

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

Please join us this Sunday, the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, July 30, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. We will conclude our fourth of four studies of Scripture from Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Our Scripture readings are 1 Kings 3:5-12 ("Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good

and evil; ...”) and Romans 8:26-39 (“What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?”). The title of the sermon is “A Trilogy of Hope,” and a copy of the bulletin can be found here:  
<https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/2023-7-30-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>

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**ERICA COLDING  
POINTS THE WAY TO  
HUGE BARGAINS  
AT OUR FPC RUMMAGE SALE,  
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JULY 28 AND 29,  
8:00 AM TO NOON!**

The time has come! Our saints of Fellowship Hall have gathered, organized, priced, and tagged the many treasures that the members and friends of FPC, and even the general public, have dropped off to be sold at our Rummage Sale. We are ready!

Of course, there is still time for any last many contributions, so if you have anything in your garage, attic, or closet that you want to get rid of, please bring it to the church in the next two days. As you will see from the pictures below, Fellowship Hall is fast filling up with treasures for happy bargain-hunters,

but we can still squeeze in a few more things. Don't miss this opportunity to do some housecleaning and to support your church!

Also, even though a lot of hard work has already been done by a lot of faithful volunteers, we can always use some more help-- especially on the days of the sale, Friday, July 28, and Saturday, July 29, from 8:00 a.m. until noon (and please come 15 or 20 minutes early if you can).

Finally, whether you arrive as a volunteer, a shopper, or both, please bring your wallet and be ready to purchase that "find of a century" which you may encounter in one of the piles of merchandise on our tables and counters. Even if you don't find that bargain, however, come and enjoy some fellowship with the friends and members of this church. And, if you happen to spot a busy volunteer walking the floor or staffing the cashbox, be sure and offer them a word of thanks and praise. So many folks have worked so very hard to make this event the huge success that it will surely be!



**ANNOUNCING AN  
"END OF SUMMER"**

**FELLOWSHIP EVENT,  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023,  
BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.**

Where did the summer go?! The young disciples at our Presbyterian Day School will return to their classes on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, the same day as VISD students.

The members of our Caregiving & Fellowship Committee have decided that we should not let the summer get away from us without coming together will a typical picnic dinner of hot dogs (with all the fixin's), ice cream, summer games, and good fellowship.

Moreover, who says we can only have fellowship events on Sundays? Remember when church members frequently gathered on Wednesday evenings? The tradition arose because Wednesday fell in the middle of the week-- an equal number of days after the last Sunday and before the next Sunday. So, why don't we try that again?!

On **Wednesday, August 16th, at 6:00 p.m.**, the Caregiving & Fellowship Committee is lovingly inviting all the church's members and friends, plus *their* families and friends, to join us for a summertime picnic supper in Fellowship Hall. 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, a pie, or a tray of cookies, no one will scold you! The most important thing, however, is just to come and spend a pleasant Wednesday evening (it will not yet be dark, and *maybe* it will be cooler) with fellow Christians.

*Side note:* Do you like your hot dogs with mustard or ketchup? Your pastor was raised in the South, and thus he is certain that God-fearing folks eat hot dogs with mustard (with chili, cheese, onions, and/or sweet pickle relish being acceptable add-ons). Your pastor's wife, however, was born and raised in the Midwest and insists that God intended for hot dogs to be garnished with ketchup at a minimum (although she agrees that the other ingredients I have listed are acceptable). Where do you stand on this Question of the Ages? Are you a Mustard Person or a Ketchup Person? Come and make your opinion known during our evening of fun and fellowship!

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**THE NELLIE HUDSON SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS  
CONTINUES ITS SIX-WEEK STUDY  
OF CHRISTIAN HOPE,  
SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2023, AT 9:30 A.M.**

The Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class is continuing its 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 Two (Sunday, July 30) – Thy Kingdom Come: The Reign of God

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

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

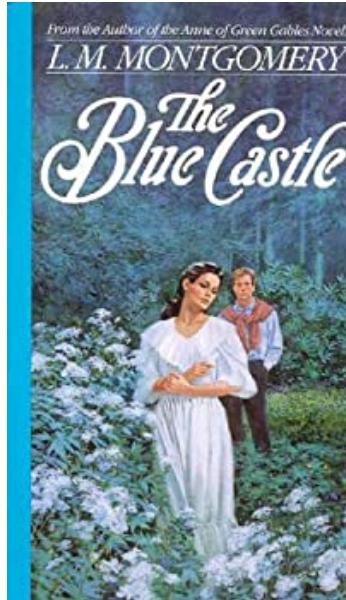
Week Five (Sunday, August 20) – The New Creation

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

All are welcome to 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.

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**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. 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*.

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**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.



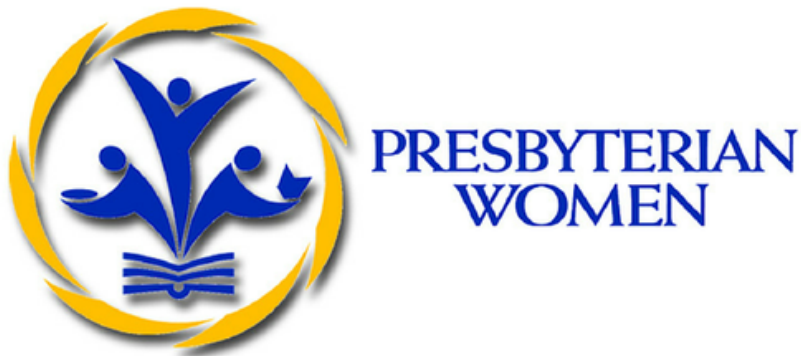
### **VISD Connection**

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.

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**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.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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