

**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE,  
FEBRUARY 20, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

This Sunday (the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany), we will complete our six-Sunday study of selected passages from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians. Come (and bring a friend!) as we wrap up Paul's discussion of some of the most fundamental tenets of the Christian faith. Our Scripture readings are: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; and 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50. The title of the sermon is "We Shall Be Angels," and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/2022-2-20-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.



## 2022 SESSION RETREAT

As previously announced, the Session spent all of Saturday, February 12th, meeting at the Broadax Ranch, located in the beautiful countryside of South Central Texas near Tivoli.

We broke bread together, we prayed and worshiped together, and we worked hard together to dream and vision about the future direction of our church. We did more than engage in a contemplative enterprise, however. We worked diligently to think of concrete plans about the *Forward Journey* of First Presbyterian Church, a journey that is in its 181st year!

While the Session has more work to do, we have resolved to ask the congregation to join us as we plan for the future. First among our priorities is to determine how best to reach out to the congregation so that *you*, the members and friends of FPC, can help us consider (and implement!) fresh, innovative ideas for the growth and advancement of our church.

Please be attune to future announcements about the Session's initiatives in this regard. With Hurricane Harvey behind us, and with COVID on the decline (please, Lord!), it is time for us to resume our normal activities of worship, service, and *planning* as we strive to maintain our church and to build God's kingdom on earth.

Meanwhile, enjoy these pictures of some of your "city folk" Session members enjoying the "country" side of life!







### **HELP SAVE THE PLANET: AN FPC RECYCLING INITIATIVE!**

Our creative and dedicated Office Administrator, Erica Colding, has been helping recycle paper and cardboard waste that we generate here in the church office (and you might be surprised by what a large quantity that is). We bundle up our recyclable trash, and every two weeks Erica loads up her SUV to take that trash away and set it on the curb by her house to be picked up by the Victoria Solid Waste Department on “recyclable trash day.”

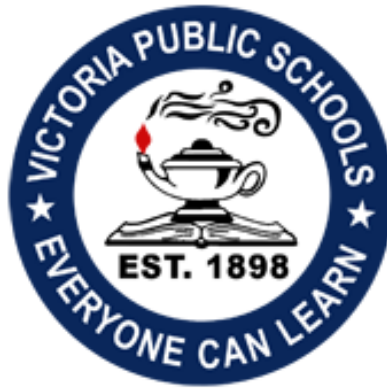
We noticed, also, that in the church office we generate a lot of used ink cartridges from our copier and from the pastor’s printer. Now, we have found a way to also recycle those cartridges which would otherwise pollute our landfills-- and we want to share that opportunity with the members and friends of FPC. Whenever you have an empty ink cartridge (it doesn’t matter what brand), bring it with you to church (in its old box or in a plastic bag) and toss it in the recycling box that is pictured above. The box is located in the hallway outside the church office.

Ink cartridges are not the kind of recyclables that we can place in curbside receptacles for pick up by the Solid Waste Department; they must be recycled in a special manner. So, by placing the cartridges in this special box in the church hallway, we can arrange for them to be properly processed *without charge*.



Every little bit helps! Please join us in this environmentally friendly initiative. We are all called to be good stewards of God's great and beautiful creation. This initiative helps us remember and fulfill that responsibility.

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On Tuesday evening, February 15, 2022, your pastor was invited by the Board of Trustees of the Victoria Independent School District to open their meeting with prayer. It was an honor to do so. It was also my pleasure to tell the Board and those assembled in the audience that I was there on behalf of the members of First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas.

Those parents and students involved with the VISD are undoubtedly an interfaith (and in some instances a “no faith”) group of folks, so I believed it was incumbent upon me to deliver a more “ecumenical” prayer. I worship and serve Jesus Christ, but I respect all of God's creation.

I want to share my prayer with you, not because I have any pride about it, but because I want you to know that our church focuses on the *entire* community in which we find ourselves. What larger single group is there in our community than those who are associated with public education? Here is my prayer for that group:

Gracious God, known to your peoples by many names,

We invoke your divine presence at this evening's meeting of the Victoria Independent School District Board of Trustees. Come merciful God and be with us at this meeting as we plan, vision, and administrate the needs of this School District.

Bless, O God, these your servants on this Board of Trustees. Grant them wisdom, discernment, and a sense of fairness and equality as they seek to fulfill their duties in a

responsible manner, worthy of your favor.

Bless, O God, the teachers, principals, administrators, staff, and all who labor in this School District. They are your angels of learning, guidance, and protection for all whom they serve.

Bless, O God, the parents and guardians of the children whom we strive to educate and help to find their way in a complicated world. Give these parents and guardians patient and understanding hearts as the Board of Trustees discerns in its collective wisdom what is instructive, educational, and wholesome for their children.

Finally, O God, bless the little ones, the big ones, the ones of all sizes, colors, and origins for whom we labor. From Kindergarten through the 12th grade, the children who fill our buses, our playgrounds, our auditoriums, our sports fields, and our classrooms are so precious to us. We pray for your guidance, your support, your faithful presence that we might serve these, your most precious gifts to us, creatively, wisely, and well.

Bless us *all*, O God, known to your peoples by many names, for service to your creation.

**AMEN**

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**HELP SPREAD THE WORD TO  
THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN!**

And speaking of school, our own Presbyterian Day School will soon be accepting applications for the 2022-2023 school year. Take note of these important dates, and pass them on to those whom you know that might be interested in sending one or more young disciples to our Christian day school that has no equal:

REGISTRATION STARTS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2022

PDS WILL HOLD AN OPEN HOUSE, FEBRUARY 2, 2022, 5:30 TO 6:30 P.M.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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First Presbyterian Church · 2408 N Navarro · Victoria, Texas 77901 · USA

