



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
AND THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

This Sunday, the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost and the first Sunday in August, our worship service will include a celebration of the Lord's Supper. Our Scripture readings are: Jeremiah 29:10-12; and Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16. The title of the sermon is "The Assurance of Things Hoped For," which will be the first of three studies during August in the Letter to the Hebrews.

Please plan to join us in person (and why not invite a friend!) for our worship service. If you will be joining us via the Internet, please remember to gather elements in advance to allow you to join us in communion. Any bread

and any liquid will be sufficient for you to participate, together with those in the Sanctuary, in this great sacrament of remembrance. A copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/08-07-2022-Bulletin-Communion-PDF.pdf>.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH		
<i>Our Journey Forward — 2023</i>		
<i>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</i>		
Understanding that all we possess is a gift from God, I/we rejoice in pledging to First Presbyterian Church:		
\$ <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	OR	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly
\$ <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/>		\$ <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/>
Name(s) _____		
Signature _____		
Address _____		
Phone _____		Email _____

**2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
IS UNDERWAY!**

Today, the day we routinely circulate our weekly Newsletter, is also the day we have mailed to each of the members and good friends of FPC our 2023 Stewardship Campaign materials. Look for your envelope which will contain a letter from your pastor, a synopsis of the church's finances through June 30, 2022, a pledge card, and some information about giving (which, in its broadest sense, consist collectively of time, talent, and of course treasure).

During our Congregational meeting on July 17, 2022, members of the Session wanted to make the case for pledging as well as giving. Of course, your financial gifts to the church are the most important aspect of funding our operations and our missions. If we cannot pay the light bill, then we will have to close the doors.

After that, however, pledging becomes the most important aspect of managing the funds we may expect to receive over the course of the calendar year. Being able to reasonably anticipate the amount of financial support the church will receive during the year is the most useful tool the Session has to be

good stewards of your charitable giving. With pledge cards from all the faithful members and friends of our church, the Session can better budget for the church's expenses and allot appropriate amounts for our missions and outreach. Without a reliable budget, the Session is forced to be extremely cautious, and so the church might have to forego mission and outreach opportunities in the early part of the year, only to learn later in the year that we had, in fact, received sufficient funds to participate in those opportunities which are now lost to us.

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. 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. We will also 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!



NEVER LET YOUR GUARD DOWN: INTERNET SECURITY IS SERIOUS!

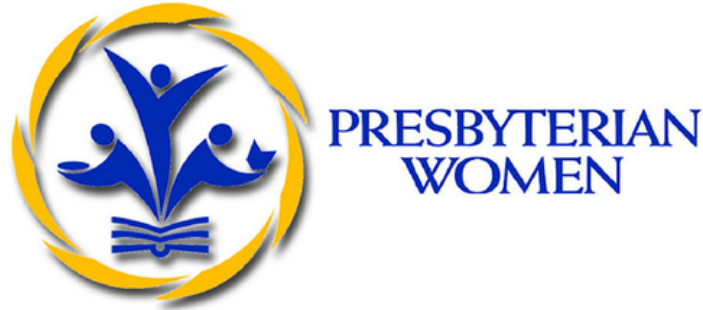
It's happening again! Fraudsters and criminals have been trying to convince various church members into making phony charitable contributions.

More than one member of our congregation has reported to the church office that they have received a text from "Pastor Jim," asking for a "quick favor." A reply to the text prompts a return message asking the recipient to buy an Amazon gift card for a sick child or some other poor person in need. Those who have reported these texts have been wise enough *not* to send any money, although they did say how "authentic" the original texts appeared. So, no harm done, as far as we can tell.

Still, be careful out there! If Pastor Jim asks you for a favor in a text or email, it will not be to give money to someone you do not know. Moreover, if you do receive such a suspicious request, please let the church office know. We want to keep track of how serious a problem this might be.

Meanwhile, here is 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>.

Stay cyber-safe out there!



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!



“ONE GREAT HOUR OF CARING”

It's that time again! Please join us on **Friday, August 5, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.** as we devote another “hour of caring” to attend to our Sanctuary and restrooms. 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):

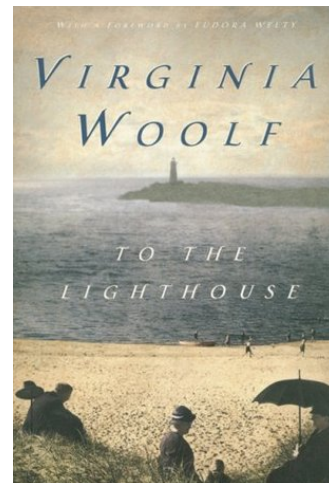
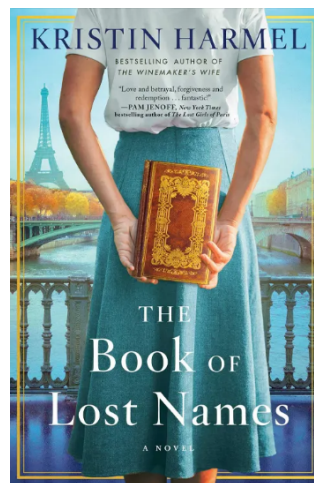
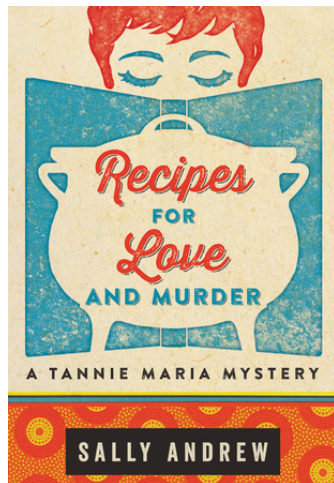
- Aug. 19 @ 10am: Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
- Sept. 2 @ 10am: Sanctuary & Restrooms
- Sept. 16 @ 10am: Office Spaces & Halls
- Sept. 30 @ 10am: Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
- Oct. 14 @ 10am: Sanctuary & Restrooms

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 already done this once two weeks ago (on Friday, July 22nd), 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!



**COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK:
CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE,
FRIDAY AFTERNOON AND SATURDAY,
AUGUST 19TH AND 20TH!**

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.



**“OFFICE ENTRANCE” TO CHURCH
TO BE LOCKED
AFTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE BEGINS**

While we have had no incidents yet, during its meeting last Monday evening the Session determined that it would be prudent to lock the doors under the porte cochere (the church’s “office entrance”) shortly after the beginning of our Sunday morning worship services. These doors would be unlocked promptly at the end of the service. All other doors in the Narthex and just outside the opposite (east) end of the Sanctuary will remain unlocked as

required by the fire code.

Given that the office entrance allows access to the building without anyone in the Sanctuary being aware of it, the Session believes it would be more secure to lock that door while we are worshipping. If you find yourself running late for church (and we have all been there!), please plan to come in the front door of the Narthex.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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