

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
DURING OUR ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE,
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022, 7:00 P.M.**

Please join us in person for our worship service on Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. This will be our annual Candlelight Service when we will light the Christ Candle on our Advent Wreath and, at the end of our service, dismiss ourselves by candlelight as we sing *Silent Night*.

Our Scripture readings for our worship service will be Isaiah 9:2-7 and Luke 2:1-20 (the angelic host appears to the shepherds). The title of the sermon is “Whose Good News Is It?,” and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/12-24-2022-Bulletin-Christmas-Eve-PDF-1.pdf>.

Please remember, also, that members who are able to attend this service are encouraged to offer rides to those who would not otherwise be able to be present. The way the Holy Spirit works on occasions like this is there will be as much fellowship and worship enjoyed in the ride to and from the church as there will be during the worship service! Please consider inviting a friend or neighbor, someone who cannot drive at night (or at all), to come to church with you and share in the moving celebration of this sacred evening.



**HARPER EDWARDS
CONFIRMED AS A
NEW MEMBER OF
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

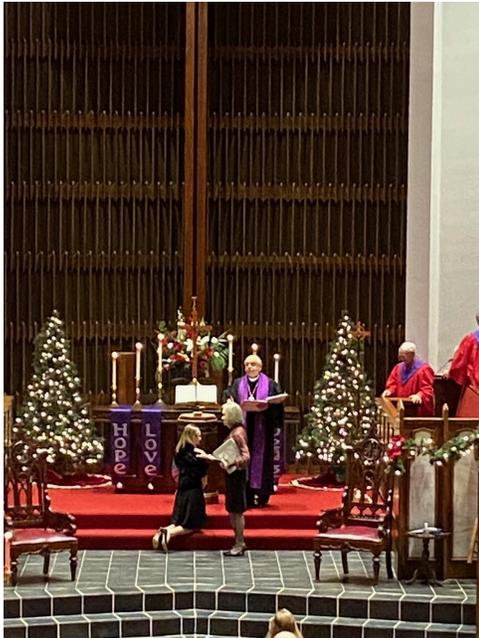
During our worship service on Sunday, December 18th, Harper Edwards participated in a confirmation ceremony to become a new member of our church. Congratulations, Harper!

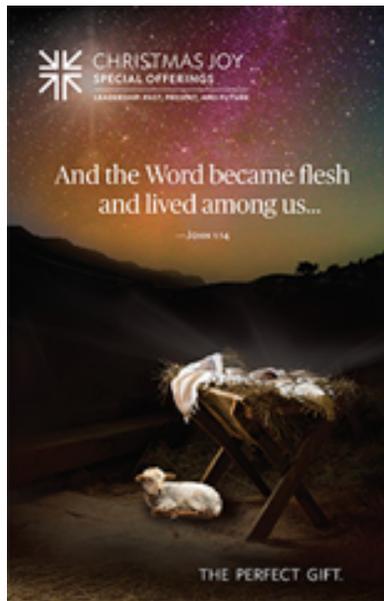
Family, friends, and members of FPC gathered to encourage Harper on

her faith journey as she completes high school and will soon be off to college.

In the Apostolic tradition of our faith, Elders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), regardless of when they were ordained and regardless of the church in which they were ordained, gathered in the Chancel for a “laying on of hands” ceremony as Harper was blessed and welcomed into membership at First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas. After the worship service, the Session presented Harper with a personalized Bible which we pray she will read, study, and enjoy as she continues her walk with Christ.

In case you were not present, or in case you have not yet seen the service as archived on our website (www.fpcofvictoria.org), here are some pictures of this happy occasion:





ANNUAL CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

May God bless the generous members and friends of our church and those who will be the recipients of their generosity! Over \$500 was collected during our worship service last Sunday morning, December 18, 2022, for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s annual Christmas Joy Offering.

*Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor. Proverbs 22:9*



WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN!

Please plan to stay a few extra minutes after our worship service on New Year's Day, January 1, 2023. If we are strong in number, it will take but a short amount of time to take down the beautiful decorations in our Sanctuary so that they will be ready to be displayed again during the Advent Season next year. Admittedly, this is not the "fun part" of Christmas, but it is a necessary part of keeping our church beautiful.

Please stay and help our faithful Worship Committee with this important task. The fun and the fellowship will be well worth the effort!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CALENDAR

- *Sunday, January 1, 2023, 9:30 – 10:00 a.m., in the Parlor:* Dawn Neel and Pastor Jim DeMent will conclude their series of Reflections on the Season of Advent. The last session in this series will be held on the first day of the New Year!
- *Sunday, January 8, 2023, 9:30 – 10:00 a.m., in the Parlor:* Dawn Neel will lead a new study on Biblical Prophecy. Study Guides ("*The Prophets Speak*") have been ordered, and each participant in the class will be given one free of charge. Please join Dawn and fellow classmates for an interesting and timely study.

- The weekly Bible study of the Book of Genesis conducted by Jim Stokes these past many weeks has concluded for the year, but stay tuned for information in the New Year about the resumption of this class! Meanwhile, Jim invites interested members to contact him about any particular book (Old or New Testament) that they would be interested in studying as we begin 2023.
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PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF OUR HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Church Newsletter will NOT be published next week. We will do our best, however, to mail the Bulletins for our New Year's Day worship service. The mailing will be made on Wednesday, December 28, 2022, to all those on our mailing list.

The Church Office will be closed as follows:

From noon, Thursday, December 22, 2022,
until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 27, 2022.

From noon, Thursday, December 29, 2022,
until 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 3, 2023.

Stated another way, the Church Office will only be *open* next week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and a half-day Thursday, December 27-29, 2022.

On an important financial note, unless otherwise requested, any donations to the church received or postmarked on or prior to December 31, 2022, will be recorded as a gift made in 2022. If you have not made your final gift to the church for 2022, please remember to do so before the IRS deadline of 12/31/2022.



CURRENT COPIES OF "THESE DAYS" HAVE ARRIVED

We have received our quarterly delivery of the most recent edition (January/February/March 2023) 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 FPC members 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.

M E R R Y
CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

A prayer from your Office Administrator, Choirmaster, and Pastor:

May the joy of Christmas be forever in your heart,
And in the New Year ahead,
May your love abound,
Your faith increase,
And the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim
