



**WORSHIP SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020**

On the First Sunday of Advent, also the first Sunday following Thanksgiving, November 29, 2020, we once again welcome Bette Burris to lead us in worship. Our Scripture readings, selected by Bette, are: Isaiah 64:1-9 and Mark 13:24-37. The title of Bette's sermon is "Expecting Hopeful," and the Bulletin is available here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-11-29-Bulletin-PDF-2.pdf>

Unfortunately, due to the Thanksgiving Holidays, we have been unable to find anyone to operate our Internet camera during this Sunday's worship service. We

apologize for this inconvenience, and we shall resume our live-streaming and recording of our worship services during the Advent Season.

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### CARES AND CONCERNS

#### IN MEMORIUM

Ruth Yearsley Williams was called home to the Lord on Saturday, November 21, 2020. Blessed with artistic talent and a deep Christian faith, all her life Ruth was devoted to the ministry of music, whether at Victoria College, in her community, or in the various churches she served. Our own church family, First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas, was fortunate to have Ruth as our music director for 13 years.

By the time you receive this newsletter, friends and family will already have gathered in a service of Witness to the Resurrection and Celebration of Life to say fond farewell to Ruth from God's kingdom on earth and to rejoice in the welcome she will surely receive into the kingdom of heaven. We shall miss our sister in Christ as we comfort one another and as we commend her spirit into the strong arms of Almighty God. Let us always keep in mind these words of Scripture (Romans 14:8):

*If we live, we live to the Lord,  
and if we die, we die to the Lord;  
so then, whether we live or whether we die,  
we are the Lord's.*



### **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION CALLED FOR DECEMBER 6, 2020**

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, December 6, 2020.

During this brief meeting, the Chair of the Congregation Nominating Committee, Bill Wilkinson, will report on the recommendations of the CNC, specifically that John Horadam, Lynn McAuley, and Bonnie Wilkinson be elected to serve on the Session for a three-year term (the Class of 2023) commencing January 1, 2021.

The Moderator will invite additional nominations from the floor, if there be any. Before submitting someone to be considered for election to the Session, however, please be sure and confirm with that individual that he or she would be willing to serve if elected.

At the end of such discussion as the congregation may desire, a vote will be taken to elect the members of the Session Class of 2023. May God grant us and our new leaders strength, wisdom, and perseverance as First Presbyterian Church enters a new year of hope, promise, and continued service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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### **ADVENT WREATH**

As has been a long-standing tradition at First Presbyterian Church, we will light an advent candle during each Sunday morning worship service during Advent, with the center candle (the Christ Candle) to be lit on Christmas Eve.

We look forward to this being a beautiful and worshipful  
Advent Season  
at First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas.

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### **AN INVITATION FROM THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**



Advent Season is a time when we think especially of others in need. Having endured a pandemic for over 8 months now, we are particularly mindful of the many who are suffering in our midst due to loss, both economic and emotional.

Each year, First Presbyterian Church embraces an opportunity to share the blessings of the Advent Season with those less fortunate than ourselves. Last year, we had wonderful success with the "Angle Tree," and this year the Mission and Outreach Committee has identified another opportunity to assist a project in the Victoria community that is now well established and is growing in its capacity to serve the homeless in this area. This worthy cause is called Promise Pointe, and some may remember that it was one of the charities we featured when we hosted the Presbytery Meeting in October 2019.

Promise Pointe is headed by Sister Rebecca. This organization builds "tiny houses" in which homeless people, who are pre-screened for eligibility, can live independently (at this time four males and four females live on the premises). These eight people are expected to work to earn their keep at Promise Pointe. They work for a minimum wage. Understandably, however, their earnings do not cover some items they need.

This is how we, as a church and Christ's followers, can assist. While these individuals prepare themselves to return as productive members of society, there are certain things they need during this time of transition. The Session of First Presbyterian Church agreed that this is a need we can realistically help to meet. We are proposing, therefore, that the FPC family help support the residents of Promise Pointe during this time of traditional giving and generosity. We are asking you prayerfully to consider the list of items which appears below, and, as you are led by the Holy Spirit, to contribute anything you believe would make life better for these people who are trying their best to improve their situations.

There are several options:

\*\*\*Pick what you want to buy from the list below. Those items can be brought to the church or otherwise we can arrange for someone to come pick them up from your home. We will deliver them to Promise Pointe, or Sister Rebecca has volunteered to come pick them up from the church office.

\*\*\*A monetary donation is also a wonderful gift. Make your check payable to "First Presbyterian Church" and write "Promise Pointe" in the memo line. Donations can also be made on the church's webpage at [www.fpcofvictoria.org](http://www.fpcofvictoria.org).

*List of Suitable Gifts for the Residents at Promise Pointe  
as provided by Sister Rebecca:*

Toiletries:

- Shampoo:
  - for color-treated hair
  - for dry hair
  - shampoo + conditioner (2:1)
  - conditioner for dry hair
- Deodorants:
  - spray and stick (*Suave* powder, etc.)
  - men's '*Speed Stick*' (green)
- Body Lotions:
  - women's (anything that smells good – floral?)
  - men's (anything that smells masculine)
- Q-tips
- Men's cologne (any kind)
- Disposable towelettes
- Kleenex
- Shower gel (men + women) [1 request for Dove]

Not Needed: toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap (We have plenty)

Food: Note: we have 1 person who is vegan and 1 diabetic

- Brown rice
- Wheat spaghetti
- Powdered coffee creamer
- Sweet N Low
- Coffee (instant & ground)
- Small coffee filters
- Non-diet Sodas (all kind regular with some root beer)
- Canned vegetables: spinach, cream corn, mixed vegetables
- Canned beans: pork & beans, ranch style, variety
- Canned meat: tuna (no sardines), beef stew, chicken chunks, chicken stews
- Canned soups: variety

- Canned fruit: variety
- Packaged soups: variety
- Packaged pastas: variety
- Peanut butter (crunchy and smooth)
- Snack pack crackers, Oreo cookies, etc.

Not Needed: canned green beans, sardines, dry pinto beans, white rice, powdered potatoes (we have plenty)

#### Household Items:

- Hand sanitizer
  - Paper towels
  - Toilet paper (septic safe – not *Charmin*)
  - Trash bags (13 gal + small)
  - Small bottles of dishwashing soap
  - Laundry detergent
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#### A REPEATED CALL FOR HELP FROM CHRIST'S KITCHEN

Christ's Kitchen has again been overwhelmed by an increase in the number of homeless who look to that organization for likely their only meal of the day. At the same time, the customary suppliers who assist Christ's Kitchen in providing desserts for the meals prepared by the volunteers at Christ's Kitchen once again cannot keep up with the demand. ***Therefore, Christ's Kitchen volunteers from First Presbyterian Church once more need the congregation's help.***

Here is a reminder, from Frances Miller and Billy Leske, concerning how each of

us can donate desserts to feed the homeless on Tuesday, the day that FPC's dedicated volunteers prepare to-go lunch boxes for over 900 needy people:

1. If you are able to donate store-bought or homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, etc., you can bring them to the church office on Monday or to Christ's Kitchen (611 Warren Ave.) by 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings.

2. Individual desserts such as cookies, brownies, lemon bars, etc., should be put in small ziploc storage bags before being delivered. Typical servings per storage bag are 3 to 4 cookies or 2 to 3 donuts, brownies, lemon bars, etc. Cakes or pies should be delivered in disposable, non-returnable containers.



### **A FINAL WORD ABOUT INTERNET GREMLINS!**

After successfully live-streaming our worship services for three Sundays in a row, we are continuing to experience random, unpredictable degradations in the quality of our transmissions to the point where they become inaudible and unviewable.

We are working to correct our broadcasting problems, but we still experience problems from time to time. Hopefully, we will soon be able to arrive at a permanent, reliable solution.

Meanwhile, we want the members and friends of FPC to know that, *as a backup*, we will continue to post our worship services on the FPC website and Facebook page within 36-48 hours after each service. The problem is limited to our capability



to live-stream from our Sanctuary.

To find any past worship service on our website, go to [www.fpcovictoria.org](http://www.fpcovictoria.org). On the homepage, place your mouse over the tab marked "Worship Services," and then click on the words "Past Messages." Look for the service you missed and, again, click on it in order to watch it. If you prefer Facebook, go to [www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria](https://www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria), review the videos that are there, and click on the one you want to watch. On both our website and Facebook page, the more recent services are the ones you will see first.

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The Church Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, 2020 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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