



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

During our worship service on Sunday, October 16, 2022, the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, our Scripture readings will be Psalm 5 and John 17:6-12. We are excited to welcome Ms. Leesa Morales, who will speak to us about an important Christian ministry in the Crossroads area, the Perpetual Help Home.

Next month, the Presbyterian Woman of our church will be supporting the Perpetual Help Home with gifts of supplies that are used by the women who benefit from the sheltering services provided by this wonderful organization.

Next Sunday, we will, as usual, be singing, praying, and joining in fellowship, so please join us in person (and why not bring a friend?!). A copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/10-16-2022-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.



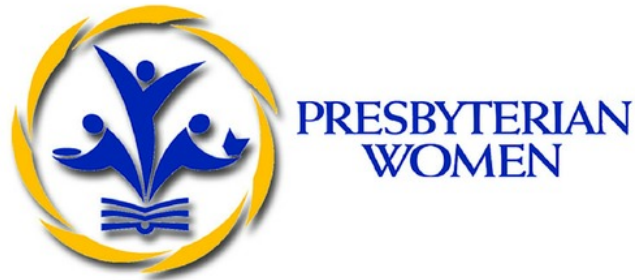
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CALENDAR

- Sunday, October 16th, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., in the Parlor: The Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class, led by Dawn Neel, will continue its six-week study of the Protestant Reformations in anticipation of our celebration of Reformation Sunday during our worship service on October 30, 2022. Entitled, “The Protestant Reformations,” the study is taken from the *Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding* series. As previously reported, this study is designed to encourage reflections on the Protestant Reformations and to stimulate the desire for more church and individual study of this profound topic.

Extra study books have been ordered in case you want to participate in this class but have not yet mentioned your interest to Dawn. If you are interested, let nothing hold you back from engaging in this enlightening study!

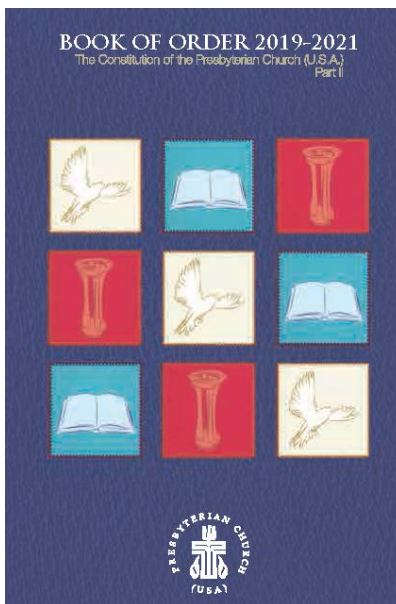
- Wednesday, October 12th, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., in the Parlor: Jim Stokes continues to lead this weekday study of the Book of Genesis.

- Our confirmation class is in recess for three weeks while your pastor is on vacation. We will pick up our studies again on Wednesday evening, November 2nd, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
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During October, the PW mission project is to support our own Presbyterian School. Please consider helping this effort with your contribution of any of these items which PW is collecting for the students at PDS:

Paper towels
Cotton balls
"Cheap" small paper plates
Gold Fish crackers
Animal crackers
Coffee filters
Thick craft sticks
Disinfectant wipes
Disinfectant spray
Non-powdered nitrile gloves



RESULTS OF OUR CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022

At our congregational meeting held immediately following our 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 9, 2022, Ruling Elder Dawn Neel presented the names of five individuals that a subcommittee of the Session proposed be elected to serve on a Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC). This CNC is being constituted for the purpose of reporting back to the congregation with the names of individuals they will nominate to serve on the Session for designated terms in succession of current Elders who are rotating off at the expiration of their respective terms on December 31, 2022. The Elders whose terms expire on that date are Dawn Neel, Susan Salinas, and Gayla Whitaker.

Two members from the Session were nominated to serve on the CNC: Dawn Neel and Gayla Whitaker. Three members from the congregation were also nominated: Jack Kleinecke, Marth Tarkington, and Bill Wilkinson. By an overwhelming majority of the vote of the members of the congregation present at the meeting, these five individuals were elected as the members of this CDC.

Please pray for these good folks as they now enter into a time of discernment to consider whom they will nominate to be elected to serve on the Session, commencing January 1, 2023. As we continue with *Our Journey Forward*, we are looking for able leaders to help guide us into the future, a future we are confident is full of opportunity and blessings.

If you feel called to leadership in this church, please contact one of the

members of the CDC. Do not be concerned whether you are “worthy enough” for this service. God does not always call the equipped to serve, more often he equips those whom he calls. Howsoever you sense the call of the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord, please consider how you might support the missions and ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas-- and answer that call!



ERRATA

Several readers have asked me about the “quiz” that appeared in last week’s Newsletter in the article about the success of our 2023 Stewardship Campaign. The numbers that appeared in the quiz did not match the explanation that followed them.

That was because your pastor goofed when he failed to notice the error in the final version of the Newsletter that was published. This is how the article was *supposed* to have read:

At our potluck luncheon following the worship service on Sunday, October 2, 2022, the Session “revealed” the results of our 2023 Stewardship Campaign. If you weren’t there, can you guess which of the following correctly states the total amount of the pledges we received to support *Our Journey Forward* in 2023:

1. \$129,890
2. \$92,128

3. \$189,220

If you chose #2, you would be remembering the total amount of the pledges we received during our 2021 Stewardship Campaign to support our budget for 2022. If you chose #1, no one would fault you for believing that #3 was a ridiculously high number. But, you know what?, sometimes our God is a ridiculous God!

I once had a mentor, well, my boss and my mentor, who had an uncanny knack for finding the smallest typographical errors in any memorandum or contract I gave him. At first, I was always mortified when that happen, fearing that he would judge me “less than perfect” and thus criticize me harshly. For a while, he let me stew with that attitude, wanting to ensure, I imagine, that as a lawyer I always strived as hard as possible to prepare a “perfect” document-- that I always strived to “do my best.”

Eventually, however, he let me off the hook. When I once again reacted in honor to a miniscule typo that he had found, he finally put me at ease when he said, “That’s alright, Jim. All my pencils have erasers.” Well, how about that?! He was confessing to not being perfect either! After that, I still worked hard to do my best, but I was less stressed because I knew that mercy was available if and when I failed.

With time, I found my mentor’s compassionate remark to be spiritually refreshing. God does not insist upon perfection among his beloved children, any more than we expect perfection among the children whom we raise. Forgiveness is a type of “spiritual eraser” that we have all been given, thanks to God’s mercy and grace. One iteration of the Lord’s prayer might be “Erase our mistakes, as we erase the mistakes of others!”

The faithful worshipers here at FPC, Victoria, have all been equipped with divine erasers. Those of us who write and publish the Newsletter are always grateful for that!



CURRENT COPIES OF “THESE DAYS” HAVE ARRIVED

We have received our quarterly delivery of the most recent edition (October/November/December 2022) of *These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*. Upon request, we will be happy to mail a copy to any member desiring one. Also, as is our custom, we will place copies of these devotionals on the tables in the Narthex and in front of the church office for people to pick up on Sunday mornings or whenever they are at the church.

Many members of FPC faithfully follow the daily devotionals contained in *These Days*. If you have not previously considered adding the spiritual practice of spending a few moments each day to engage in a quiet, peaceful reflection on your faith, this carefully designed publication is a great way to introduce yourself to that powerful practice.



Gone fishing . . .

I am forever grateful to this congregation for the time they afford me to step away from my pastoral duties at FPC in order to spend time with my family, to rest, and to relax. During this time, I am refreshed and given the opportunity to re-create myself in order to better serve you and to go about God's work in his kingdom.

I will be out of the office from Thursday, October 13, 2022 (the day I leave) until Thursday, October 27, 2022 (the day I return). As always, the Worship Committee is planning some exciting worship services during the two Sundays I will be absent (October 16th and 23rd). As noted above, Ms. Leesa Morales from the Perpetual Help Home will be with us next Sunday, October 16th. Our friend, the Rev. Bette Burris, will be with us to preach on October 23rd.

As we did earlier this year, Sally and I are taking another grandchild on his "very own grandparent trip" Readers of this Newsletter know that this is an indulgence we allow ourselves to introduce our grandchildren to the excitement of travel and the adventure of diverse cultures. The trip that we took earlier this year was one that was scheduled for last year, but of course COVID forced a delay in our original plans. So, while this year we are faced with two long trips, we don't mind. The opportunity to spend some private, one-on-one time with children we love is a blessing for which we are eternally grateful.

While I am away, Erica Colding will, to the extent she is able, publish an abbreviated version of the Newsletter with information about the upcoming

worship service for each successive Sunday. This is a busy time during the church year, so please be patient with Erica if she is unable to complete this additional chore while she attends to her other duties. Regardless of whether the Newsletter is published, and even if it is uncharacteristically short, those who ordinarily receive the Newsletter by mail will at least receive, as usual, a copy of the Bulletin for the following Sunday's worship service.

Readers of this Newsletter will also know that when Sally and I travel, we try as best we can to attend a church service on Sunday in whatever locale we find ourselves. We hope that you, too, will be in church on Sunday to glorify God and praise his name. You will be in our prayers as we travel, and especially on Sunday morning, we will be thinking of all our friends in the pews at FPC!

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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