



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 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 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost. Our Scripture readings are: Jeremiah 1:4-10; and Hebrews 12:18-29. The title of the sermon is "From Mount Sinai to Mount Zion," and this will be the third and final 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/2022/08/08-21-2022-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.



**IT HAS ARRIVED!
CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE,
FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND SATURDAY,
AUGUST 19TH AND 20TH!**

When the Session first proposed the idea of a Church Rummage Sale, your pastor was supportive but, deep in his heart, just a little bit skeptical. That's because he had never seen a rummage sale of the type with which the good citizens of Victoria are familiar!

Honestly, your formerly skeptical preacher has been (delightfully) flabbergasted by how this fund-raising event has been embraced so enthusiastically by the members of our church, by the Presbyterian Day School, and by the leadership of our former Kids for Christ. Everyone is pitching in to clean out their storage areas to bring "stuff" to our Fellowship Hall so it can be sold to the many bargain-hunters who will come.

The picture at the top of this article is a *real* picture of our bountiful Fellowship Hall as it looks today, Wednesday, August 17th, and yet people continue to arrive with more and more articles to be sold. Somehow, we will find room for it all. So, if you still have items to bring, don't delay! Our Church Rummage Sale is going to be well shopped. Now is the time to clean out your storage areas, while helping to raise funds for our church.

Finally, *can you spare some time to help us?* We will need volunteers to help us on Friday afternoon (1:00 to 5:00 p.m.) and Saturday (7:00 a.m. until done). Erica Colding, to whom we owe a great big "thank you" for working so

enthusiastically to organize this event, cannot handle by herself the many visitors we are expecting. If you have some time to come by the church, even for an hour, your presence will be a tremendous help.

Let us continue to pray for the success of our efforts!



2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT

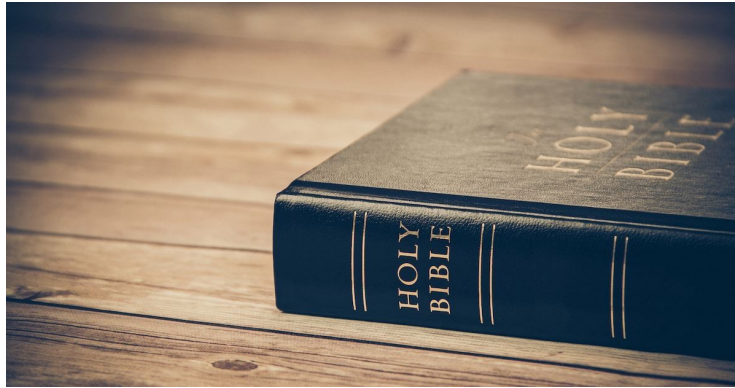
The initial response to our 2023 Stewardship Campaign has been enthusiastic and so encouraging!

If you have not yet seen the bulletin board in the hallway celebrating our 2023 Stewardship Campaign (pictured above), I invite you to stop by and look at it. The bulletin board shows a tree (we call it our "Campaign Tree") with many leaves representing the ministries that your gifts help support. When we receive a pledge card, we post (without name or other details) a butterfly on the bulletin board to show how the congregation's gifts lovingly surround our leaves of ministry.

As of the date of this Newsletter, we have posted 19 butterflies on our Campaign Tree, and we are praying for many more to come!

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 you have not already done so, please submit your pledge card as soon as you are able. We want to

cover our Campaign Tree with butterflies representing the generous spirit of our congregation and our loving commitment to *Our Journey Forward!*



SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE STUDY RETURNING IN SEPTEMBER!

With a renewed emphasis on Christian Education, the Session at its meeting on Monday evening, August 15th, approved three new Christian education initiatives to begin this September, all subject of course to sufficient interest among the members of our church:

- First, our Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class will resume on Sunday morning, September 4, 2022. The class will meet in the Parlor from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. Dawn Neel has graciously undertaken to lead the class, and she informs me that the first course of study will be “We Are Called.” For those who have longed to return to the fellowship of this class, as well as for those who would like to try it, this will be a wonderful experience.
- Second, Jim Stokes has taken the initiative to lead a midweek Bible Study (Wednesday morning at 10:00 or 11:00 a.m. is Jim's first suggestion, but he is flexible). As a “first offering,” Jim proposes a six- to eight-week study of the Book of Genesis (“Why not begin at the beginning,” Jim asks!). The group would be relaxed and informal and would, under Jim’s leadership, design its curriculum based on its shared experiences and desires.
- Your pastor would like to lead a Communicants’ Class for middle school and high school youth interested in learning about the Reformed Tradition of the Presbyterian Church. To begin, however, I am asking members of our congregation who know of any youth (or their parents) who would be interested in participating in such a class, to contact them with the “news”

that a Communicants' class is being offered. We will likely meet in the evenings (suggestion: 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays). I envision five to six weekly sessions followed by a celebration and welcome service at our worship service on Sunday, October 9, 2022. Depending on how quickly we receive affirmative responses to this class offering, we could begin on a day (again, likely Wednesday) during the week of September 5-9 or the week of September 12-16.

As exciting as I hope you will find this news to be, for us to be successful, we need folks to indicate their interest in attending the respective classes offered by Dawn and Jim, and I need your help in contacting those families who may have students interested in a confirmation.

Please help us reestablish and reinvigorate the Christian education programs of our church.



“ONE GREAT HOUR OF CARING”

It's that time again! Please join us on **Friday, August 19, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.** as we devote another “hour of caring” to attend to the interior of our church property. Incorporating the “twice a month” concept, we are also forecasting these additional dates on which to participate in our One Great Hour of Caring program. Please take note (all of the listed dates are on a Friday):

Sept. 2 @ 10am: Sanctuary & Restrooms
Sept. 16 @ 10am: Office Spaces & Halls

Sept. 30 @ 10am: Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
Oct. 14 @ 10am: Sanctuary & Restrooms
Oct. 28 @ 10am: Office Spaces & Halls
Nov. 11 @ 10am: Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
Nov. 25 @ 10am: Sanctuary & Restrooms (may change)
Dec. 9 @ 10am: Office Spaces & Halls
Dec. 23 @ 10am: Kitchen & Fellowship Hall (may change)

Also, not only do we need folks willing to do some light cleaning, we are looking for iced tea and/or ice water servers (or maybe even smoothie servers!). Please plan to join us when you are able, and invite a friend (they will be surprised how much fun we are having). Contact Dawn Neel (361.652.3925) with any questions.

Having now done this exercise twice, we have many members who can testify to the fact that while cleaning is never “fun,” spending time in fellowship with other Christians which engaged in a common activity (“many hands make light work”) can actually be a pleasant way to spend an hour catching up with each other and sharing news about the community. Also, rumors continue to abound about after-work smoothies as a reward for our good efforts. Why not join us this Friday to see whether there is any truth to those rumors?! Regardless of the snacks that follow, however, the hour that we spend together helps us meet our twin goals of economy and fellowship.

Please join us if you can, and why not bring a friend!



**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

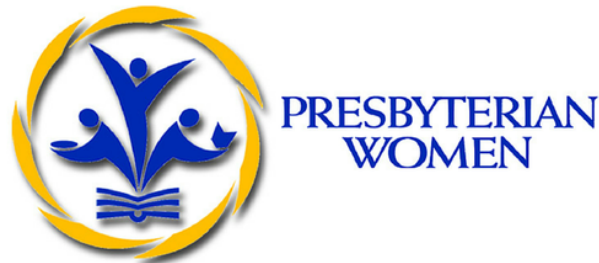
September:

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!



**SCAMMERS CONTINUE TO SEND
FAKE EMAILS AND TEXTS FROM
“PASTOR JIM”**

Member of our congregation continue to report that they have now received more than one message from “Pastor Jim” involving some kind of pleas for financial assistance. While I do not know by what means these scammers have obtained the contact information for members of our church, I am grateful that everyone appears to be aware of these messages are not from me. Please delete and, if you know how, “block” future messages from the phone number being used by the scammers to send their fraudulent texts.

At the same time, please remember to be careful out there! If you continue to receive suspicious requests bearing my name, please let the church office know. If this continues to be a serious problem, we will consider whether anything else can be done to stop this obnoxious, if not dangerous, behavior.

Meanwhile, I want to repeat this link which has a very helpful article about how to avoid Internet scams: <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/info-2022/tech-tools-used-by-cybercriminals.html?intcmp=AE-FRDSC-MOR-R2-POS3>.

Please, stay cyber-safe out there!

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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