



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
A CELEBRATION OF  
NATIONAL GRANDPARENTS DAY  
ON  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

This Sunday is National Grandparents Day as well as the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost. We have invited the young disciples from the Presbyterian Day School, their teachers, their families, and of course their grandparents to join us in worship. This week, in preparation for this special worship service, the children have been making “grandparent art” in their classes, and we will display their work on the walls of our Sanctuary this Sunday.

Our Scripture readings will be Psalm 100 and Luke 18:15-17, and the title of the sermon is “God Bless All the Grandparents.” A copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/09-11-2022-Bulletin-Grandparents-Sunday-pdf.pdf>.

Children’s artwork on the walls, children in the pews, grandchildren sitting next to grandparents-- what a wonderful worship service this will be! Please plan to join us in person (and why not bring a grandchild with you!) for this happy occasion of worship and thanksgiving.

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## 2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT

This week’s mail brought us one more pledge card, which means we have added one more butterfly (the red arrow points to it!) on our Campaign Tree. This brings our total to **31** pledges received during our 2023 Stewardship Campaign!

The Session is grateful to God for this outpouring of love, support, and confidence from the members and friends of FPC, Victoria. At the same time, we do not want to become complacent. Don’t you think “31” is a somewhat unbalanced number? True, it is better than “30,” but still, it is a prime number, sitting there all by itself. “36” is a much better number; not only is it a square

number (6x6), it is also evenly divisible by 7 different integers other than 1 (2, 3, 4, 6, 9 12, and 18)!

So, are you among the folks who have not yet turned in your pledge card in? We are praying for at least five more. If you are uncertain about how much to pledge, your pastor would encourage you to pick a smaller amount to pledge, send your card in, and then if things improve, you can happily amend your gift upwards! I cannot say this often enough: 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. We want everyone to be invested in our church and to share in our congregation's loving commitment to *Our Journey Forward*!

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### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SEPTEMBER!**

Dawn Neel reports that last Sunday, September 4th, there was a good group of folks in attendance at the first post-COVID session of our Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class. Help spread the word, please!

The class meets in the Parlor on Sunday morning (before worship) from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m. The first course of study is entitled, "We Are Called." With summer vacations behind us, please consider returning to adult Sunday School as you resume your regular routine of Christian study and worship. Plan to enjoy some good conversation and good fellowship with others who, like you, are still growing and learning into their faith.

Also, don't forget that Jim Stokes will be leading a midweek Bible study, if enough folks are interested. Jim proposes a six- to eight-week study of the Book of Genesis. If you are interested, please speak to Jim Stokes or contact the church office (361.575.2441; [info@fpcovictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcovictoria.org)).



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO FPC'S OWN JUD AUSTIN**

In honor of Jud Austin's lifetime of work, study, and teaching, the Museum of the Coastal Bend has established the annual "Jud Austin Award for Outstanding Achievement in Archaeology." The first recipient of the award is, naturally, Jud Austin! The picture above shows the presentation of the inaugural award to Jud by Dr. Heather Para.

In announcing this honor, MCB said, "Jud is the heart and soul of CoBALT, the Coastal Bend Archaeological Logistics Team, who form the core of the museum's archaeology lab volunteer group. Jud's dedication to ensuring the archaeological recordkeeping is thorough and accurate, and his devotion to that task over his many years of volunteerism has inspired countless others to follow his example in preserving and sharing our past."

The Museum of the Coastal Bend is located on the campus of Victoria College at 2200 E. Red River St, Victoria, Texas. Dr. Heather Para is the



Exhibits & Collections Manager of the Museum. For more information, see:  
<https://www.museumofthecoastalbend.org/>.

Way to go Jud! Your FPC family sends its congratulations and love to you for this well-deserved recognition of your lifetime of work and support for education in the Crossroads Community!

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**IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN  
FOR THE  
VCAM ANNUAL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER**

Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM) is once again holding its annual Raffle Fundraiser. One hundred percent of the proceeds from this Fundraiser will go to VCAM's mission of providing food, clothing, and services to those less fortunate in Victoria County. The Grand prize is a \$1,000 HEB gift card, in addition to 28 more cash and gift card prizes valued from \$50-\$750.

Tickets are \$5 apiece or six for \$25 and are available from Becky Richter (our church's representative who is a member of the VCAM Board). To purchase tickets, you are invited to email Becky at [becky202richter@gmail.com](mailto:becky202richter@gmail.com) or speak to her in the Narthex after Sunday morning worship services. You can also leave a message for Becky at the First Presbyterian Church of Victoria office, (361) 575-2441.

The drawing will be held at noon, Saturday, September 24th, as part of VCAM's Open House festivities from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. You need not be present to win.

VCAM is observing its 36th year of serving Victoria County. Please help support this amazing Christian charity by buying your raffle tickets from Becky as soon as you can (why not buy several?-- at least six!). Bless you!

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Our regular, biweekly “One Great Hour of Caring” was well attended this past **Friday, September 2, 2022**. This time we concentrated on Fellowship Hall and were able to clean up the last remaining articles left over from our **HUGHLY SUCCESSFUL** Rummage Sale. The bulk of the leftover items from the Rummage Sale were divided between VICAM and the local Habit for Humanity ReStore.

In a happy sign of how this project is progressing, we also had some men from the Congregation show up and pitch in for an hour. All told, we had eight happy hearts and sixteen busy hands working to beautify our church and reduce our operating expenses. Join us the next time if you can. We have a great time enjoying each others' company, not to mention doing a good deed for our church.

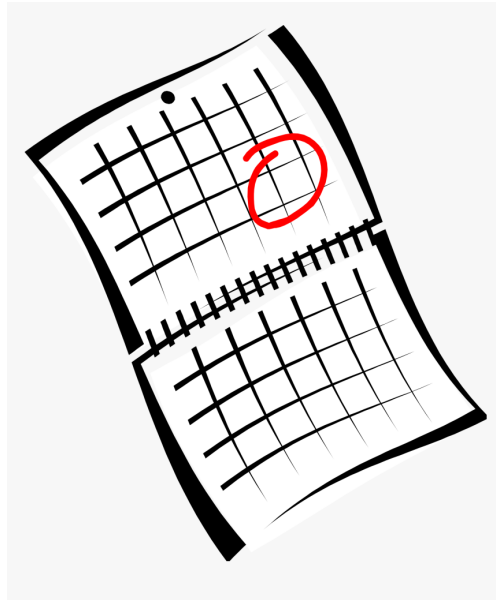
Here are the future dates for our One Great Hour of Caring (all of the listed dates are on a Friday):

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)

Any questions? If so, please contact Dawn Neel (361.652.3925).

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### **IMPORTANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN THE COMING WEEKS**

As we fall back into our regular “after-summer” routines, please take note of the following important meetings. If you are a member of one of the Committees listed below, or if there is something you would like to bring to a Committee’s attention, please plan to attend.

**Worship Committee**, Wednesday, September 7th, 4:00 p.m. in the office conference room.

**Finance Committee**, Friday, September 9th, 5:00 p.m. in the office conference room.

Also, as a reminder to Elders, please notice that the next meeting of the **Session** will be on Monday, September 12th, at 6:00 p.m., in the office conference room.

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The **Mary and Martha Circle** of Presbyterian Women will meet next week on Monday, September 12th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Parlor.

Throughout September the PW mission project will be to support Christ's Kitchen. Can you help? This is a list of much needed supplies used by the faithful volunteers at Christ's Kitchen:

Food storage bags with slider closure. Sizes: quart, gallon, and 2 1/2 gallon.

Scissors

Sharpie markers (NOT ultra fine)

Nitrile gloves

Post-It Notes

Cloth dish towels

Ink pens: blue and black

Baby wipes and adult size wipes (these items are shared with those whom Christ Kitchen serves).

Please deliver your donations to the church office, and we will make sure they are delivered to PW as a sign of our congregation's support of PW and those whom they serve so faithfully and generously.

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This morning, Wednesday, September 7, 2022, **Robert D. Oakley** ended his long walk through the valley of the shadow of death and joined the great cloud of witnesses who have claimed our Lord's promise of eternal life in God's glory. Bob's family was gathered with him when he passed.

We offer our prayers of healing and comfort to Bob's family, asking God to be with them in love, hope, and blessed assurance as they mourn the loss of husband, father, brother, friend.

Final arrangements are pending, but as soon as we have more details we will send the information around via the prayer chain.

*In life and in death,  
we belong to Jesus Christ.*

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim