

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us in person (and why not invite a friend!) for our worship service this Sunday, the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Our Scripture readings will be Psalm 66:1-12 and Luke 17:11-19 ("Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers"), and the title of the sermon is "The Liturgy of Gratitude." A copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/10-09-2022-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.



**THANKS BE TO GOD:  
OUR 2023 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN  
WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!**

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!

We received a total of 34 pledges this year, which is more than a one-third increase from the 24 pledges we received last year. For your pastor, that number alone is the one that is the most impressive. A single pledge often represents the commitment of not just one person, but rather of a “family unit” consisting of spouses and sometimes other family members. Thus, I can only imagine how many faithful members of FPC, Victoria, prayerfully considered their “investment” of time and treasure in our church and its missions next year and then proceeded to commit themselves as expressed in their pledge.

Of course, we must also give glory to God for the generosity expressed in each pledge, the total of which came out to \$189,220! With this balance in mind, the Session can now more responsibly and predictably budget for our operations and ministries next year. Our God is an amazingly wonderful God, a God who continues to surprise us with his power, his glory, and his blessings. I look forward to the many wonderful things that will happen at our church as we continue *Our Forward Journey*. Thank you, each one of you, for your generosity!



*What then are we to say about these things?  
If God is for us, who is against us?  
-- Romans 8:31*



## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY CELEBRATION

If you were in church last Sunday, October 2, 2022, you will recognize the picture of our altar above, lovingly decorated by Linda Patterson (and her ever-faithful helpers) to commemorate World Communion Sunday. On this occasion, the faithful Christians at FPC, Victoria, celebrated, in spiritual unity with so many other faithful Christians around the world, the holy sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

A special thanks to Linda for preparing such a beautiful altar to make our celebration all the more colorful, all the more global, all the more meaningful!

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### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CALENDAR

- Sunday, October 9th, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., in the Parlor: The Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class, led by Dawn Neel, will commence its six-week study of the Protestant Reformations (yes, plural; there was more than one!) in anticipation of our celebration of Reformation Sunday during our worship service on October 30, 2022. The study, entitled “The Protestant Reformations,” is taken from the *Being Reformed: Faith Seeking Understanding* series. As noted in last week’s Newsletter, 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. The syllabus for the study lists these ambitious objectives:

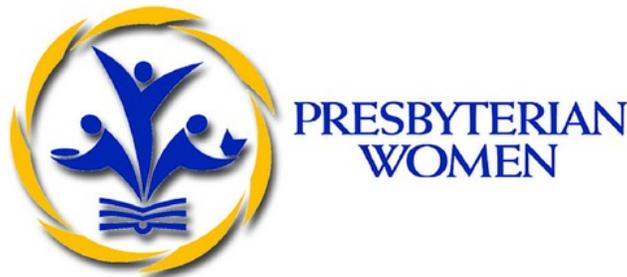
Explore the backgrounds to the Reformations and then each of the four Reformation traditions.

Consider divisive theological issues focusing on just three of the important matters where each of the traditions has unique views.

Finally, look at the Reformations today regarding their influences and legacies, as well as the Reformation in today's churches.

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 in Reformed theology, let nothing hold you back from engaging in this enlightening study!

- Wednesday, October 5th, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., in the Parlor: Jim Stokes continues to lead this weekday study of the Book of Genesis.
  - Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in the church conference room: Our three teenage students are continuing their studies of faith in the context of the Reformed Tradition during our confirmation class. Please add these trusting and inquisitive young students to your prayer list as they consider what they believe about God, his creation, and their place in it.
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During October, the PW mission project will be 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:

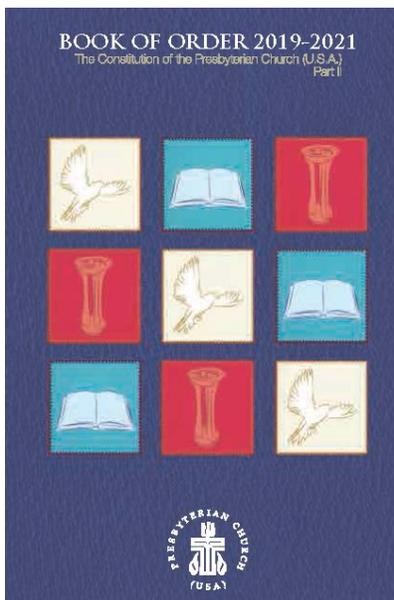
Paper towels  
Cotton balls  
"Cheap" small paper plates  
Gold Fish crackers  
Animal crackers

Coffee filters  
Thick craft sticks  
Disinfectant wipes  
Disinfectant spray  
Non-powdered nitrile gloves

Members of the Mary and Martha Circle and the Adele Carsner Young Circle are asked to bring items from this list to their October meetings to share with PDS.

The Mary and Martha Circle meets at 2:00 p.m. in the church parlor on Monday, October 10.

The Adele Carsner Young Circle meets at 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor on Thursday, October 13.



**NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022,  
FOLLOWING THE 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

Pursuant to a call by the Session, notice is hereby given of a Congregational Meeting of the members of First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas to be held at the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, October 9, 2022.

The purposes of the Meeting will be (a) to consider a report from the Session regarding nominations of persons to serve on a Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) and (b) to elect, in accordance with the will of a majority of the Congregation present, persons to serve on the CNC. The task of the CNC thus elected will be to consider persons suitable for nomination to serve on the Session for designated terms in succession of current Elders who are rotating off the Session 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.

The newly elected CNC will report back to the Congregation, at a date to be determined in due course, with nominations of persons to fill the vacancies on the Session created by the departing Elders, and the Congregation will be asked to elect individuals who will commence their respective terms of service on the Session on January 1, 2023.

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### **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.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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