

**VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE  
ON  
FACEBOOK/FPCOFVICTORIA:  
SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday (the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost), July 26, 2020, are: 1 Kings 3:5-12; and Matthew 13:31-33, 45-52. The sermon title is "The Kingdom Parables," and the Bulletin is available here: [https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-07-26-Bulletin-PDF.pub\\_.pdf](https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/2020-07-26-Bulletin-PDF.pub_.pdf)



**DR. DAVID MEANS,  
GUEST ORGANIST,  
WILL LEAD US IN OUR MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

During our worship service for July 26, 2020, we welcome Dr. David Means who will both play our organ and sing an a cappella solo of *The Lord's Prayer*.

Dr. Means is Director of Choral Studies, Professor of Music and Music Department Coordinator at Victoria College where he is also conductor of the Victoria Civic Chorus. Most recently he was Director of Choral Studies at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley in Edinburg, Conductor of the Valley Symphony Chorale and Founder/Artistic Director of the Valley Choral Artists. Dr. Means has also taught on the faculties of the Grammy-winning Westwood High School in Austin, Texas, Cuero High School, University of Southern California, and Christopher Newport University, and has more than twenty years' experience teaching public school choirs in Texas and California. Dr. Means is active as a guest conductor, adjudicator and clinician, across Texas, the USA, Europe, Mexico, Canada, and Asia. Recently he served on the international juries of the Preveza International Choral Festival in Greece (2016) and the International Choir Championships Lege Artis in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina (2019), and has given

workshops and lectures in Hawaii, Texas, West Virginia, Minnesota and Florida. Dr. Means earned degrees from Howard Payne University, Baylor University, and the University of Southern California.

We are so very grateful to Dr. Means as he plays for the glory of God and to assist us in worship while our Choirmaster, Robert Wyatt, takes a well deserved holiday,

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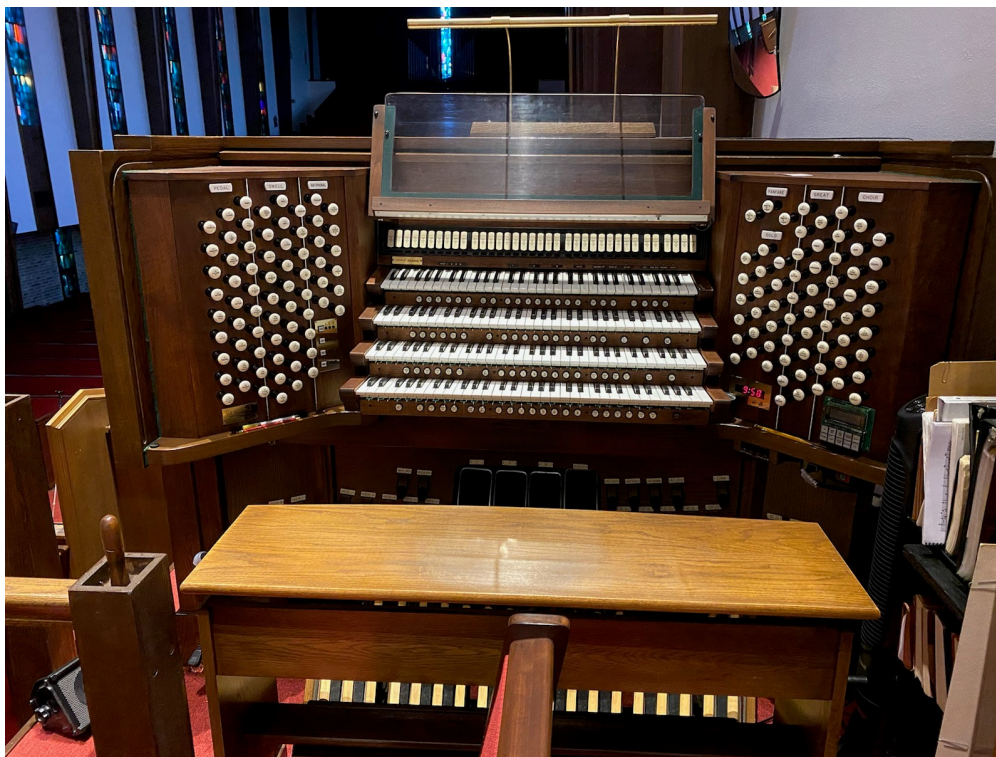
### **STILL WORKING ON TECHNICAL ISSUES!**

During our last worship service (July 17th), we believe we were able to fix the sound problems we experienced during our prior two worship services (July 5th and July 12th). We have Judge Robert Whitaker to thank for his electronic expertise and concentrated efforts to locate and fix the source of our problems. If you see him (but hopefully not in his courtroom!), please thank him and tell him how much his efforts are appreciated by us all.

Some of our viewers are now reporting that sometimes the video goes in and out of focus, or “skips” momentarily, and then resumes. We are checking our internet connection in the Sanctuary, but this may instead be a problem with our Facebook link which is beyond our control.

Regardless, we will continue to monitor the quality of our videos, and, as always, we want anyone who watches our worship services to contact the church office if you are experiencing any technical difficulties with the sound or video elements of our broadcasts. We want to receive such reports from as many viewers as possible, and we never consider them to be critical or complaining. You are helping us improve the quality of our “virtual” worship services for all our viewers.

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## INSTALLATION OF OUR NEW ORGAN

As you watched our worship service for July 19, 2020, we hope you notice that our old organ console (the “Rodgers”) has been removed from behind the altar in the Chancel. We had kept the Rodgers as an emergency back-up during the installation of our new organ console (the “Morgan”), but now we hope and pray that we no longer need it.

While we still have a few finishing touches to complete the Morgan installation, and while it is still possible we may encounter some difficulties during this initial period of use, we are ready to rely on our new organ during our worship services-- enough so even to invite guest musicians to play it!

Of course, our great disappointment for the moment is that we cannot yet plan a specific date during which we will dedicate our organ to the glory of God and to the enhancement of our worship services at FPC. Nevertheless, we will not forget to have such as a dedication service when this pandemic has passed and we return to the Sanctuary. Moreover, just as we did when we completed the restoration of our Sanctuary, we will also invite the community to join us in a “Celebration Concert” when we will engage one or more guest musicians to display the sound, the range, and the musicality of this beautiful instrument. We really have something to look forward to!



**July 22 - Ruth Ann Barnard**

**July 25 - Frances Miller**

If you or someone you know, has a birthday this week please contact the church

office:

361.575.2441

or

[info@fpcovictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcovictoria.org)



## MID-YEAR PLEDGE REPORTS

Jim Stokes, our Treasurer, and Tasha Wolf, our Office Administrator, have prepared and mailed an individualized report to each person or family in our congregation who submitted a pledge card regarding their intended giving for calendar year 2020. The report contains a record of the gifts the church office has received with respect to each such pledge through the first six months of this year (June 30, 2020).

If you received one of these reports, please verify that it matches your personal records regarding your giving during this period. If you have questions or concerns, please discuss them with Jim Stokes or Tasha Wolf. They, not your Pastor, are the ones who keep track of these matters.

To clarify, if you have made contributions to the church this year but did not complete a pledge card, then, unless you request otherwise, you will not receive a report concerning your giving until year-end. It is not that the church does not appreciate your gifts (quite the contrary, please continue to be generous!), it is simply that our financial software can more easily generate reports with respect to pledged income. Similar reports for spontaneous or unanticipated income are more difficult to prepare, and thus we wait until the end of the year to do them unless there is a special need.

Finally, Jim Stokes, the Session, and the Finance Committee have asked to mention that although we are keeping a tight grip on our expenditures, which have in fact been reduced by almost 40% through the first six months of the year, we are nevertheless “behind” in our anticipated income. The shortfall in income is not attributable to those who have submitted their pledges in 2020-- in fact, their giving is generous and right on budget.

Rather, our income is diminished because, without in-person services in our Sanctuary, we are unable to pass the collection plates from which we receive a substantial amount of spontaneous giving by friends, visitors, and those who donate but do not pledge. The total amount of this type of giving has been zero (down substantially by several *thousand* dollars) for the past five months. Rather than being caught off guard by a large income shortfall at the end of the year, the Session, acting through its Finance Committee, is conducting a detailed review of our financial circumstances at this time, and you will receive more information about that shortly.

Meanwhile, however, if you find that you have inadvertently overlooked or failed to keep up with you planned gifts to the glory of God and the operations and missions of our beloved church, please take a moment to send your gift to the church office-- bring it by, drop it in the mail slot, mail it, or, Jim Stokes has issued a standing offer that he will come to your house and pick up any check from anyone who wants to help our church during these, yet again, difficult times!

God bless you as you consider how you are able to help us continue in ministry to our congregation and our community.

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**IMPROVING THE “PRODUCTION VALUES”  
OF OUR  
VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES  
(HELP WANTED!)**

We are still searching for a camera person to help us operate our new camera equipment which we obtained with a grant from Mission Presbytery. We need someone to be available for two hours on the Saturdays when we record our worship services and, once the pandemic has passed, for two hours on the Sundays when we gather again in the Sanctuary. Additionally, a few additional hours are necessary to process and upload each video from our new equipment to the

Internet.

This would be the perfect “gig” for a senior high school student, a college student, or someone who could use some extra funds for basically a half-day of light work. In our modern age, this task is very low-tech for anyone with the least bit of experience with electronic devices. Thus, the main requirements for the position are dependability and access to transportation. We are offering \$100 per worship service, with an appropriate increase if we find that significant time is involved in uploading the recorded service to the Internet.

Also, to be clear, we are not looking for a videographer. The task for now is simply to operate our camera in order to record the worship service and then to upload that service to our Facebook page and website. If and as we receive additional resources, then we will consider at that time ways to edit and enhance the videos we produce.

Do you know of someone who might be interested in working for the church in this manner? Do you know a student, family member, or friend who could use some extra cash and would enjoy helping our congregation with this task? If so, please ask them to call (361.575.2441) or email ([info@fpcovictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcovictoria.org)) the church office. We would love to speak with them!

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**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@fpcovictoria.com](mailto:info@fpcovictoria.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*: <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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