the dictates of our consciences, and let us use those freedoms to love and serve our Lord who has favored us with such blessings.

As will be the case with the post office, banks, and government offices, **the Church Office will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2020**, in celebration of Independence Day.

Best wishes for a joyous and *safe* Fourth of July. Please be careful out there!



**“VIRTUAL” WORSHIP SERVICES  
ON  
FACEBOOK/FPCOFVICTORIA:  
SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday (the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost), July 5, 2020, are: Psalms 145:8-14; and Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30. The sermon title is “Christian Generations.” The Bulletin is available here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2019-07-05-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>





**VIRTUAL GATHERING  
OF THE  
CROSSROADS REGIONAL COHORT  
OF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES,  
TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020**

Representatives from Presbyterian Churches in the Crossroads Region gathered last night, as planned, via a Zoom video conference to greet one another, to share stories of their efforts to worship creatively (and safely!) in the midst of this pandemic, and to encourage one another in these difficult times of social unrest.

Among the 16 or so persons participating in the video conference, four were from FPC-Victoria (Jack Kleinecke, Bill Wilkinson, Henry Hauschild, and your Pastor). It was very gratifying for me to see our church so well represented as Ruling Elders from our Session and congregation caringly participated in the gathering with fellow Presbyterians across the region.

Sallie Watson, Executive Presbyter of Mission Presbytery, also was present at the meeting, and she and Cara Herlin (FPC-Palacios) reported on events during the 224th meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)-- a meeting that was, this year, a technological marvel given the fact that meetings, votes, and worship services during the General Assembly (involving almost 1,000 participants) were conducted online in a virtual format (and, yes, they had a few technical glitches as well!).

As interesting as it was, I shall not summarize Cara's and Sallie's report in this Newsletter, but I would encourage our members to be mindful of the important work done at the national level of our denomination. Summaries of the General Assembly's deliberations and actions (this year with a special emphasis on reaching out to assist our country's Native American populations) can be found here: [pc-biz.org](https://mailchi.mp/b3ea220735f6/weekly-calendar-7856482).

## CARES AND CONCERNS

Carol Joy Wisdom, the daughter of Jerry and Lea Lentz and the wife of Brian Wisdom, is scheduled for surgery today (July 1, 2020) as the doctors seek to diagnose and treat a persistent infection in her leg. We pray for Carol and her family during these difficult times, and we pray for the doctors and other medical personnel who will attend to Carol in an effort to heal her suffering.

May God grant Carol relief from her illness, and may God grant peace and assurance to all who love her.

## NEXT ISSUE (THIRD QUARTER) OF “THESE DAYS” NOW AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH OFFICE

The July/August/September 2020 editions of “*These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*” have just arrived in the church office. If you would like a copy, please phone us (361.575.2441) or email us ([info@fpcofvictoria.com](mailto:info@fpcofvictoria.com)), and we will gladly send you one immediately. The cost of postage is negligible.

Also, if you are interested in online worship devotionals, please remember there is none better than *The Presbyterian Outlook*. Investigate this timely, informative, and spiritually motivating publication at: <https://pres-outlook.org/>. I particularly recommend the devotionals presented by Jill Duffield. If you enjoy this publication, you can sign up for a free “internet subscription” and receive the weekly editions by email.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim



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