



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
AND A CELEBRATION OF
THE LORD'S SUPPER
ON SUNDAY, JULY 2, 2023, AT 10:30**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, the first Sunday in July and the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost, July 2, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings are Jeremiah 28:5-9 ("the prophet who prophesies peace") and Matthew 10:40-42 ("Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me"). The title of the sermon is "Christian Hospitality," and a copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023-7-2-Bulletin-Communion-PDF.pdf>

We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper in remembrance of our Savior who died that we might live.



**THE DATES ARE FAST APPROACHING FOR
OUR RUMMAGE SALE:
FRIDAY, JULY 28, THROUGH SATURDAY, JULY 29, 2023!**

Some well-organized folks have already begun to bring their “stuff” to be offered at the next FPC Rummage Sale on Friday, July 28, through Saturday, July 29, 2023, and our faithful volunteers are beginning to sort through it. Don't worry, however, there's still time for you to search your closets, garages, and attics to find things to sell to bargain-hunters during our sale.

Please don't delay any longer, however! The sooner you can bring your items to the church house, the more time we will have to sort and tag it, and the more successful our sale will be.

Last year, when we raised over \$500 for PDS and over \$1,500 for the church, your preacher was amazed not only by that financial success but also by how much fun donors and shoppers alike were having at this “bargain event.” Well, we are going to have even more fun this year!

If you haven't already, please begin to bring us the things you want to contribute to our rummage sale. We have cleared out some storage space in the church to put items away until we can set them out, so do not wait until the last minute. Start now to look for those things that you believe deserve a new home and a fresh start with some other happy owner who will be looking for bargains at our rummage sale!



VCAM NEEDS OUR ASSISTANCE

As the sweltering south Texas heat beats down and the cost of groceries continues to go up, let's remember to support those less fortunate in our community.

Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM) continues to serve a steadily increasing number of clients daily. The number of households served in the month of May climbed to 1,364, which is over 300 more households than May of 2022. Some of the services provided to these families include food boxes, clothing, prescription assistance, and water/utility assistance. VCAM also purchased and is distributing over 100 box fans to families in need.

A total of 127 homeless clients visited VCAM in May to receive over 600 services including daily food bags, toiletries, laundry cards, clothing, and prescription assistance.

Food purchases through May of this year have totaled \$48,682, which is more than double the cost of food purchased during this same period in 2022.

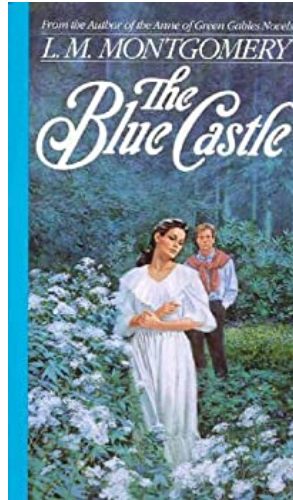
Let's see if the FPC Family can help! Let's fill the VCAM grocery cart to the brim in the month of July!

Suggested items are:

- canned fruits and vegetables, tuna
- non-perishable pantry items such as peanut butter, dried beans and rice etc...
- bags of apples and oranges
- individual packages of peanut butter and crackers, granola bars and pull tab cans of fruit or pudding

- bottled water
- small travel size toiletries such as body wash, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes

The need is great, and our continued support will be appreciated!



**BOOK CLUB RESUMES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2023, AT 1:00 P.M.**

It's summer, and thus time to find and read a good book (or several!). On Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., the Book Club will convene to discuss *The Blue Castle*, by L.M. Montgomery. Now is a good time to get your copy and spend some leisure time reading it (you know you want to!).

Plan to gather with friends at the end of summer to share your love of reading and to trade reviews of *The Blue Castle*.

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

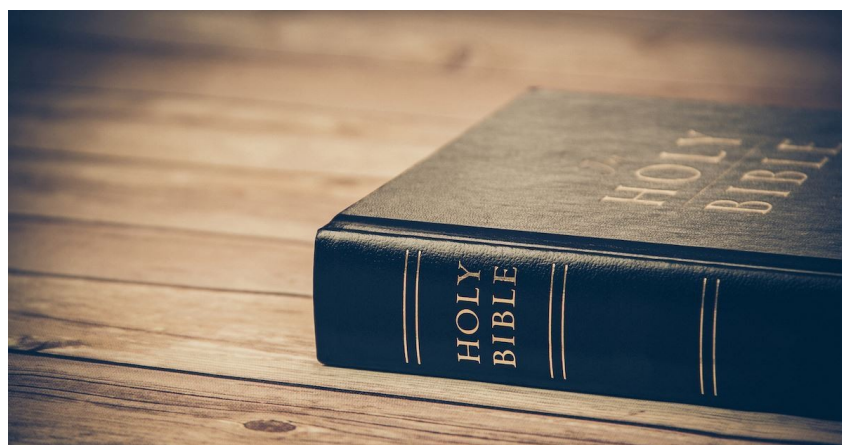


Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". Matt 19:14

" . . .and Joseph opened all the storehouses" . . . this past Sunday we started our lesson on Joseph. Using sequencing cards to depict the story of Joseph, we learned how God gave Joseph a special gift to understand special dreams. We also sang the classic children's song "This Little Light of Mine." For a snack, we enjoyed some popcorn, and used it as a reminder of how Joseph stored up grain for the people of Egypt.

Join us as this Sunday as we continue our lesson on Joseph and the coat of many colors and learn about the power of forgiveness.

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!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- The Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class will resume on Sunday, July 23, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.
 - Kingdom Kids: Join us this Sunday, at 9:45 AM. We hope to see you there.
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THANK YOU FOR OUR VACATION

Sally and I are grateful to everyone who made it possible for us to take a longer-than-usual vacation (17 days over three Sundays) this year. The Session generously affords me six weeks of vacation each year, but I try to break it up into shorter periods so as not to inconvenience folks too much.

This year, however, Sally and I were celebrating, after having been delayed by COVID, our 50th wedding anniversary with a long vacation in Canada and Alaska. Our actual “50th” was June 6, 2020, but we all remember the pandemic that gripped the world back then. Such an auspicious occasion seemed to warrant a little extra time to celebrate, even if it was delayed by three years!

We are especially grateful to Robert Wyatt and Erica Colding who took

on extra responsibilities and worked extra hard both before and while we were away. Happily, each of them will also be taking their own vacations later this month, and I am glad that they will soon experience the rest and relaxation that Sally and I were able to enjoy.

Also, I know that many members of our congregation stepped up to make sure that our worship services proceeded smoothly. Word reaches me that our Congregational Sing-along was a lot of fun and that our visiting preachers (Gary Mathews and Carol Rahn) were well received. A special word of gratitude and blessing to those who extended the finest FPC hospitality to our guest preachers by taking them to lunch.

The word “vacation” comes from the Latin “*vacātiō*,” meaning “exemption from service, respite from work,” and traces back to “*vacāre*,” meaning “to be empty, be free, have leisure.” I think both of those meanings apply to how Sally and I felt while we were away. The phrases “to be free, to have leisure” seemed particularly appropriate as we simply spent our time with one another visiting the sites we wanted to see, but otherwise having no deadlines, no activities, no responsibilities other than to rest and relax (which we did aplenty!).

The picture above was taken on the observation deck of the Mendenhall Glacier Visitors Center (you can see the glacier in the upper-left and the lake beneath it in the lower-right background). And yes, we are wearing coats! It was in the low 60’s and high 50’s throughout our trip.

Sally reminded me that last year the Presbyterian Women devoted a year of study to “Celebrating Sabbath.” Sabbath is simply a holy word for resting, to be free, to have leisure. It is reassuring to know that God himself took a day off after creating the world (Genesis 2:3), and we should not be reluctant to follow his divine example. Again, therefore, Sally and I want to send a sincere and heart-felt thank-you to the staff, members, and friends of this church, all of whom made it possible for us to enjoy some time off, some Sabbath rest.

Now, however, we are so happy to be back! We hope to see you in church this Sunday!

INDEPENDENCE DAY!



The Church Office will be *closed* **Monday and Tuesday, July 3-4, 2023.**

As we celebrate the blessings of freedom and liberty, a legacy of our Founding Fathers that has been strained and tested over time but which, by God's grace, has endured for centuries, may you enjoy a safe and blessed Fourth of July!

Peace, grace, mercy,

Pastor Jim

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