

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us this Sunday, the Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost, August 20, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture reading will be Matthew 15:1-20 (Jesus criticizes the Pharisees slavish adherence to tradition), and the title of the sermon is "Jesus Confronts Tradition." A copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2023-8-20-Bulletin-2-PDF.pdf>

A Special Program Note (Repeated)

During the months of August and September, the Worship Committee will be introducing some modest changes to our traditional Order of Worship. In August, for instance, we will be listening to the words of familiar hymns as they are read aloud, or we will ourselves recite those words aloud, to hear afresh the spiritual messages they contain. We hope that by listening to the words of sacred hymns as poetry rather than lyrics, we will be reminded of how poets and hymnwriters have captured the evangelical and missional aspirations of Christ's church.

Lynn McAuley will be our featured reader this Sunday.

More Musical Program Notes

Were we not blessed last Sunday by our guest soloist, Kimberly Schneider? What a joy it was to hear her sing "For the Beauty of the Earth!" The presence of Kimberly's family was an extra blessing, and who among us was not captivated by 9-month-old Charlotte who was just the cutest, best-behaved baby in the world!

Happily, Kimberly has agreed to sing for us again on the first Sunday in September (Sept. 3rd) when we will also celebrate the Lord's Supper.

This Sunday, Robert Wyatt will sing a solo entitled, "Because I Have Been Given Much."



OUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS OFF TO A GREAT START!

At our worship service on Sunday, August 6th, we kicked off our church's Stewardship Campaign for 2024, and on Wednesday, August 16th, we mailed out the 2024 pledge cards. One week later, we have already received eleven pledge cards (as you can see numbered on our "Stewardship Campaign Quilt" in the picture above). Today, our Treasurer, Dawn Neel, has mailed a letter of acknowledgment to each individual or family from whom we have received a pledge card so far. May God bless your generosity, and may your gift be used wisely in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It would be wonderful if we could hear from all our faithful donors as soon as possible. Please mail your pledge card or, better yet, place it in the offering plate as soon as you are able.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus reminds us, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). During this time of planning and pledging, may your treasure follow your heart to the church we all love so dearly.



IT'S THIS EVENING!!
"END OF SUMMER"
FELLOWSHIP EVENT,
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023,
BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.

Don't forget: the members of our Caregiving & Fellowship Committee are sponsoring a typical picnic dinner of hot dogs (with all the fixin's, including chili, cheese, and onions!), ice cream, summer games, and good fellowship on Wednesday, August 16, 2023. The church will provide the food and beverages for the event, but if you want to bring a bag of chips, a bowl of potato salad, or a tray of cookies, we will appreciatively set it out together with the rest of the feast!

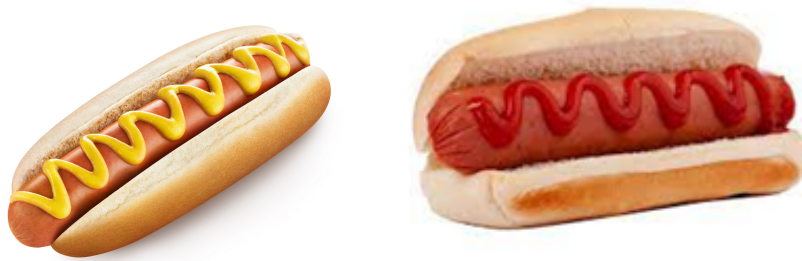
Blessing of the Backpacks

If you are bringing a child (and we hope you can!), please ask them to bring along their backpack. Pastor Jim is going to bless those backpacks, and the church is providing a special name tag and "backpack charm" for each backpacked that is blessed. Adults need not be shy, either! Bring your purse, your briefcase, your backpack, your tote-- whatever! We will bless it all, as we have a good time of fellowship together.

A Huge Voting Opportunity Will be Available to All



Bring your quarters as well! Let us settle the great hotdog topping debate once and for all. Voting cans will be available for you to vote, early and as often as you like!, for your preferred hotdog topping. Your pastor has already put four quarters in the "mustard can." The gauntlet has been thrown!



A “Big Reveal” about the Rummage Sale

Only Dawn Neel knows the amount of money we made on our Stupendous Rummage Sale last month. Please join us this evening as she reveals the fruits of our labor from what has turned out to be a very popular church event!

Please come and join us and bring some family or friends-- and children with backpacks!-- with you. It will not yet be dark, and *maybe* it will be cooler, so come have some good food and a good time.



VCAM ANNUAL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

The Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM) has once again started selling raffle drawing tickets to support its annual fundraiser. Originally established in 1986 as a food pantry, VCAM is a non-profit organization which serves as a safety net for families in Victoria County in need of food, clothing, and other essentials.

This year's raffle drawing includes \$6,500 in prizes, including \$5,000 in HEB gift cards as well gift cards to local restaurants and retail businesses. Tickets are \$5.00 each or six tickets for \$25.00. The raffle drawing will be held at 12:00 noon, Friday, September 29, 2023, at the VCAM office.

Becky Richter, current member of the VCAM Board of Directors, will be selling tickets at First Presbyterian Church throughout the months of August and September. Thank you for your continued support of our local outreach.

PAW BITES

Bark! Bark! Meow! Meow! That is THANK YOU in dog and cat language. What a wonderful response from all of us. WOW!!! We filled the Meals on Wheels wagon again. Each week please add to our meals on wheels for those great companions of the mobile-limited citizens of Victoria.



Cat food and dog food are delivered once a month on or around the last Friday of the month based on the number and size of their clients' pets by Victoria Meals on Wheels.



Get Support

PAW Pet Care Assistance



We ask for your assistance by providing dry cat food or dog food by dropping the bags off at the church. We have already begun to place a red

wagon in the hallway around the fellowship hall or in the Narthex to collect your gifts. When you buy food for your cat or dog remember those that are less fortunate whose only companionship and love is their pet.



VISD Connection

The Lord through his Spirit made it possible for our congregation to make the lives of young girls attending Victoria Independent School District more comfortable and meaningful through our gifts to the VISD Connection program. Our gifts will go to homeless girls and girls in foster care. We will continue to support VISD Connection throughout the school year. Your prayers for these young girls will be known. We give thanks to God for his goodness and grace.

Through the gifts and the efforts of our volunteers, our church continues to support Christ Kitchen and VCAM. Through the use of our facilities, we also support the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, the Presbyterian Day School, and the dedicated programs of Presbyterian Women.



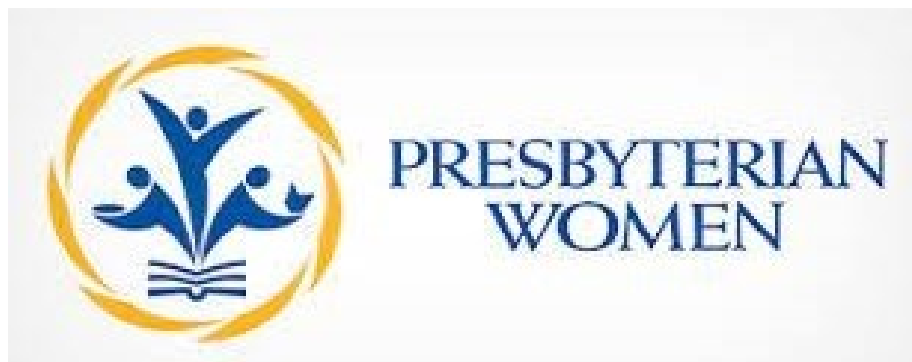
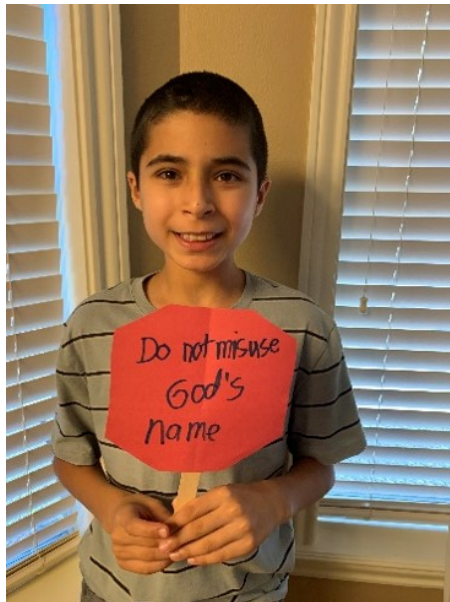
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". Matt 19:14

Do not misuse God's name - the 3rd commandment (well, at least it's how we say it in 'kid language'). In order to convey the meaning of this 'rule' we

crafted a stop sign to remind us to 'stop' before we use God's name in a mean way. Our snack was made of some fruit roll-ups (used for the outline of our stop sign) and strawberry slices to fill in the octagon shape.

We will be taking a break for a few weeks, but we will be back on Sept 10th! Mark your calendars to join us then, from 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., as we continue our new multi-sensory series. We will recap the first 3 commandments and then spend some time learning the 4th commandment – Remember the Sabbath day. Plus, we will add our newly learned commandment to our 'tablets'.

Contact Leila Galvan at 956-367-2234 if you have questions or would like to participate. All are welcome!



NEWS FROM

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PW Coordinating Team will meet on Tuesday, September 5th, at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room for our first meeting as new officers. As we organize ourselves for the 2023-2024 Bible Study year, we pray for the Spirit to guide all who are interested to join us in fellowship, study, and mission.

Women of Faith Circle
4th Wednesday of the Month
2 pm in the Church Parlor

Evening Circle
4th Tuesday of the Month
6 pm in the Church Parlor

The Horizon Bible Study Guides, *Sacred Encounters*, have arrived and are available for pick up at the church office or for delivery to your door. Please let us know how best we can serve you by contacting Dawn Neel (361-652-3925) or the church office (361-575-2441). The Bible Study Guides are \$10.

Our Victoria Cluster Fall Gathering will be hosted this year by the women of First Presbyterian Church of Palacios on Saturday, October 14th. Ellen Gray, cluster leader and daughter of our own Mardy Ratliff, will be sending us more information in the following weeks, so be sure and mark your calendars!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- *Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.* The class is continuing its six-week study entitled, *Being*

Reformed Faith Seeking Understanding: Christian Hope:

Week Five (Sunday, August 20) – The New Creation

Week Six (Sunday, August 27) – Living Hope in Church and World

- *Kid's Kingdom, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.*: We will be taking a break for a few weeks, please join us when we come back September 10, 2023.



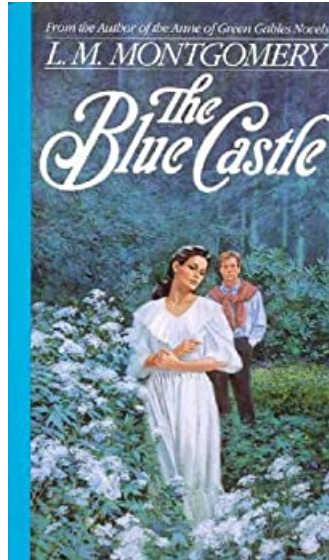
**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
RESUMES THIS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023, AT 10:00 A.M.**

This Friday, August 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., we will gather as has become our custom to do some light cleaning around the church. This is a very valuable non-monetary contribution made by our members and friends to support our church. Not only do their efforts enhance the appearance of our property, we are also able to save a substantial amount of money by cutting back on our payments for outside janitorial service.

Here, for your convenience is a list of the upcoming dates for our One Great Hour of Caring:

August 18
September 15
September 29
October 13
October 27

November 10
November 24 (may change due to Thanksgiving)
December 8
December 22 (may change due to Christmas)



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

On Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 1:00 p.m., the Book Club will convene to discuss *The Blue Castle*, by L.M. Montgomery. It is not too late 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*.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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