

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 2023, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us this Sunday, the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost, August 13, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture reading will be Matthew 14:22-33 (Jesus walks upon the water), and the title of the sermon is "Stepping Out in Faith." A copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2023-8-13-2-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>

A Special Program Note

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.

Susanne Salinas will be our featured reader this Sunday.

And a Musical Special Program Note

Thanks to some generous support from members of our congregation, in the coming weeks and months we will be able to incorporate talented visiting musicians, both vocal and instrumental, into our Sunday morning worship services. This Sunday, let us extend a warm welcome to Kimberly Schneider (no relation to our own Gay and C.F. Schneider!) who will sing our anthem, "For the Beauty of the Earth" (hymn 473 in The Presbyterian Hymnal).

Kim, as she is known to all her friends, is married to Matthew, and they are the proud parents of nine-month-old Charlotte. When her hands aren't full with Charlotte, Kim is a fulltime music teacher at Aloe Elementary School. Kim was raised just down the road in Port Lavaca, but then she moved to Victoria almost ten years ago. Please give Kim our customary FPC greeting of love and gratitude when you meet her this Sunday.

Come and Join Us!

Look at all that is going on at FPC, Victoria! Please join us this Sunday (and why not invite a friend?!) as we explore new and exciting ways to worship God!



OUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN IS UNDERWAY!

At our worship service last Sunday, August 6th, we kicked off our church's 2024 Stewardship Campaign. Simultaneously with the publication of this Newsletter, we are mailing every member and friend of our church a pledge card, together with a letter from Dawn Neel (our Treasurer) and me. When you receive your pledge card, please pray over it with great care and compassion. Our church is entering a new chapter in its 182-year history (God is doing a new thing!), and we will need all the investment of time, energy, and treasure that our members and friends can provide.

Every year is a new year in the life of a church, and of course God is always doing "new things." Still, our church is engaged in a concerted and dedicated effort to continue *Our Forward Journey* into a future filled with promise, hope, and exciting new initiatives. As you complete and return your pledge card-- and we hope you will not delay!-- please consider what you can contribute to the sustainability of our worship services and our mission programs into the future.

We know, of course, that these are hard economic times, and neither your pastor nor your Session would ever ask you to give more that you can prudently afford. What we do ask, however, is that as you consider your

priorities for 2024, you bring our church as close to the top of your list as possible!

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.



**“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, at 6:00 p.m.

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! And yes, there will be plenty of mustard *and* ketchup on hand to satisfy the diverse tastes of this diverse community of Christians!



Somewhere in the middle of the fun and games we will also “reveal” the profit we made from the Rummage Sale. Yes, this is a long time to wait to receive that news, but, spoiler alert!, it will be worth the wait!

Please come and join us and bring some family or friends 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 to our new mission imitative! Each week please add your contributions to our meals on wheels program for those great companions of the mobility-limited citizens of Victoria.

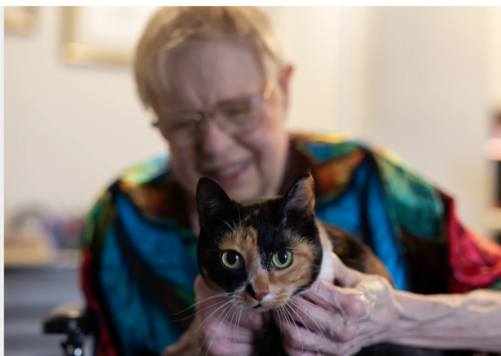


Cat food and dog food are delivered once a month on or around the last Friday of the month based on the number and size of their clients' pets by Victoria Meals on Wheels.

MEALS  WHEELS
SOUTH TEXAS

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. A red wagon will be located in the hallway around the fellowship hall. When you buy food for your cat or dog, please remember those that are less fortunate whose only companionship and love is their pet.



VISD Connection

This is another new and exciting outreach program of your Mission and Outreach Committee, implemented with Session approval. VISD Connection, formally known as KidzConnection, 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 would otherwise go without basic clothing items such as shoes, jackets, backpacks, and underwear. Beginning in August 2023 our congregation will be assisting the Mission and Outreach Committee to provide basic clothing items for young girls through VISD Connection.

This Sunday you will find a special offering envelope in your worship bulletin which you can use to make a gift to this important and needed program. The Mission and Outreach Committee will use your donations to purchase needed articles of clothing to support the homeless and foster children enrolled in Victoria Independent School District.

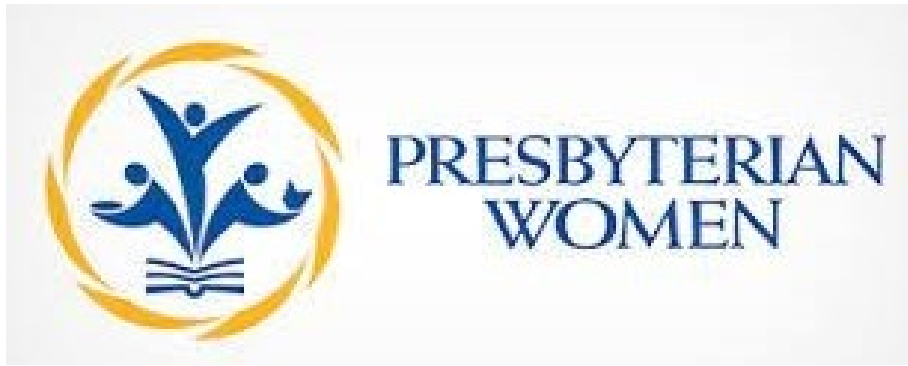
Through the gifts and the efforts of our volunteers, our church continues to support Christ Kitchen and VCAM. Through the use of our facilities, we also support the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, the Presbyterian Day School, and the dedicated programs of Presbyterian Women.



**FRESHLY PAINTED
RED DOORS
AWAIT THE RETURN
OF OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES TO
PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL**

On Wednesday, September 9th, the students enrolled in Presbyterian Day School will show up for their first day of classes in the 2023-2024 school year. Awaiting their arrival, the PDS teachers have been busy cleaning and arranging their classrooms, the carpets and halls have been thoroughly cleaned, and the front doors of the school have been freshly painted with a new coat of cheerful red paint.

As PDS opens for its 77th year of providing students with a Christian-based education, let us give thanks to God for this wonderful institution founded and continuously supported by our church. Let us pray also for its students, their teachers, and their families as they start a new school year, full of hope, promise, and opportunities to learn. May God bless our young disciples and keep them healthy, strong, and safe from harm as they learn that most important of all Christian beliefs, "Yes, Jesus loves me!"



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!



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 have landed ourselves at the 10 commandments! We will be focusing on one commandment per Sunday, and each Sunday we will be adding a new commandment to our "tablets". We wrapped up the 2nd commandment - Don't make idols - by crafting our very own golden calf using paper plates, crayons, and some wooden sticks. As we worked, we talked about how we do NOT worship anything or anyone other than God. For a snack, we used a slice of cheese and some black olive 'eyes', to make a golden calf we could eat - yum!

Join us as this Sunday, from 9:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m., as we continue our new multi-sensory series, focusing on the 3rd commandment – Don't misuse God's name. The snack ideas have proven to be a challenge, but we have come up with a few fun ones that are sure to be tasty.

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





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 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

- *Kid's Kingdom, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.*: Hope to see you Sunday morning to continue with our lessons on the 10 Commandments!
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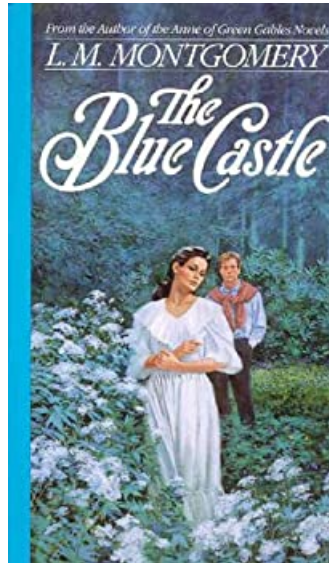
**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
IS PAUSED THIS WEEK
BUT WILL RESUME NEXT WEEK,
FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023, AT 10:00 A.M.**

Just as a reminder to the faithful folks who show up every two weeks to help keep our church building looking beautiful, we will NOT be gathering this Friday, August 11, 2023.

We will, however, resume on Friday, August 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. During our Stewardship Campaign, this is just the kind of example that illustrates that “church support” does not always mean “financial support.” Howsoever you may pledge, tithe, or otherwise give, thank you for your contribution of your *time and effort* to help us maintain our property!

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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