

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

Please plan to join us in person (and why not invite a friend!) for our worship service this Sunday, the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost. Our Scripture readings are: Isaiah 5:1-7; and Hebrews 11:29-12:2. The title of the sermon is "We Are Not Alone," and this will be the second of three of our Summer studies in the Letter to the Hebrews. A copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/08-14-2022-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Our Journey Forward — 2023

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD,
plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.
- Jeremiah 29:11*

Understanding that all we possess is a gift from God,
I/we rejoice in pledging to First Presbyterian Church:

\$ _____

Weekly **OR** **Monthly**
 \$ _____ \$ _____

Name(s) _____
Signature _____
Address _____
Phone _____ **Email** _____

**2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
IS UNDERWAY!**

By now, you should have received our 2023 Stewardship Campaign materials, including a pledge card. If not, please contact the Church Office right away (361.575.2441; info@fpcofvicotora.org).

As you have heard before, our goal this year is to increase not only the amount of the pledges that are offered but also the number of pledges as well. If, for whatever reason, you have not submitted a pledge card in prior years, please prayerfully consider doing so this year so that the Session can better plan a reliable budget next year.

And tarry not, please! Correcting of some misinformation I previously circulated, I want to report that the Session has set a deadline of **Friday, September 30, 2022** for our Stewardship Campaign. At our worship service on the following **Sunday, October 2, 2022**, we will announce the results of our campaign and joyfully celebrate God's many blessings for our church.

If you are willing to support our church, but reluctant to turn in a pledge card, please ask yourself why. Surely, you want to help the Session be good stewards of your donations, but maybe there is something holding you back from sharing with us a projection of your financial support.

In the event you are concerned about privacy, allow me to assure you that for the five years I have been your pastor, the amount of an individual's or

a family's pledge has been known only to God, the donor, and the church's Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. Your pastor and members of the Session receive cumulative financial reports, but none of that data is tied to specific individuals. Hence, if you subsequently need to reduce or suspend (or, of course, increase!) your pledge, you need only mention this to the Treasurer who keeps such information in strictest confidence.

This year, our Stewardship Campaign will be very intentional and focused. Watch for news, signs, and reminders. During our Sunday worship services and at other times, you will be hearing reports on how the money you contribute to FPC is being used to support various charities in the Crossroads area.

Also, please stop by the bulletin board in the hallway on the way to the kitchen and choir room where we will be posting periodic information about our progress toward meeting next year's anticipated operational and mission expenditures.

If you have any questions or suggestions, financial or otherwise, about how we can best continue *Our Journey Forward*, please speak with any member of our Session, with our Treasurer, Jim Stokes, or with me. The success our Stewardship Campaign is now in your hands. May your hearts respond generously!



**THEY'RE BAAACK . . .
PDS STUDENTS RETURN!**

On Tuesday, August 9, 2022, laughter, crying (first day jitters!), and excited chatter returned to the education wing of our church. It was the opening day of Presbyterian Day School on the earliest date in August that most of us can remember.

Students, teachers, and parents alike were ready to return to familiar activities as the day, and the car lines!, went off without a hitch.

It is no secret that your pastor loves the sound of children in the halls of our church. Sometimes, summer days can get long and dreary without our young disciples learning, loving, and laughing in the halls! Please join me in praying for the health, welfare, and safety of the young disciples whom God has entrusted to our care for another year. May God bless them and all who love them, including their families, their teachers, and the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church.





CHURCH CATS UPSET BY PASTOR'S ESSAY!

Some cat-loving member of our church family (you know who you are!) told the resident cats on our church property that the pastor had written an article in the Newsletter about the ***Dog*** Days of Summer!

Our church cats, feeling superior in attitude, privilege, and entitlement, did not take the news kindly. They cannot fathom how a human person could publicly extol the canine crowd to the exclusion of the feline crowd. As a result, upon departing the premises in the evenings to get in his car, your pastor has been the recipient of cold stares, cold shoulders, and, well, the occasional cat-call-- although the indignity among our feline friends has not prevented them from finding shady relief during the afternoon under your pastor's car.

Of late, as if to say, "If you think dogs can be lazy, take a look at this!" the cats have taken to having afternoon naps right outside your pastor's office window-- as shown in the picture above. I will confess that this wicked summer heat is getting to us all: humans, dogs, and, yes, cats. They have made their point.

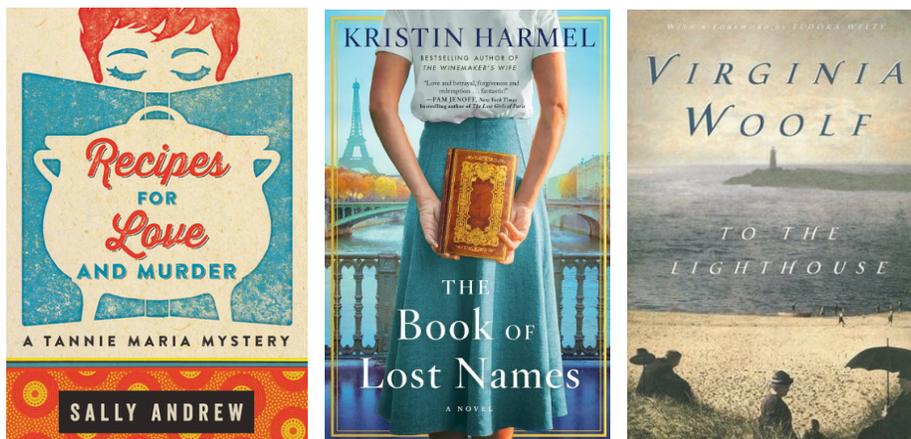
Still, no one can exude condescension like a cat! Lofty and withdrawn, a cat can ignore you like no other creature, while at the same time expecting you to thank them on those rare occasions when they deign to look your way. I have a similarly dog-loving friend who is fond of saying that dogs treat you like family, cats treat you like staff! That has certainly been my experience at 2408

N. Navarro Street.

Patient, tolerant Robert Wyatt feeds the cats every day he is here. They recognize the sound of his car, and in the evening, they run to the door when they hear it begin to open. If it is your pastor at the door, I refer you to the treatment I have described above. If it is Robert, they look at him as if to say, “Well, it’s about time!” Erica Colding, PDS teachers, and members of the congregation also feed the cats when they know Robert is on vacation, and still the cats react not with gratitude but with disdain. “What took you so long,” is what I read in their eyes.

And yet, as the hymn goes, “All things bright and beautiful / All creatures great and small, / All things wise and wonderful, / The Lord God made them all.” The church cats and your pastor have reached a sort of *detente*. I am allowed to work on the premises, and they will go wherever they want-- for naps under my car or outside my office or wherever.

So, God bless cats and those who love them! God’s universe is bright and beautiful, and your pastor can tolerate cats as long as they can tolerate him.



IMPROMPTU BOOK CLUB CONTINUES TO GATHER MOMENTUM!

All who are avid readers, occasional readers, or even sporadic readers are welcome to join the members and friends of FPC who gather once a month to discuss a book they have selected in advance.

Here is the schedule of selections for the next three months:

August:

Recipe for Love and Murder, by Sally Andrew
Tuesday, August 23, 2022, 1:00 p.m., in the Parlor

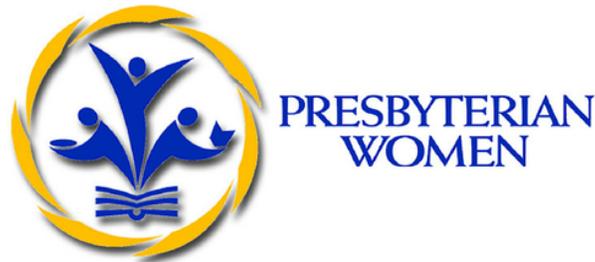
September:

The Book of Lost Names, by Kristin Harmel
[meeting date pending]

October:

To the Light House, by Virginia Woolf
[meeting date pending]

For more information, contact Dawn Neel (361.652.3925) or Roxanna Hauschild (361.649.7899). Happy reading; happy discussions!



**NEWS CONCERNING
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

The Presbyterian Women of Mission Presbytery will be having their Fall Gathering on **Saturday, August 27, at 9:00 a.m.** at the First Presbyterian Church of Seguin. Please let your circle chairman know if you would like to attend so that we can have the needed cars available for the trip. We hope you will join us on this informative and fun-filled day!



**COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK:
CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE,
FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND SATURDAY,
AUGUST 19TH AND 29 TH!**

While we are providing lots of advance notice, the dates for our Church Rummage Sale are going to be here before you know it!

Our plans are now firm to have a Church Rummage Sale out of our Fellowship Hall on Friday afternoon (1:00 to 5:00 p.m.) and Saturday (7:00 a.m. until done). FPC members are encouraged to bring unneeded/unwanted items to Fellowship Hall in the afternoon (*after 1:00 p.m.* so as not to interfere with PDS classes in the morning) during the week of August 15-19, 2022. All proceeds from sales will be for the benefit of FPC and its ministries. Unsold items will be donated to appropriate charities.

As we all know, the real work occurs prior to the days of the sale, because participants need to look through their closets, garages, attics, storage rooms, etc., to collect those items that need to be cleaned out, cleared out, and sent out! So, now's the time to do that housecleaning you have been promising yourself since the COVID pandemic began to ease up! And now's the time to start!

The rewards for you and for the church you love will be great. You will be left with less clutter, and the church will be the grateful beneficiary of the income you have helped to generate.

Peace, grace, and mercy,
Pastor Jim

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