



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
ON BAPTISM OF CHRIST SUNDAY,  
JANUARY 8, 2023, 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us in person for our worship service on Sunday, January 8, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. This will be a very special Sunday as we joyfully ordain and install the new members of our Session (the Class of 2025):

*Donald Anderson  
Leila Galvan  
Camille Miller*

This Sunday, the first Sunday after Epiphany, is also Baptism of Christ Sunday. As we ordain and install our new and returning Elders, this is the

perfect worship service to pause and reflect on the consequences of our own baptism-- a baptism that includes us among God's own, a baptism that prepares us to follow in the way of Christ, a baptism that calls to both serve and lead in Christ's Church and in the church here at 2408 N. Navarro Street.

Our Scripture readings for our worship service will be Isaiah 42:1-9 and Matthew 3:13-17 (Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist). The title of the sermon is "Remembering our Baptism," and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-1-8-New-Member-Instalation-PDF.pdf>.



### **CHRISTMAS EVE WAS CELEBRATED ON A COLD AND HOLY NIGHT**

While we had no snow, we had plenty of chilly (below freezing, even!) weather for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. That did not daunt our spirits, however, as some 65 people were in our Sanctuary on Christmas Eve to worship the birth of our Lord and Savior, to celebrate the Lord's Supper, and to sing the many familiar and moving Christmas carols of the season.

The light of 65 candles as we dismissed ourselves singing Silent Night was a powerful and moving reminder of the light that has entered God's

creation as a result of the gift of his Son in our midst.

*What has come into being in him was life,  
and the life was the light of all people.*

*The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness did not overcome it.*

*--John 1:3-5*

I am also pleased to report that on the church's Facebook page alone (we do not have similar statistics for our website), we had 73 "views" during our Christmas Eve service. Each view may also have had more than one person watching. In any event, combined with the 65 worshipers in attendance, we had at least 138 people celebrating Christmas Eve, directly or indirectly, at First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas. To God be the glory!

Enjoy these additional pictures of that happy occasion:





## PDS STUDENTS RETURN TO CLASSES AFTER A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

Today, January 4, 2023, our young disciples at Presbyterian Day School returned to their classes after the Holiday Break. As shown in the picture above, spirits were high as some of the students cheerfully greeted Pastor Jim!

It is amazing to consider that the school year is almost half over. Where, O where, dear Lord, does the time fly?!

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**Monday January 9, 2023 at 2:00 PM** Mary & Martha Circle Meeting  
**Thursday January, 12 2023 at 9:30 AM** Adele Carsner Young Circle

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## NEW BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

January's book is "Phantom of the Opera" by Gaston Leroux. 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.



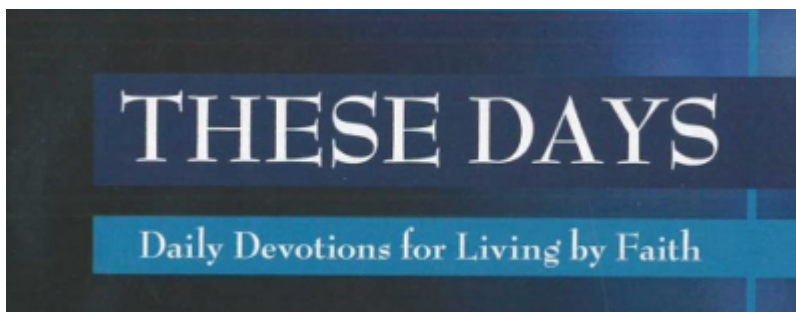
February's meeting will be held in the Parlor on Tuesday, February, 28 2023, at 1:00 PM.

Please join us for some provocative discussion and wonderful fellowship.



### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CALENDAR

- 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.



### 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.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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