



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023, AT 10:30 A.M.**

On we go, working our way with determination through some of the most theologically rich passages of Paul's Letter to the Romans! Please join us for worship this Sunday, the Eighth Sunday after Pentecost, July 17, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Our Scripture readings are Isaiah 44:6-8 ("I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god") and Romans 8:1-11 ("... but you have received a spirit of adoption [and] it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we

are children of God, and if children, the heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ ..."). The title of the sermon is "Heirs of God," and a copy of the bulletin can be found here: https://uploads.boxcast.com/lyouu3b2epxez1yqluue/2023-07/ncilpz2uy4u4v6tygj0w/2023_7_23_Bulletin__PDF.pdf.



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

**THANK YOU, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS,
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

LET'S KEEP THE MOMENTUM ROLLING!

Things just keep getting better and better as our Fellowship Hall keeps getting fuller and fuller with donations for our Rummage Sale! As the dates for this event get closer and closer, greater and greater is our need for volunteers to help us sort, tag, and set out the many donations we have received.

Fair warning! If you have not already joined the mighty parade of folks who are bringing us their unneeded, unwanted "stuff" to find a new home and to help with this major fund-raising effort for FPC, please do so soon. We also need helpers all for the rest of this week (Thursday and Friday, July 20 and 21)

as well as during the week leading up to the sale (Monday, July 24, through Thursday, July 27) and on the days of the sale (Friday, July 28, and Saturday, July 29). We will turn the air conditioning on, and snacks and beverages will be available. Join us for some fun and fellowship while we raise money to support FPC's missions in this community.

Finally, if you have not done so already, please mark your calendars so you won't miss the bargains galore at our Rummage Sale on Friday, July 28 (8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.), and Saturday, July 29 (8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.). Although this is only our second year to do this, we have discovered that the "FPC Summer Rummage Sale" has become a happy occasion in the life of our church!



**THE NELLIE HUDSON SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
WILL RESUME MEETING ON
SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2023, AT 9:30 A.M.**

Happy days! This Sunday, July 23, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., the Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class will begin a new six-week study entitled, *Being Reformed Faith Seeking Understanding: Christian Hope*.

The Church confesses that Jesus Christ is its hope and is itself a community of hope. This study introduces us to the basics of Christian hope: in Christ, God is making a new creation, a new beginning for human life and for all things. We live on the strength of that promised new creation. Through

biblical and theological insights, David H. Jensen explores the hope that is with us, the hope that does not disappoint us, and the hope we can rejoice in.

This is the schedule for our studies:

Week One (Sunday, July 23) – The Difficulty of Hope

Week Two (Sunday, July 30) – Thy Kingdom Come: The Reign of God

Week Three (Sunday, August 6) – Resurrection of the Body and Life
Eternal

Week Four (Sunday, August 13) – Christ's Return and the Last
Judgment

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

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

Please come and join us in Christian study and the opportunity to expand and strengthen our faith in a world where newspapers and cable news have little motivation to offer us hope, since it is doom and despair that increases ratings and sells merchandise. In a world where hope seems to be in short supply, come study with us to find the hope that is not of this world but rather is to be found in the love of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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

Our 2 friends joined us last Sunday for some more fun with baby Moses. The children very much enjoy the interactive story time. This time, one of the children read the book while the other two used objects to portray the story. Our craft was a 'moving' baby Moses floating down the Nile. For our snack, we made our own Baby Moses using a banana and some fruit roll up "blankets."

Join us as this Sunday, from 9:45 am – 10:15 am, as we start our new multi-sensory series on the Ten Commandments. This series will extend over

several weeks, as we plan to go through one commandment each Sunday.

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



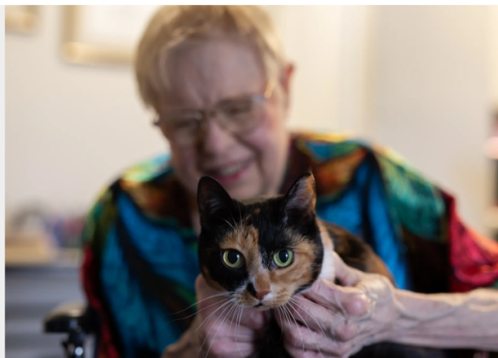
Scouts BSA

Boy Scout Troop 368 sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas will hold a Court of Honor on July 24, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the church sanctuary. This is an important event in the lives of these young men. The congregation is encouraged to attend and support this outreach program.

Paw Bites

Get Support

PAW Pet Care Assistance



Your Mission and Outreach Committee, with approval from the Session, has established a working relationship with Meals on Wheels, South Texas, to support the PAW Pet Care Assistance Program. Clients receiving home-delivered meals, who own pets, can sign up for this program. The program assists with food and both routine and emergency veterinary care.

Cat food and dog food is delivered once a month on or around the last Friday of the month based on the number and size of pets involved.

We ask for your assistance by providing dry cat food or dog food by dropping the bags off at the church. A red wagon will be located in the hallway in front of Fellowship Hall. We will start this program on August 1, 2023. When you buy food for your cat or dog remember those that are less fortunate whose only companionship and love is their pet.

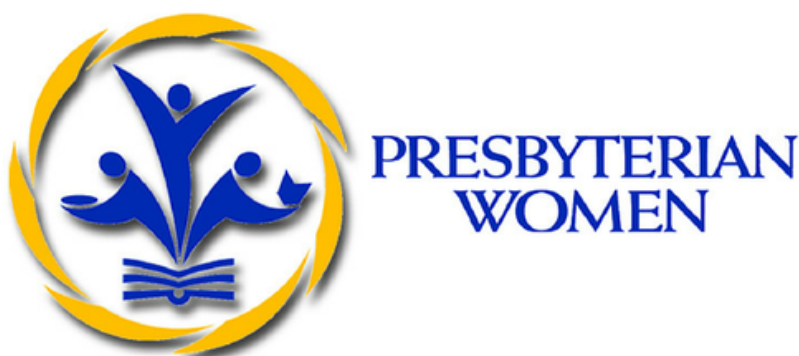


VISD Connection

Another new and exciting outreach program of your Mission and Outreach Committee has likewise been approved by Session. VISD Connection, formally known as Kids Connection, is a program affiliated with Victoria Independent School District to provide clothing and health support to

the less fortunate children enrolled in our public schools who go without basic clothing items like shoes, jackets, backpacks, and underwear. Beginning in August 2023, our congregation will be providing basic clothing items for young girls through VISD Connection. Watch this Newsletter and listen for special announcements at our worship services regarding this new program.

In addition to these exciting new initiatives, we continue to support Christ Kitchen and VCAM through volunteers, as well as the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts through the use of our facilities. Likewise, through the dedicated programs of Presbyterian Women, we provide assistance to the Presbyterian Day School and other organizations that benefit from our love and support.



**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
PREPARE TO RESUME
CIRCLE MEETINGS
AFTER THE SUMMER BREAK**

The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team would like to invite you to join us in our 2023-2024 Women's Bible Study beginning in September. The PW Horizon Bible Study is a nine-month study which works toward our PW Purpose:

*Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves
To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,*

- *To nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,*
- *To support the mission of the church worldwide,*
- *To work for justice and peace, and*
- *To build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's*

kingdom.

Our bible study this year is titled, “*Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*,” by Olive Mahabir. Within the pages of this study, Olive Mahabir invites us to consider Jesus and his disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.

The Gospel According to Luke and the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts (“one story in two parts”), demonstrate the unfolding of God’s redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Written by the same author, Luke (a physician and traveling companion of Paul), the message to the early Christian community (and to us) in Luke-Acts is radical, inclusive, and hope filled-- a message that invites the church to a deeper, compassionate engagement with the world. “What are the potential implications for the church if we treat our interactions as sacred encounters that demonstrate the transformative love of Christ Jesus?”

Pray with us, please, that more women will consider becoming actively involved in monthly PW circle meetings where they will encounter prayer and study, opportunities for mission to help secure justice and peace locally and around the world, and enriching relationships with other women and with God.

To that end, this year PW will be offering a day-time circle and an evening circle

Women of Faith Circle
4th Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.

Evening Circle
4th Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.

Please contact Dawn Neel if you are interested in joining us as we experience the sacred encounters in Luke-Acts.



**PERIODIC FPC FINANCIAL REPORT
TO THE CONGREGATION
(JANUARY 1 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2023)**

Through the first six months of 2023, church revenue was equal almost exactly to church expenses. Calculated on a cash basis, our expenses through the midpoint of the year have exceeded our revenue by only \$26! Although much remains to be seen over the remainder of the year, this is an encouraging sign, given that, historically, church revenue generally declines during the summer months. Happily, however, our faithful and generous pledgors and our equally generous friends and visitors continue to give at levels that, so far, exceed our projections through the first six months of 2023.

In other good news, which we hope continues to hold throughout the year, data collected by the Finance Committee indicate that if the rate at which we received revenue during the first six months of 2023 remains constant through the end of the end year, and if the cost reductions we have implemented likewise continue at the same rate through the next six months as they did during the past six months, then we may be able to significantly reduce the \$22,000 deficit about which we were concerned at the beginning of the year.

Of course, something such as one major air conditioner repair bill could blow up our financial progress, not to mention our carefully prepared budget, but (touch wood!) there are at least three positive developments for the Session, the Finance Committee, and the congregation to consider.

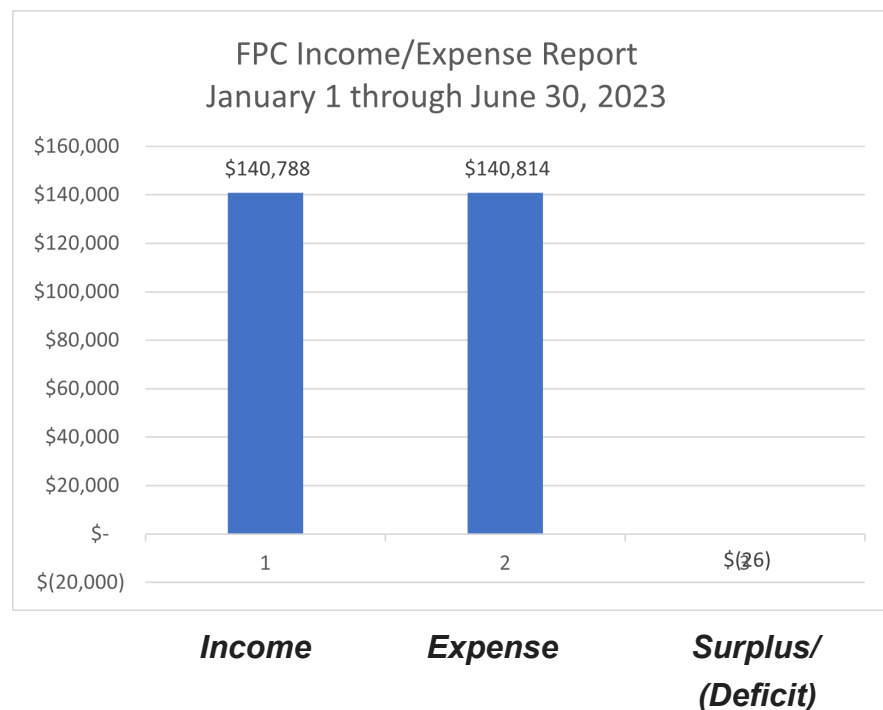
First, as of June 30, 2023, we can say that the church's finances are headed in the right direction. We are in a far more positive situation than the circumstances we were facing this time last year when, prior to our 2023 Stewardship Campaign, the Session called a meeting of the congregation to

report on the dire state of the church's finances.

Second, the congregation's response to the 2023 Stewardship Campaign was nothing less than spectacular. Thanks to a one-fourth increase in the number of pledges made by our congregation, and the two-*fold* increase in the total amount of those pledges, the Finance Committee and the Session have been better able to budget for and meet the church's expenses this year.

Third, thanks in large measure to the diligent and creative work of Dawn Neel and Erica Colding, the Finance Committee now has in place income and expense monitoring tools that help us keep track on a real-time basis of any unanticipated variations (positive or negative) in our income and especially in our expenses. This, in turn, allows us to deal with "surprises" promptly rather than having to wait until time has passed and such surprises have become more serious problems.

In summary, "so far, so good" as far as the church's finances are concerned through the first half of 2023. The Finance Committee is very grateful that the faithful and persistent stewardship of this congregation has made this possible, and we pledge to continue to keep you informed of the status of the church's finances in a timely and transparent manner.



*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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