

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR  
OUR WORSHIP SERVICE  
ON  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us in person (and why not invite a friend!) for our worship service this Sunday, the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Our Scripture readings will be Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16 and Luke 16:19-31 (the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus), and the title of the sermon is "Invisible Suffering." A copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here:

<https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/09-25-2022-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.

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## 2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN PROGRESS REPORT

As this Newsletter goes to print, our number of pledges received so far stands at a very healthy 34, although unchanged from last week. Please remember that our 2013 Stewardship Campaign “officially” ends on Friday, September 30, 2022-- although God’s season of generosity knows no limit. At our potluck luncheon following our worship service on Sunday, October 2, 2022, we will announce the total dollar amount of the pledges we received during the campaign.

Meanwhile, if you are the king of procrastination or the queen of forgetfulness, you still have time to fill out that pledge card (as you have been meaning to do all this time) that is sitting next to the pile of mail on the side table, dresser, dining room table, or wherever you keep important documents. In terms of participation (the measure of greatest importance to the Session), our 2023 Stewardship Campaign is already a resounding success. Still, if we could collect one or two more cards, and add one or two more butterflies to our Campaign Tree bulletin board, we could upgrade our results to a *huge*, resounding success! Please do not miss out on joining us in this happy time of giving.

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### **CHILDREN'S CHAPEL HAS RESUMED AT PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL!**

Now that our young disciples have had time to adjust to their classes and to fall into a regular routine of studying, singing, and playing, PDS has added worshipping to that happy schedule.

On Tuesday, September 20th, your pastor welcomed the PDS students to the Sanctuary with a traditional "blessing of the backpacks" ceremony. It is so cute to see the youngest students carrying their backpacks around--backpacks which seem deeper than their owners are tall. The girls choose princesses, unicorns, and Minnie Mouse, and the boys lean towards Spider Man, Toy Story, and dinosaurs (although your preacher spotted some pastel dinosaurs among the girls, but of no course no princesses among the boys!).

Class by class, your pastor blessed colorful backpacks and prayed for the children who wore them, the parents who filled them, and the teachers who tended them. After the blessing, each child received a name tag for his or her backpack ("My backpack was blessed with love at First Presbyterian Church, Victoria"), plus a small toy trinket to hang next to the name tag. Those trinkets, by the way, were chosen by our always enthusiastic Office Administrator, Erica Colding, and they were a big hit among the under-5 crowd! The trinkets were "animal cupcakes" that had a cupcake wrapper with a hippo, or a giraffe, or a koala, or a whale, or some other of God's creatures peaking out. There is no joy like a three-year-old with a new toy!

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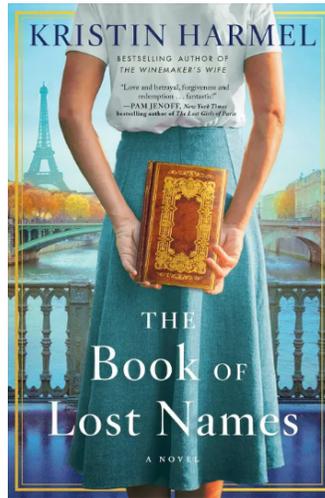
## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN SEPTEMBER!

By way of reminder:

- Dawn Neel continues to lead our Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class. She is wrapping up a study of “We Are Called,” and on Sunday, October 9th, she will lead a new series on “The Reformation.” The church will happily pay the small cost of the course books which will augment the class’s studies of this pivotal event in the history of Christendom, but we need to know how many to purchase.

By no later than the end of our worship service this Sunday, September 25th, please let us know in the church office (361.575.2441; [info@fpcfvictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcfvictoria.org)), or otherwise speak to Dawn directly, about your desire to participate in this class. The class meets in the Parlor prior to our Sunday morning worship service, starting at 9:30 a.m. and concluding promptly at 10:15 a.m. We will be glad to order the book for you-- just let us know that you are coming!

- Jim Stokes continues to lead a six- to eight-week study of the Book of Genesis. This class meets on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the church parlor. Just show up and be prepared to listen, participate, learn, and enjoy!
  - Your pastor would appreciate your prayers for the three high school students who will be participating in a confirmation class in our church’s conference room on six Wednesday evenings (starting September 21, 2022). The class, led by your pastor (who would also appreciate your prayers), will study the Christian faith in the context of the Reformed Tradition. This class will not have the structure and formality of the types of confirmation classes in which you or your children may have participated, but it will nevertheless be an earnest attempt to take an age-appropriate look at faith and worship. Your pastor, who has never led a class like this before, will be relying as much on the Holy Spirit as he will on his own studies and preparation to walk with these young people in their nascent faith. Please add these trusting and inquisitive young students to your prayer list!
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## BOOK CLUB MEETING

Our informal Book Club will meet September 27, 2022 at 1:00 PM to discuss this month's selection, "*The Book of Lost Names*". Please join us as we gather round to discuss what each of us enjoyed about the book.

We will also be starting October's book which is "*To the Light House*," by Virginia Wolf (of whom none of us is afraid).

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## ONE GREAT HOUR OF CARING

Thanks yet once again to our happy Christian cleaning warriors who showed up on Friday, September 16th, to do some light housekeeping around the church. This time they worked principally in the Sanctuary, which looked so clean and beautiful for the Memorial Service we held the next day for Robert Oakley.

It is no secret that we also happen to be having some fun while we are doing this! So, if you have not joined us before, why not make some plans to so the next time we gather on Friday, September 30th, at 10:00 p.m.? Our chores last only an hour, but the savings afforded our church are enormous and the fellowship we enjoy is unmatched!

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

- 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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**OUR GOOD FRIEND,  
THE REVEREND DAN FULTZ,  
ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT**

The Reverend Dan Fultz, who has served as the pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church since 2002, recently informed his congregation that he will

retire from active ministry at the end of this year. His plans for retirement are as yet indefinite, but I am confident God will guide Dan and his family to the next happy chapter of their lives.

I spoke with Dan personally to be sure I could share this news publicly and also to ask that he keep us apprised of his plans as he transitions to retirement. I am certain the congregation of First Presbyterian Church would like to join in some of the celebrations that will undoubtedly be planned to commemorate the gifts and the many years of service that this dear man of God has given his church and his community.

Stay tuned for further news, and meanwhile, please join in prayer with the Presbyterian saints at Grace as they enter a time of discernment for their future. The transition from one preacher (especially one as beloved as Dan) to the next is a difficult time in the life of any church. We pray that the Holy Spirit will lead both Dan and his flock of twenty years to the next, exciting dimension of their faith.



Heavy are our hearts with the passing of a pillar of our church and our community, Marie Sims Mooney (July 14, 1921 – September 19, 2022). Mrs. Mooney's obituary can be found here:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/victoria-tx/marie-mooney-10933818>, together with many delightful photographs and memories at the bottom of the page.

The community is invited to join the family during a period of visitation at Rosewood Funeral Home, 3304 Mockingbird Lane, on Thursday evening, September 22nd, from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm.

A Service of Witness to the Resurrection in Celebration of the Life of Mrs. Mooney will be held in our Sanctuary on Friday, September 23rd, at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Fred Hobbs will join me in officiating at the service.

Immediately following the service, the Mooney Family is inviting Mrs. Mooney's many friends to join them in our Fellowship Hall for a catered luncheon and a time of fellowship and remembrance together.

We praise God for the time he allowed Mrs. Mooney to be among us (over 101 years!), and we offer our prayers of healing and comfort to her family, asking God to be with them in love, hope, and blessed assurance as they mourn the loss of mother, sister, grandmother, friend. May Mrs. Mooney rest in peace.

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

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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