

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE AND
CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER,
MAY 7, 2023, 10:30 A.M.**

Our Scripture readings for this Sunday, the Fifth Sunday of Easter, are Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 ("be a rock of refuge for me") and John 1:1-14 ("Do not let your hearts be troubled"). The title of the sermon is "Take My Hand," and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here:

<https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-5-7-Bulletin-Communion-PDF.pdf>.

As this is the first Sunday in May, we invite you also to join us in a celebration of the Lord's Supper.



**WELCOME,
KAROLINE MICHELLE GOHLKE,
INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST!**

Surrounded by her parents, two sisters, and godparents, Karoline Michell Gohlke was baptized in our Chancel by the Rev. Bette Burris on Sunday, April 30th.

In the Reformed Tradition, any baptism (whether of an infant or an adult) is a public event within the church that is celebrated with joy and thanksgiving. Parents and members of the congregation alike take vows by which we make many sacred promises, among them to guide and nurture the one being baptized by word and deed and with love and prayer.

We pray for the well-being of young Karoline, earnestly desiring that she grow up healthy, strong, and fulfilled, secure in her faith and her love of the Lord. Amen!



THE CIRCLE OF LIFE

Just as Christians celebrate birth and baptism, so also do we celebrate death as a witness to the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior. Our pain and heartache upon the death of one whom we love and cherish are real and cannot be ignored or denied, but our comfort is in the Good News brought to us by God's son that we shall have life-everlasting.

On Thursday, April 27, 2023, we reminded ourselves of this promise as we celebrated the wonderful life of our dear friend, Linda Patterson. With beautiful flowers and music, with fond remembrances shared by her family, including our own Ruling Elder Patrick Patterson, we gave joyful thanks to our God for the love and life of Linda.

Your pastor has received a letter of gratitude from Linda's family that they have asked to be shared with the congregation. Those who are thanked by name in the letter are grateful, but of course we do what we do out of love and respect, without any expectation of or need for recognition. Nevertheless, given how greatly loved and admired Linda was among the members of our church, your pastor would like to honor the family's request. May God continue to be with the Patterson Family during this time of mourning and grief for the loss of one who was so dear to them and to all the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church.

The Family of Linda Patterson would like to give special thanks and appreciation to the members of First Presbyterian Church and all the other friends and angels who helped with the wonderful worship service for our mother and grandmother, the matriarch of our family.

Your service, your work, your efforts were truly amazing—nothing less for us than a gift from God. In our time of sorrow, it has been so comforting to have the support of so many that loved Linda.

We cannot name all the countless folks who have made us feel so loved, but we want to extend our special thanks to the church's staff, Pastor Jim DeMent, Choirmaster Robert Wyatt, Office Manager Erica Colding, to soloist Becky Richter, to the members of Presbyterian Women, especially Roxanna Hauschild, Lynn McAuley, and Francie Byrne, and to our caterer, Tonja Patterson.

The kindness, love, and generosity of all who have been with us in person and in prayer during this difficult time will be forever remembered whenever we think of our wonderful Mom, Linda Fay Fagan Patterson. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



CONGRATULATIONS, GENTLEMEN!
OUR MEN'S BAKE SALE AND POTLUCK LUNCHEON
WERE A HUGE SUCCESS

No one had to be concerned about dessert at the end of our fellowship potluck luncheon after our worship service on Sunday, April 30, 2023! Every Presbyterian, no matter where they live, knows this to be God's truth: the finest, most delicious meals in Christendom are to be found at a Presbyterian potluck meal at the church house. Thank you to all the cooks who brought their casseroles, pasta, salads, and side dishes to share with us last Sunday.

The icing on the cake (pun intended!), however, was the auction that followed our luncheon. The men of the church prepared cakes, cookies, bread, candy, and other sweet treats to be sold to the members of the congregation. The "rules" did not prohibit the men from seeking help in making their culinary contributions for the auction, and while many may have appealed to the distaff side of their families for help, many others proved themselves to be worthy pastry chefs in their own right. Regardless, all of the winning bidders reported sublime satisfaction with the results of their purchases. No sweet tooth went unrequited!

And may God bless our generous bidders! After the fast and furious bidding ceased, after the laughter and good times came to a close, the treasurer was able to report that over \$1,800 had been raised for the church. What a nice problem the Session will have in deciding where best to use the fruits of such generosity to the glory of God!



WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE HYMN?

Among clergy and church musicians, there are at least two tasks that are considered impossible. 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 seems to enjoy it.

To that end, therefore, watch for future announcements in this Newsletter and elsewhere about how to tell us which hymns you would like to sing during that worship service. Meanwhile, put your mind to it, flip through the hymnal if you need to (but not during the sermon, please!), and start making a list of your favorite hymns. We will soon announce how to get that information to us so that we can plan a worshipful service in which we will have the opportunity to sing our praises to the Lord and experience the joy that music brings to our hearts.

**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

We were excited to have our 3 friends join us this past Sunday as we wrapped up our series on Adam and Eve. The kiddos had so much fun adding the felt pieces to the board as we read the story! They also made a crafty "Tree of Knowledge" using construction paper, paper towel rolls, and red dot markers. For snacks, they created a snake using alternating banana and strawberry slices. Not only did they learn about Adam and Eve, but I must note that there was only one red dot marker for the craft and one (very safe) knife for slicing the fruit for the snack, so they also learned patience, waiting their turn, and sharing with friends – which they happily did without complaint.

We hope you can join us next Sunday as we start our series on Noah and the Ark! Our Sunday school lessons are multi-sensory, which means we are using all 5 senses to learn our bible stories, and it is fun, fun, fun! We also reiterate each lesson by presenting it for at least 2 Sundays, which helps the children recall the stories and reemphasizes the teaching.

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!



**PW Mission Focus
May, 2023
Promise Pointe**

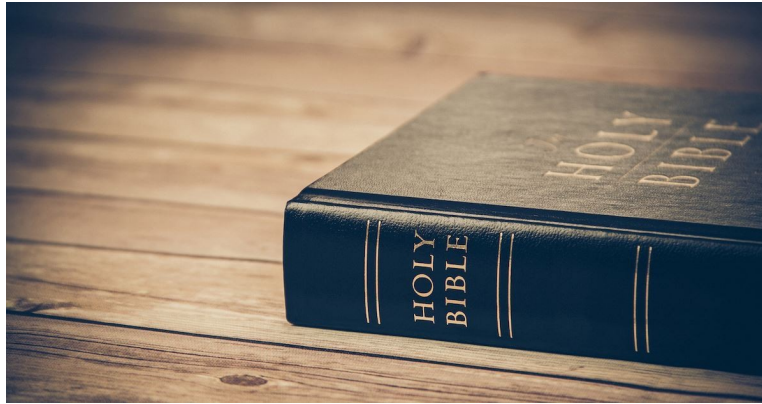
We can assist Promise Pointe by providing the following:

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 7, 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.
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Almost immediately after we distributed last week's Newsletter, we were saddened to learn of the death our dear sister in Christ, Kathleen McCameron,

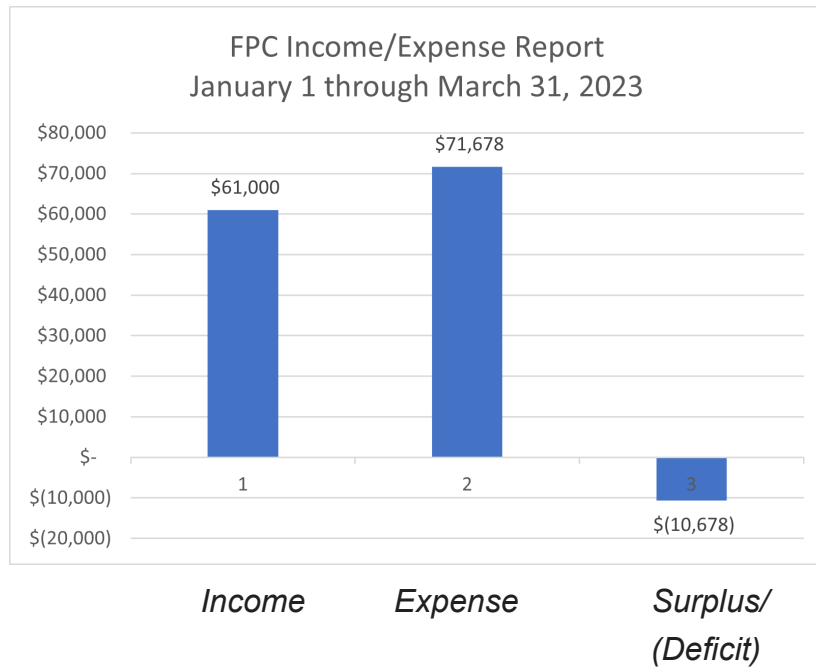
who was called home by the Lord on Wednesday, April 26, 2023. Kathleen's loving and caring grandson, Scott, contacted the church office to report that Kathleen's remains will be created and, in due course, will be buried alongside her husband, Leonard ("Mac"), in the cemetery in Cheapside, Texas. More specific details about the final arrangements for Kathleen are pending.

In life and in death, we belong to the Lord.



Disappointingly, church revenue through the first calendar quarter of 2023 fell approximately \$10,000 short of our expenses during the same period. Our Finance Committee will be meeting soon to determine if this is merely a timing issue or whether we need to consider even greater (likely painful) reductions in our expenses going forward.

Meanwhile, however, so far we are fortunate to have sufficient cash flow in April (which includes Easter Sunday) to not be in immediate difficulty. Still, if you have been 'tardy' in keeping your pledge-giving current, please help us by catching up as soon as you can!



*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind,
not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*
2 Cor 9:7

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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