

**JOIN US FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICE,  
SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022, 10:30 A.M.,  
AS WE REFLECT ON CHRIST'S PASSION  
AT THE BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK**

This Sunday (the Sixth Sunday in Lent) marks the beginning of Holy Week, the seven days (including Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) during which we prepare for the glory of Easter morning.

This Sunday is also known as "Palm Sunday" or "Passion Sunday," the former commemorating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and the latter emphasizing his agonizing departure from the city as he was marched to Calvary, there to be subjected to the most excruciating death imaginable in the Roman Empire-- crucifixion. This year, our worship service will focus on Christ's passion. Our Scripture readings this Sunday are: Isaiah 50:4-9; and Luke 22:39 – 23:56. The title of the sermon is "The Death of an Innocent," and a copy of the Bulletin for this

service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/palm-sunday-4-10-22-PDF.pdf>.

Please join us (and bring a friend!) as we contemplate the sacred story of Christ's suffering on behalf of all humanity.

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### **WHAT A GLORIOUS PDS SUNDAY!**

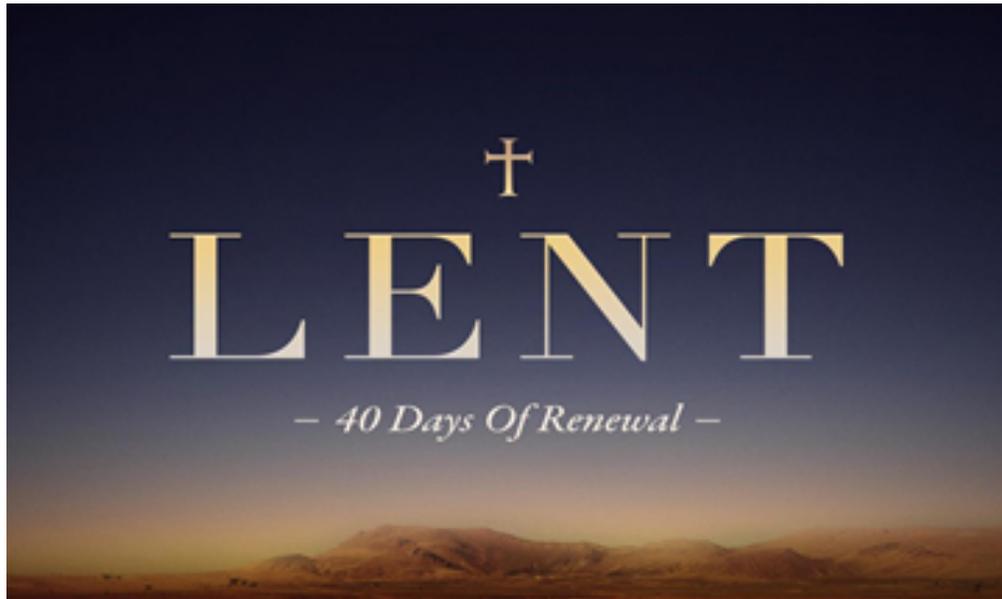
Smiles and happy faces were in abundance last Sunday, April 3rd, as the young disciples from the Presbyterian Day School energetically sang some of their favorite songs from their weekly Children's Chapel gatherings.

We are grateful to the students and faculty of PDS for all they did to decorate our Sanctuary walls with artwork and fill our Chancel with the happy sound of children singing. A special word of "thanks" as well to the children's families who were in our Sanctuary on Sunday to view the artwork and enjoy the concert!

It is a joy for FPC to support, through its education ministry, the work and mission of PDS. We pray for God's continued blessings on all those who attend and teach at PDS and on all those parents and families who make it possible for their

children to learn, so importantly, how much Jesus loves them as they also learn their letters, their colors, and their Bible verses!

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**LENT IS ALMOST OVER;  
EASTER IS COMING!**

Lent is that solemn time when we recall Christ's passion and crucifixion and prepare ourselves through meditation, contemplation, and other spiritual practices for the redeeming, live-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Please mark your calendar with these important dates as Lent comes to an end and Easter awaits us:

- Sunday, April 10th – Passion Sunday – We will read the passion story from the Gospel According to Luke.
- Friday, April 15th - Good Friday - This will be a Service of Darkness; the Seven Last Words of Christ will be read while the Sanctuary is darkened, and the congregation will be invited forward, one by one, to symbolically nail their sins to a rough cross in the Chancel.
- Sunday, April 17th - Easter Sunday – *Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!*

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**A FRIEND IN NEED . . .**

<b>No. 241</b>	<b>FISH FRY</b>	
	<i>for</i> <b>KEIMRYN STRONG</b>	
	<b>When: Friday, May 13, 2022</b>	
<b>PLACE:</b>	<b>ALL Proceeds go to</b>	<b>Pick-up Time:</b>
<b>Mt. Nebo MBC</b>	<b>KEIMRYN</b>	<b>11a.m. - 2 p.m.</b>
<b>704 E. Park,</b>		<b>Will delivery</b>
<b>Victoria, TX</b>	<b>Questions</b>	<b>10 plate order.</b>
	<b>(361)649-9594</b>	
	<b>(361)652-3285</b>	
<b>\$10 Donation</b>	<b>(361)652-7058</b>	<i>Thank You</i>

Keimryn Lee, the 9-year-old granddaughter of our good friends, Rev. and Mrs. Fred, continues to undergo chemotherapy and other treatments at MD Anderson in Houston for osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer. As we can imagine, the medical bills are enormous.

In addition to prayer, there are at least two ways we can help our dear friends and their family meet Keimryn's medical expenses. First, we can buy some delicious fried fish in the manner set forth in the announcement above. To make your purchase even easier, Bonnie Wilkinson, our Clerk of Session, is ready to take your order (and your check). Checks can also be dropped off at the church office.

In addition, if you would like to make a general gift to help the Hobbs family, you can place your check in the collection plate, or mail it, or again, drop it off at the church office. Checks should be made out to *Keimryn Lee* and, if not delivered to the church office, then mailed to:

Keimryn Lee Love Fund  
 c/o Mt. Nebo Baptist Church  
 704 E. Park Avenue  
 Victoria, Texas 77901

A special account for donations has been set up at TEDC. Let us also join with Rev. Hobbs and his family in continued prayers for Keimryn and her medical team.

*Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you? – Matthew 25:44*



**WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD,  
AND SERVE ONLY HIM**

Your pastor believes that often the softest sounds of all are made by unsung heroes-- those servants of Jesus Christ who, for example, volunteer at Christ's Kitchen, who carry clothes and other donations to VCAM, who spend time supporting the Victoria library, who visit those in hospitals and residential care centers, who support the activities of the Rotary Club and other charitable organizations.

Unsung heroes abound in our church. Have you noticed how much better the sound system is operating in our Sanctuary lately? Listen for the quiet sound of an unsung hero giving freely of their time and talent so that we might all enjoy a better worship experience.

Have you noticed that litter on our campus seems to regularly disappear? Listen for the quiet sound of an unsung hero stopping by in their pickup truck to take some time to "clean the place up."

Have you had the door held open for you as you entered the church to worship? Have you seen a visitor to our worship service being greeted with a friendly smile and a welcoming word? Listen for the quiet sound of an unsung hero arriving early to church to "help set things up."

And how about our choir? There are some unsung heroes who sing!

The next time you notice an unsung hero, why not say “thank you” or “bless you”? They will be surprised but appreciative. Better still, what time, talent, and energy do you have to serve the Lord? What a beautiful sound God’s many unsung heroes can make in his kingdom!

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### **BEWARE OF PHONY EMAILS!!**

It is an all too common occurrence these days, but still I am embarrassed to tell you that imposters are impersonating your pastor using phony emails. Some miscreates, whom I am unable to describe with charitable words, are sending emails to church members using a phony email address to ask for gift cards or other items of monetary value. The emails bear my name, “jimdement” and are from “@gmail.com,” but *the church does not use gmail.com*. Please remember that all emails from the church come from “@fpcofvictoria.org.”

IF YOU RECEIVE SUCH AN EMAIL, PLEASE DELETE IT. These emails are phony, and worse yet, by opening such emails you may be exposing your computer to malware.

We are researching the matter to determine how we might prevent abuse of the church’s contact lists, although I am confident that we already practice good “computer hygiene” here in the church office-- being ever-vigilant for con artists and

scammers.

Let this also be a good reminder to everyone in the FPC community to be careful of computer scams. In 2020, cybercrime was forecasted to cost the world over \$10.5 billion by 2025 (<https://cybersecurityventures.com/hackerpocalypse-cybercrime-report-2016/>)! It is highly likely that the losses are even higher by now. For valuable consumer tips on how to protect your computer (and your wallet!), please take some time to review this good article on the subject: <https://oag.ca.gov/privacy/facts/online-privacy/protect-your-computer>.

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### ***OUR FORWARD JOURNEY***

Maintaining our momentum from the energy and inspiration we gathered during our annual retreat last month, members of the Session have organized themselves to carry out an “outreach initiative” to all those individuals who are recorded as members on the rolls of our church.

In the several weeks before our next Session meeting, Ruling Elders who are currently serving on the Session will be reaching out to *you* asking for your help as, together, we consider (and implement!) fresh, innovative ideas for the growth and advancement of our beloved church.

A church that does not move forward risks stagnation, and that is something that those who have preceded us in the 181-year history of our church were unwilling to accept. When a Session member calls you, please share your thoughts, your dreams about those things we could begin doing *now* as we continue our

worship and ministry in the Crossroads area.

What do you believe FPC is doing well these days? What do you think we could do to improve, to attract new members, to attract younger members? We need not be timid about asking or seeking answers to these hard questions, for in our deliberations we shall be doing the work of building God's kingdom on earth--something that never has been, and never will be, an easy thing to do. Every congregation before us has faced and addressed these questions, and we are the beneficiaries of their hard work. It is time now for us to consider the legacy we will leave as we continue our forward journey, doing the work of the Lord!



### CURRENT COPIES OF “THESE DAYS” HAVE ARRIVED

The church has received the April/May/June 2022 edition of *These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*. Upon request, we would be happy to mail a copy to any member desiring one. Also, we will place copies of the *These Days* on the tables in the Narthex and in front of the First Church Office for people to pick up on Sunday mornings or whenever they are at the church. The devotionals in this cherished publication are always a wonderful source of inspiration, hope, and comfort.

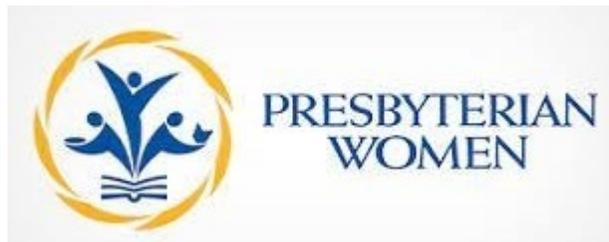


## HAVE YOU VISITED OUR WEBSITE LATELY?

By all accounts, we have a very attractive website ([www.fpcfcofvictoria.org](http://www.fpcfcofvictoria.org)). At its February Retreat, one of the issues discussed by the Session was our sense that the church's website is underutilized and underappreciated.

To rekindle interest in our website, our Worship Committee is working with Erica Colding in an effort to "post" more real-time events and announcements. For Lent, we have added a "daily devotional" feature not only to encourage you to use the website but also to enhance your worship experience during the Lenten Season. Look for it under the tab marked "Holy Seasons."

Our goal is to make our website a handy and habitual place for you (and visitors, we pray!) to follow the weekly activities of what the Session plans to be our increasingly dynamic church!



### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MISSION PROJECT FOR APRIL 2022**

As their mission project for April, the Presbyterian Women will be supporting the Vine School. Won't you help them help that fine school to serve children affected by autism and other impairments? The Vine School is in need of

- Colored printer paper (variety of traditional colors)
- Construction paper (loose sheets, not tear out pkgs)
- Standard size manila file folders
- Cloth towels -bath size and wash cloths. (hand sized towels not needed)
- Bath / shower wash. Fragrance free, Sensitive skin
- Clorox wipes
- Googly eyes (Large size only)
- Sharpies. All colors, NOT extra fine point
- Hobby Lobby gift cards

- Snacks for children: Goldfish crackers (individual pkgs or large size containers). Individual pkgs of pretzels, chips, chocolate chip cookies

Please bring your donated items to the church and we will make sure they are delivered to the Presbyterian Women.

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**CURRENT STATISTICAL REPORT FROM THE  
VICTORIA CHRISTIAN ASSISTANCE MINISTRY**

Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry  
108 N. Liberty St., Victoria, Texas 77901 / P.O. Box 1786 Victoria, Texas 77902  
Phone 361-572-0048 Fax 361-333-5487  
victoria.vcam@gmail.com

Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry  
Monthly Update  
March 2022  
*(February 2022 Services)*

Total Households Served –	840
Total Number in Households –	2301
Food Boxes –	730
Basic Needs -	2784
Home Delivery -	24
Financial Assistance –	41
# Homeless Served –	99
# Homeless Visits -	389
<i>*1<sup>st</sup> time VCAM Clients Served –</i>	<i>39</i>

The current state of our economy, the actions going on abroad, the lingering after-effects of the pandemic; all are factors that we, as a nation, community & more local, as an organization that serves those in need chronically or in times of crisis that requires preparation. Short-range or long-range, VCAM wants to be prepared to continue to offer its services adequately & consistently.

VCAM is the largest food pantry in the surrounding 11-county area serviced by the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent. In times when the Food Bank inventory is short on product, VCAM shops retail, just like you or I would as individuals. Our pantry is open to residents of Victoria County on a weekly basis, Mon. – Fri., 9 a.m. – noon & services range from the food distribution, clothing store, financial assistance for past due water & natural gas utility bills, prescription medications & gasoline vouchers for out-of-town medical appointments. Financial assistance services are performed Mon. – Thurs., while funding is available.

Clients come on a once-a-month basis, while our homeless population is serviced on a daily basis. I mention all of this, as a “heads up” to all as to how/when the operation is run; & operated primarily via volunteers. And of course, *all services are provided free* because of the generosity of others.

Your support is always valued and very much appreciated...*Marc*  
*“Providing hope when things seem hopeless...”*

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

