

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE,
MAY 14, 2023, 10:30 A.M.**

Our Scripture readings for this Sunday, the Seventh (and final!) Sunday of Easter, are Psalm 67 ("Let the peoples praise you, O God") and Matthew 15:21-28 (Jesus' encounter with the Canaanite woman). The title of the sermon is "The Canaanite Woman," and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-5-21-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.

Joyfully, this is also the Sunday that Presbyterian Women will be celebrating

the 101st year of the annual PW Birthday Offering. During our worship service, in addition to collecting the PW Birthday Offering, we will also be installing the new slate of PW officers for 2023 -2024.

Immediately following the service, PW will be hosting the entire congregation for a lunch of fried chicken with all the fixings. And, yes, there will be **CAKE!!** Please plan to join all the members and friends of FPC in this celebration of mission and service in the life of our church.



**FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023:
THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
FOR OUR PDS DISCIPLES**

How did that silly grade-school chant go? *No more school; no more books; no more teachers' dirty looks!* I have witnessed some occasions when PDS teachers have had to award some well-deserved stern looks to their students, but they always did so with love.

Now, however, the 2022-2023 PDS school year is indeed coming to a close, and the occasion will be marked with a celebration in our Sanctuary on Friday morning, May 19th. At 9:00 a.m., the school will hold a “Kindergarten Graduation Ceremony” for the kindergarten students and their families to celebrate the conclusion of the students’ education at PDS. At 10:00 a.m., there will be an “End-of-the-year Program” for the remaining students and their families to celebrate the completion of another year of Christian education for those young disciples.

To further celebrate this occasion, **PDS and the church office will be closed on Friday afternoon (from noon to 5:00 p.m.)** as teachers, staff, and clergy join together to share a meal and to celebrate the successful conclusion of another year in the happy and exceptional history of our Presbyterian Day School.

Summer around the church house always seems lonely and dreary without the happy babble of PDS students in the hallways going to Children's Chapel, Fellowship Hall, or outside to the playground. We shall miss them, but meanwhile we pray for summer safety, for exciting family vacations, for the joy of play and recreation for all our young disciples. May God keep them safe and close in his arms as they continue to grow and develop into the happy young men and women he plans for them to be!



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AND
GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
PLAN JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE ON
PENTECOST SUNDAY,
MAY 28, 2023
(AND DON'T FORGET TO WEAR RED!)**

FPC and Grace Presbyterian are planning a joint worship service for Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023. On this occasion, we will gather in FPC's Sanctuary at 10:30 p.m., and the worship service will be led by our pastor and the leadership at Grace, who will participate equally in leading us in the worship liturgy. We also hope that Grace's choir will be able to join with members of our choir to lead us in music.

While our plans are still in the preliminary stages, we are looking forward to

extending a warm welcome of Christian friendship to our Presbyterian friends from Grace. Many of us remember our joint celebrations with Mount Nebo Missionary Baptist Church in the past (especially Pentecost!), and we know how enriching a joint service can be.

Let us anticipate with joy the opportunity to praise God and to celebrate the birth of Christ's Church with our good friends from Grace. This will be a worship service you will not want to miss!



SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY, JUNE 4, 2023!
THE MISSION STUDY REPORT IS ALMOST COMPLETED!

Under the skillful leadership of its Chair, Donald Anderson, your Mission Study Task Force has almost completed its preparation of a prodigious Mission Study as the next step in *Our Forward Journey* initiative to reawaken, revitalize, and expand the impact of our church in the Victoria community.

To update you on where matters stand, your pastor can report that the final version of the Mission Study will be presented to the Session on Monday evening, May 22nd, at 6:00 p.m. during a joint meeting of the Session and the Task Force. Subject to the Session's review and approval of that Mission Study, the Task Force will then deliver an oral report on its work to the entire congregation. Because things are not yet final (although we are close!), it is premature just yet to officially call for a congregational meeting to hear that report. Meanwhile, however, please save the date of **June 4th** for what your Mission Study Task Force believes will be one of this church's most important meetings about its future.

Current plans, which are still being finalized, are that the church will provide the main course for a luncheon and congregational meeting following our worship service on Sunday morning, June 4th, while members of the church will be invited to bring salads and other side dishes. Please stay tuned for further details, and please plan to attend.



VICTORIA BACH FESTIVAL RETURNS WITH PERFORMANCES AT FPC

Speaking of saving the dates, the Victoria Bach Festival will be presenting its annual series of concerts in Victoria on June 4-11, 2023. For more information and to purchase your tickets (hurry!), click here:

<https://victoriabachfestival.org/concerts/events/>.

Of special interest to the members and friends of FPC are the programs that will be held in our church this year, namely:

Thursday, June 8,
2023
6:45 pm - 7:15 pm

[PRE-CONCERT TALK WITH GEORGE STAUFFER](#)
First Presbyterian Church, Victoria Texas
[Purchase Tickets](#)

Thursday, June 8,
2023
7:30 pm - 9:00 pm

[VBF BAROQUE ENSEMBLE LED BY STEPHEN
REDFIELD](#)
First Presbyterian Church, Victoria Texas
[Purchase Tickets](#)

Without a doubt, the performances organized by the Victoria Bach Festival are of world-class quality, and we, as residents of this community, are blessed to have access to them. All music, whether of the church or otherwise, is one of God's greatest gifts to his creation. Whether you attend the Bach Festival performances at FPC or elsewhere (or everywhere!), you will be enthralled by the quality of the performances, not to mention that you will be supporting the high caliber of musical artistry that this community enjoys.



WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS?

Among clergy and church musicians, there are at least two tasks that are considered impossible to achieve. The first is to get the temperature in the Sanctuary at the level where *everybody* is comfortable, and the second is to pick a hymn that *everybody* likes! But nevertheless we try, dependent on the grace and understanding of the congregation when we fail.

As to finding hymns that (almost) everyone knows and likes, we are going to have a worship service, on June 11, 2023, that consists principally of singing hymns selected in advance by the congregation. We have done this before, and everyone enjoys it!

We have begun placing a "suggestion form" in the Narthex on Sunday mornings, and already we have begun to receive suggestion cards-- and we are bound to receive even more. For the benefit of our Newsletter readers, we are also printing a copy of that form below. If you have a suggestion to make, you can clip

this form, fill it out, and mail it to the church office. Better yet, just call us (361.575.2441) or email us (info@fpcofvictoria.org), and we will make sure that your requests into the right hands.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE HYMNS?

On Sunday, June 11, 2023, our worship service will concentrate on congregational singing, especially the great, familiar hymns of the Church. Do you have a favorite? Is there a precious hymn that we have not sung for a while and you would love to hear? Let us know!

Fill out this form and either place it in the offering plate or turn it in to the church office. Our Worship Committee will do its best to pick the most popular hymns nominated by the congregation.

Title

Number in the Hymnal
(if you know it)

**OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL
FOR AGES 5-12**



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". Matt 19:14

Things got a little messy as we concluded our lessons on Noah's Ark. The children painted their very own ark and rainbow for craft time, and used graham crackers, frosting, marshmallows, and candy to make a rainbow snack. So needless to say, we had painted hands and frosting stained mouths by the end of the lesson.

We hope you can join us this Sunday as we start a new lesson on Abraham and Sarah!

Join us on Sunday mornings from 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Children ages 5-12 are welcome. Contact Leila Galvan at 956-367-2234 if you have questions or would like to participate. All are welcome!



**OUR IMMENSELY TALENT CHOIRMASTER,
ROBERT WYATT,
IS OFFERING ORGAN LESSONS:
WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!**

Robert Wyatt wants to organize some one-on-one organ lessons with

interested students, both youth and adults. We are still in the organizational phases, but Robert is basically interested in providing instruction to those who are already familiar with keyboards but who now want to try their hand at a mighty church organ.

Selflessly, Robert views this as not only an opportunity to expand the music ministry of our church but also as an opportunity to reach into the community to provide some “visibility” for our church and the wonderful music we enjoy here. The Mission & Outreach Committee fully supports (and applauds!) Robert’s generous efforts, and to that end they have designed, with Erica’s help, a pamphlet to be circulated in the community to advertise the availability of organ lessons from Robert at our church.

You will find copies of that pamphlet in the Narthex or in the entrance under the porte-cochere, or of course you can contact the church office and we will send you some (361.575.2441; www.fpcovictoria.org). Please take a look at the pamphlet and consider whether you or someone you know might be interested in taking Robert up on his offer, and please do not hesitate to give the pamphlet to a friend!

Meanwhile, here is a copy of the “information page” from that pamphlet:

Introduction to Church Organ

- Have you ever wanted to play the church organ?
- Are you intimidated by all those keyboards (called manuals), and all those knobs (called stops), and all those switches (called couplers)?
- If so, we have the opportunity for YOU!

If you are interested in receiving
individualized instruction from our
experienced church organist,
please call or email
First Presbyterian Church
for more information.



PW Mission Focus
May, 2023
Promise Pointe

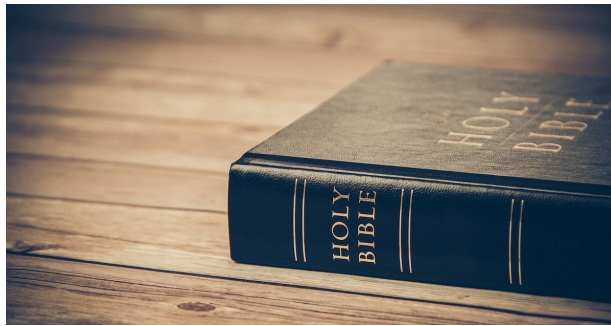
We can assist Promise Pointe by providing the following:

Progresso (or similar type) soups
Canned goods (especially vegetables)
Paper towels
Laundry detergent pods
Kleenex
Septic-safe toilet paper

NEWS FOR THE NEW PW STUDY YEAR

May will bring with it the final lesson in our Horizon's Bible Study: Celebrating Sabbath. Presbyterian Women have begun planning already for the new study year which starts in September. Two big changes include combining the two daytime circles into one and the addition of an evening circle.

We would love to have input about what you would like the evening circle to be. If you are even possibly interested in joining the evening circle, we would love to hear from you. Please call the church office and leave your name with Erica. With a list of possible members, we can proceed to make this circle very special and meaningful to those who choose to attend it.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- *Sunday, May 21, 2023, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., in the Parlor:* The Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class continues its study entitled, “*Prayers and Poetry*,” a spiritual study of the beauty, majesty, and power of prayer. Materials will be provided, and you can be sure of a great time of fellowship and learning.
- *Kingdom Kids:* Sunday Morning starting at 9:45 a.m. Come by and experience our multi-sensory lessons.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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