



**WORSHIP SERVICE,
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT,
DECEMBER 19, 2021, 10:30 A.M.**

Our Scripture readings for our next Sunday-morning worship service, December 19, 2021 (the Fourth Sunday in Advent) are: Micah 5:2-5a; and Luke 1:26-38, 46-55. The title of the sermon is "Hail Mary, Full of Grace," and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2021-12-19-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.

Our dear friend, Rev. Bette Burris, will be our guest preacher for this worship service. Please join us (and bring a friend!) as we continue our joyful worship during the Advent Season.

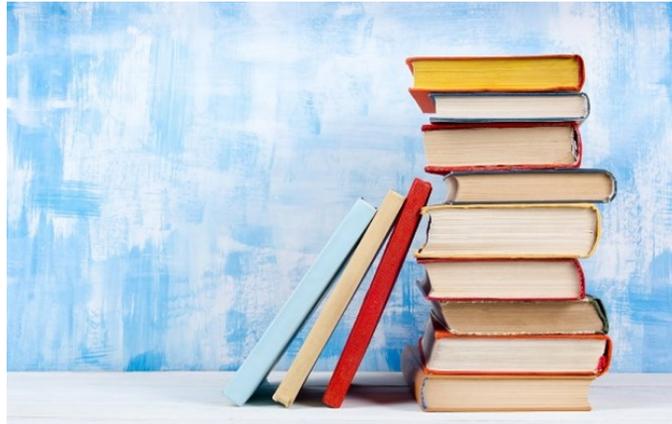


**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE,
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 7:00 P.M.**

Please plan to join us (and bring family and friends!) for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Friday, December 24th, at 7:00 p.m. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we will also celebrate the Lord's Supper. We will sing the familiar, sacred carols, and we will raise our candles high as we sing "Silent Night" and then dismiss ourselves in silence.

For our church, this evening service is the pinnacle of the Advent Season. Be with us for this joyful celebration!

And please be mindful of this: even though our Christmas Eve service will be live-streamed over our usual social media outlets (www.fpcofvictoria.com and www.facebook.com/fpcofvictoria), the Session does not want anyone to miss this service who would like to be present in person. Therefore, the Session is prepared to arrange a ride for any member of our church who is apprehensive about driving at night. We understand, and we want you to be safe. Nevertheless, if you want to experience the beauty of our Sanctuary and the grandeur of the music you will hear there, please let us help make that possible for you. Simply contact the church office (361.575.2441; info@fpcofvictoria.org), and let us know of your needs.



**COMING IN JANUARY 2022:
A GROUP BOOK STUDY!**

Starting in January 2022, our Mission and Outreach and Christian Education Committees are coming together to offer a book study to all who are interested. Leila Galvan and Dawn Neel will lead this nine-week study from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturday mornings beginning January 8 and running through March 5, 2002.

“Do It Afraid: Embracing Courage in the Face of Fear,” by Joyce Meyer is the book chosen by Leila Galvan and a group of her colleagues who will be joining us. Books and study guides can be purchased at H-E-B and Hobby Lobby and online at Amazon for around \$10 each.

In *“Do It Afraid,”* Ms. Meyer argues powerfully that you do not have to allow fear to dictate your decisions or determine what you will or will not do. You are free to be led by the Holy Spirit and to do everything God calls you to do. God has an amazing plan for your life, a plan our enemy, the devil, tries to keep you from fulfilling, often through fear. There may be times when you feel fear, but if you learn to do it afraid, whatever it may be in your life, you will break fear’s hold over you and find freedom to live a life of peace, strength, joy, and great fulfillment.

Come explore this and other themes with friends interested in reading and interested in intellectual exploration, friendly fellowship, and a time for conversation about Christian themes and ideas that will help and inspire us in our daily struggles.

For more information, contact Dawn Neel at dawnspaur@yahoo.com.



**FULL HOUSE FOR
FOR PDS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM.**

On Thursday night, December 9th, the FPC Sanctuary was full to overflowing with the parents, siblings, grandparents, and other family members of our Presbyterian Day School young disciples! Each class sang three songs apiece that put us all in the Christmas spirit. Your Pastor was reminded that Christmas celebrations are for the young and the young-at-heart! What a joy it was to watch, for many of the students, their first "public performance."

In case you were not able to attend the program, here are some pictures to warm your heart:







VCAM

Thank you again, dear FPC members, for so generously donating Thanksgiving food during November. As we celebrate this blessed season of Advent and Christmas and the birth of our Savior, please help us again fill the VCAM pantry with ingredients for tasty holiday treats—

- Baking powder, baking soda
- Brown sugar, granulated sugar
- Cake and cupcake mixes
- Flour
- Ground cinnamon, ginger, salt, spices
- Ready-made icing
- Sprinkles for decorating

Collection baskets are in the Narthex and the hallway outside the church office.

A SPECIAL VCAM NEED

Marc Hinojosa, VCAM executive director, adds a special request this month for beanies, gloves, hoodies/jackets, towels, and underwear, saying, “Let’s help our homeless population stay warm during the cooler months.”



TO DONATE:

**BEANIES, GLOVES, HOODIES/JACKETS,
SOCKS, TOWELS & UNDERWEAR**



**LET'S DO OUR PART TO HELP OUR
HOMELESS POPULATION STAY
WARM DURING THE COOLER
MONTHS**

**COLLECTIONS OF ITEMS CAN BE
DROPPED OFF AT VCAM OR
ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE TO
BE PICKED UP**



**DONATIONS ACCEPTED AT 108 N. LIBERTY,
7:30 A.M. - NOON, MONDAY THRU FRIDAY**



**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021**

Each year during the Advent and Christmas seasons, we celebrate with joy the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

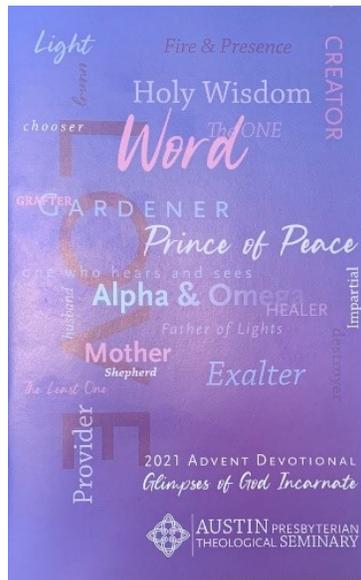
The **Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. This special annual offering provides critical financial support to church workers in need and their families, while also supporting Presbyterian-related schools and colleges in education and

leadership development. This year we will be collecting the **Joy Offering** on **Sunday, Dec. 19**. Please look for the special offering envelope included with your bulletin for our worship service that Sunday.



Under Linda Patterson's talented direction, we will once again create the traditional-- and always spectacular-- poinsettia Christmas tree to decorate our chancel during this Advent Season. As is our custom, members and friends of FPC are being offered the opportunity to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 per plant. You can take your poinsettia(s) home, or you can designate your payment to be used to support VCAM or another local charity. In each instance, your gift can also be designated in honor or in memory of one or more people who are special to you. A list of all the names thus designated will be acknowledged in our Christmas bulletin.

For more information, look for the "Christmas Poinsettias" leaflet which will be inserted in our worship service bulletins during the coming Sundays, or click here to be able to read and, if you wish, print the form: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/POINSETTA-ORDER-FORM-2022.pdf>



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

The annual Advent Devotional ("*Glimpses of God Incarnate*"), compiled by the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is still available. Copies have been placed around the church, particularly in the Narthex and outside the church office. They are yours to take, without cost, for yourself, family, and friends.

There is a one-page devotional for each day of Advent, and I want to encourage you to start, end, or refresh your day by pausing a moment and, aided by the devotional for the day at hand, reflect on the excitement, the wonder, the glory that accompanies the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Your mind and your heart will thank you for the rest and reflection; your soul will be restored by the remembrance of why we celebrate Christmas!

If you are unable to pick up a copy of this devotional from the church, please contact our Office Administrator, Erica Colding (361.575.2441; info@fpcofvictoria.org), and she will gladly arrange to send you a copy.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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