

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
THIS SUNDAY,
JANUARY 22, 2023, 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for our worship service this Sunday, January 22, 2023, the Third Sunday after the Epiphany. Our Scripture readings will be Isaiah 9:1-41 and Matthew 4:12-23 (the Apostle Matthew's account of the beginning of Jesus' ministry). The title of the sermon is "Radical Obedience," and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-22-1-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.



Every time your pastor walks down from the church office to the choir room, he passes by the PDS bulletin board which the teachers update every month. This month's bulletin board is pictured above, and isn't it especially precious?!

If it is not already your custom to do so, I recommend that every Sunday morning you take a "detour" down the hall in front of the PDS bulletin board to take a look at the Bible verse being featured for each month that school is in session. Not only will your heart be warmed and your spirits lifted, you will also be able to remind yourself of the important mission that this congregation has undertaken for over 75 years in supporting the Presbyterian Day School.

Although PDS does reimburse us for a portion of the church's utility bills, the school would not be possible without the physical premises afforded by our education wing and the lion's share of the utilities that we underwrite. I am fond of saying that the dedicated staff of PDS teach our young disciples at least two important lessons; their ABC's and the certain knowledge that Jesus loves them. Our support helps make that possible, and that must surely be pleasing to Christ.



OUR SESSION IS OFF TO A GREAT START

With the new members of our Session having been recently ordained and installed, the Session has quickly begun its work.

On Saturday, January 14, 2023, Session members participated in an all-day Elder's Training Session which oriented new and re-oriented returning Elders to the theology, traditions, and polity of our Presbyterian heritage. The following Monday, January 16, 2023, the Session met (with every member in attendance) to commence the work of the New Year. Among that work was the election of Session officers and the appointment of Chairs and Co-Chairs for our church committees. Here is the result of the Session's actions in that regard:

Clerk of the Session:	Bonnie Wilkinson
Ass't Clerk:	Lynn McAuley
Treasurer:	Dawn Neel
Ass't Treasurer:	Jim Stokes
Building & Grounds:	John Horadam, Patrick Patterson
Caregiving & Fellowship:	Frances Byrne, Lynn McAuley
Christian Education:	Leila Galvan, Becky Richter
Finance:	Dawn Neel

Membership: Bonnie Wilkinson
Mission & Outreach: Donald Anderson, Becky Richter
Personnel: Frances Byrne
Worship: Camille Miller

The assignments listed above reflect only the Session leadership positions on the committees mentioned. Each committee will be expanded by members of the congregation who will be contacted and asked to participate. If you see a committee listed you feel called to serve, please reach out to the Chair or Co-Chair of that committee. The Session cannot do all of the work of the church alone; we need your generous help and faithful involvement as well!

On Saturday, February 4, 2023, the Session will hold its annual spiritual retreat at the Broadax Ranch near Tivoli, Texas. Each year that we have done this, it has proven to be a moving and a motivating experience for our leaders as we seek to discern the will of the Holy Spirit in the life of our church. Please be in prayer for the members of our Session as they embrace the challenges of planning *Our Forward Journey* and as they consider the growth of our church in service to the Lord.



**COMMUNITIES OF FAITH
JOIN VICTORIA COMMUNITY
IN CELEBRATING
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY**

Your pastor, along with other members of our congregation, is a member of the Communities of Faith group that meets monthly to build fellowship, understanding, and rapport among religious leaders in the Victoria community. Our members include a leader in Victoria's synagogue, the Imam of Victoria's

Islamic Center, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Victoria, members of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, and ministers from the Presbyterian, Episcopal, and Lutheran churches in Victoria.

This Monday, your pastor joined members of the Communities of Faith as we marched in solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters in the local parade honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Alas!, many of our members walk slowly, so in the pictures surrounding this article you cannot see the 150 to 200 marchers who are ahead of us in the parade. It was a wonderful occasion!

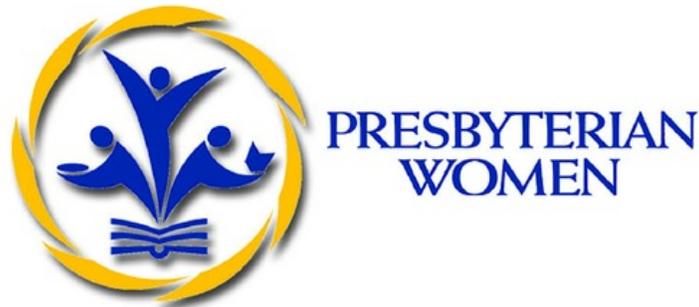
The Rev. Fred Hobbs led us in prayer at the end of the march, and we all departed reminding ourselves of the blessings of equality with which our God created each of his children and the work that we Christians, together with all our friends in the interfaith community, have to do honor God's promise of equality and to fulfill Martin Luther King Jr's dream of a nation of genuine liberty and justice for all.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CALENDAR

- Sunday, January 22, 2023, 9:30 – 10:00 a.m., in the Parlor: Dawn Neel continues to lead a study on Biblical Prophecy. Study Guides (“*The Prophets Speak*”) are available, 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.

Jim Stokes has decided to take a “sabbatical” from teaching his course on Genesis. On behalf of the congregation, I want to thank Jim for his faithful study and leadership. Watch this space for future announcements when Jim returns!



Presbyterian Women's mission focus for February 2023 is Mid Coast Family Services. Presbyterian Women will be assisting this worthy organization by providing the following (the items appearing in bold text are most needed at this time):

Ceramic pr plastic bowls (cereal size

(Bed) Pillows

Full size sheets and pillowcases

Shampoo and conditioner (including ethnic hair care products)

Large/Oversized t-shirts for women to sleep in. Shirts can be new or gently used. Plain tees with logos are ok.

Kleenex

Comforters - twin or full size

Plastic forks and spoons

Body wash

Combs and brushes

Deodorant

Satin sleeping bonnets
Cloth towels (bath and hand size, and washcloths)
Tall kitchen garbage bags
Lip balm
Toothpaste
Disposable razors (women's)
Panties for girls and women (all sizes)
Feminine hygiene products

If you would like to donate to the Presbyterian Women's mission this month, you can bring items to the church office.



NEW BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

January's book is "Phantom of the Opera" by Gaston Leroux, and January's meeting will be held in the Parlor on Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

February's book will be "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro, and February's meeting will be held in the Parlor on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

Please join us for some provocative discussion and wonderful fellowship.



One Great Hour of Caring Schedule for the Spring

Friday, January 20 @ 10am: Sanctuary

Friday, February 3 @ 10am: Office Areas & Parlor

Friday, February 17 @ 10am: Fellowship Hall & Kitchen

Friday, March 3 @ 10am: Sanctuary

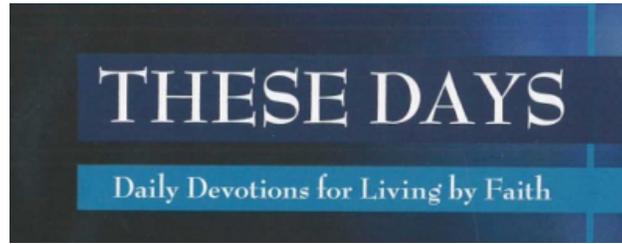
Friday, March 17 @ 10am: Office Areas & Parlor

Friday, March 31 @ 10am: Fellowship Hall & Kitchen



We have lost a dear friend and sister in the faith, Ruth Ann Bernard, who joined the Church Triumphant on Tuesday January 17, 2023. The family is still grieving their loss, and final arrangements remain pending there will undoubtedly be a Service of Witness to the Resurrection in our sanctuary at a date yet to be determined we will announce more details as they become known.

In life and in death, we belong to Christ.



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.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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