



WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2021, 10:30 A.M.

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday, the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, are: Psalm 15; and Mark 7: 1-8, 14-15, 21-23 ("Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites . . ."). The title of the sermon is "Hypocrites!," and the Bulletin is available here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/8-29-2021-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.

After a good rest, Robert Wyatt returns to lead us in our music ministry. One of your Pastor's secret pleasures is being able to hear Robert practice during the week what he plans to play on Sunday morning-- not just the hymns, but the prelude, anthem, and postlude as well. All I can say is you may be disappointed if you are unable to hear Robert play our magnificent organ this Sunday after his restorative vacation. Robert is back with inspiration, vigor, and enthusiasm! Join us in worship in our Sanctuary on Sunday morning; you won't regret it!



**ATTENTION CHOIR MEMBERS:
WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

Before the recent spike of illness due to the Delta variant of the Coronavirus, we were enthusiastically announcing the resumption of our music ministry in anticipation of the choir's return to lead the congregation in song following the Labor Day Holiday.

To make that happen now, however, we need to give careful and thoughtful consideration as how best to resume the choir's activities this fall in a safe manner. And for this, we need input from the choir.

Robert Wyatt and the Session want to know how past, present, and (we hope!) future choir members feel about the following:

- With the appropriate precautions, are you still ready to resume choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings (at 7:00 p.m.) on September 8, 2021?
- What precautions would make you feel more comfortable-- for example, rehearsing in the Sanctuary, while spreading out either in the choir loft or the

pews?

- Does it make sense to sit in the choir loft (while spreading out) during Sunday morning worship service, or might it be better to sit in the front pews of the Sanctuary (as we once did in Fellowship Hall) and then assemble on the Chancel steps to sing?
- Would you feel better about waiting a while longer before resuming choir practice and singing together in the Sanctuary?

After you have considered these questions (together with any other suggestions you want to make), please speak with Robert, or your pastor, or any member of the Session. In fact, what would be really helpful is for you to send your written thoughts in an email to info@fpcovictoria.org. We will make sure those messages are delivered to Robert right away. Also, we want to hear from you *promptly* since we need to decide very soon on how best to proceed. Thank you for your input.



**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE
TO VCAM REQUESTS
CONTINUES TO BE GENEROUS!**

Our church's support for Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry and its clients continues to be generous. The Congregation's response to feeding and clothing those less fortunate than ourselves has not lost momentum!

As a reminder, here are some of the ways in which you can support the Christ-honoring work done by this organization in our community:

- Becky Richter still has plenty of tickets to sell in connection with VCAM's annual Raffle Fundraiser. There are lots of great prizes, and the entirety of the proceeds go to VCAM's mission of providing food, clothing, and services to those in need in the Crossroads area. The grand prize is a \$1,000 HEB gift card, in addition to 30 more prizes valued from \$50-\$750. You do not need to be present at the raffle to win. If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, please speak with Becky during our Sunday worship service or, otherwise, please contact the church office.
- For August, VCAM is requesting particular attention to the following needs of those whom they serve:

Dried beans, canned vegetables, and toiletry items.

- VCAM also provides "gently used" clothing in an attractive, dignified setting (they call it the "Family Clothes Closet") where customers can "shop" for their particular needs. As you may imagine, there is a special need for children's clothing as young students return to school. Please check you closets and bring anything you can (for men or women, adults or children) to help replenish the inventory at VCAM's Family Clothes Closet. You can leave such donations at the church office or place them close to the donation boxes in the hall outside the church office. We will make sure they are delivered promptly to VCAM.



**A NEW INITIATIVE
FROM OUR
MISSION & OUTREACH COMMITTEE:
A PRAYER TREE IS ABOUT TO BLOOM!**

Recognizing that prayer is one of the most powerful tools Christ has given his followers, the Mission & Outreach Committee of First Presbyterian Church is starting a Prayer Tree.

The members of that Committee have reached out to the families at Presbyterian Day School and The Vine School extending a sincere offer from the members of our church to pray for them. Prayer cards (as shown above) will be sent out to both schools on September 13, 2021. Once we begin collecting the prayer cards, we will hang them on our Prayer Tree in the Narthex.

It's simple, but it will be powerful and effective: the next time you are at church, swing by the Prayer Tree and take a prayer card! If you are unable to make it to church, but would like to participate, simply call the church office and let Erica know – she will get the request to the Mission & Outreach Committee. We can either mail you a card or come by your house to drop it off.

Once you have a card, all we ask is that you pray in the manner requested. Pray silently, pray aloud. Pray alone, pray with a prayer partner. Pray with the confidence you will be heard. We hope to keep this practice going during the school year for as long as we receive requests, and we hope you will join us in this powerful Christian ministry!

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication
with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil 4:6*

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thess 5:16-18*



**OUR SESSION
CONTINUES TO MONITOR
COVID DATA AND PUBLIC HEALTH PROTOCOLS**

The Session remains concerned, as we all are, about the recent, dramatic rise in COVID cases as a result of the virulent “Delta variant” of the Coronavirus. According to reports in *The Victoria Advocate*, reported cases of COVID infections remain high (from 11 cases reported on June 26 to 614 cases reported on August 24, 2021).

Therefore, the Session asks the congregation to be ever-conscious of the need to maintain social distancing at *all* times before, during, and after the worship service. Please continue to spread out in the Sanctuary. Masks will not be mandatory, but as always, anyone who wears a mask will be welcomed and respected.

Also, if you are nervous about singing in church (which, based on the precautions taken by our wise members, we will continue to do until further notice), we encourage you to sit in the back of the church. Again, everyone is asked to spread out, with singers in the front half of the Sanctuary and non, singers in the back half.

Finally, if you have any concerns about, or recommendations concerning, our church’s public health protocols, please share them with us. Other than accepting science and the other God-given miracles of modern medicine, the Session does not have any unique wisdom about how to respond to this fourth wave of pandemic infection. Any thoughts, ideas, or inspiration you may have to share with your pastor or any Elder on the Session would be greatly and sincerely appreciated.



Give me a "P!" Give me a "D!" Give me an "S!"



Did you notice the article last week in *The Advocate* with the headline, **“Presbyterian Day School 75th anniversary Homecoming planning is underway”**? The news is beginning to spread!

Help us make this a joyful event for our church and our community-- one that we will enjoy and remember for a long time. If you are a PDS former student, teacher, or staff member, or have family or friends who are, please provide the First Presbyterian Church office (info@fpcovictoria.org or (361) 575-2441) with contact information to receive a special invitation. Tell your friends; help us spread the word! All are welcome.

With the support and far-sighted vision of the members of our church who have preceded us, the Presbyterian Day School held its first classes on September 9, 1946. The school's rich tradition of teaching young children in a loving and nurturing Christian environment has been fundamental throughout its history and continues today.



**THIS YEAR MARKS THE
180TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FOUNDING OF
OUR CHURCH**

First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas was founded on October 2, 1841. We will mark that happy occasion during our worship service on Sunday morning October 3, 2021.

In preparation for our celebration, we are asking all the members and friends of FPC to make a special effort to search for any memorabilia or artifacts you believe would be of interest to our Congregation. Please check your closets, your bureau drawers, and “those boxes” in the attic, the garage, the basement, or wherever, and help us revisit some memories of the long and storied history of this church’s witness to the Gospel in and around the Victoria community.

We have already received some positive responses to our call for church memorabilia and artifacts, and we would like to keep the momentum going. So, please contact our church Historian, Henry Hauschild, or the Church Office about anything interesting that you discover! Every anniversary is a joyous one for our church, but let’s make this next one a particularly happy occasion as we continue to emerge from the pandemic.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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