



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

Please join us this Sunday, the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost, August 6, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture reading will be Isaiah 43:16-19 ("I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?"), and the title of the sermon is "A New Thing." A copy of the bulletin can be found here:

<https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/8-6-23-Bulletin-2-PDF.pdf>

We will also celebrate the Lord's Supper in remembrance of our Savior, who after creation, is the most important "New Thing" that God has ever done!

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.

By way of example, during this Sunday's worship service in place of the traditional First Scripture (or Old Testament) Reading, Henry Hauschild will read the poetry of Hymn 429, "Lord, You Give the Great Commission." As our closing hymn, we will then sing Hymn 429 with a renewed appreciation not only for its melody, but for the spiritual content of its lyrics as well.

With the early return to school of our children and grandchildren, not to mention the young disciples who return to Presbyterian Day School on Wednesday, August 9th, it feels like summer is over (as long as we don't look at the thermometer!). That means that most of us will be returning to our "regular" Sunday morning worshiping habits. Come join us this Sunday (and why not invite a friend?!) as we explore new ways to worship God.



OUR FPC RUMMAGE SALE WAS ANOTHER GREAT SUCCESS!

A big shout out of “Thanks!” goes to the many FPC volunteers who (a) brought donations to be sold at our Rummage Sale, (b) worked tirelessly to sort, tag, organize, and display the huge amount of material we received, (c) were present during both mornings of the sale to help our shoppers and collect payments for their purchases, and (d) made many generous purchases themselves. “Honorable Mention with Oak Leaf Cluster” also needs to be awarded to Erica Colding whose enthusiasm, organizational skills, and joy served as an inspiration to us all and contributed in no small measure to the success of our efforts.

Until last year, your pastor was unfamiliar with this type of church event. When it was first proposed in 2022, I was all for it of course, but I simply did not appreciate, until I experienced it, the excitement such an event could create within our church. This year, my appreciation for our Rummage Sale was only deepened as I witnessed not only the financial success of the event but also the fellowship it generated among our members as they collectively gathered in support of such a mammoth undertaking.

In fact, I would now say that the financial rewards of this year’s Rummage Sale, although important, became secondary to the time we spent enjoying working together, eating fried chicken together, slurping “smoothies” together, not to mention laughing, talking, and helping one another. Such wonderful things happen when Christ’s followers gather in friendship and love!

And what about the financial rewards of this year’s Rummage Sale, you may ask. Keep reading this Newsletter to learn more!





**“END OF SUMMER”
FELLOWSHIP EVENT,
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2023,
BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M.**

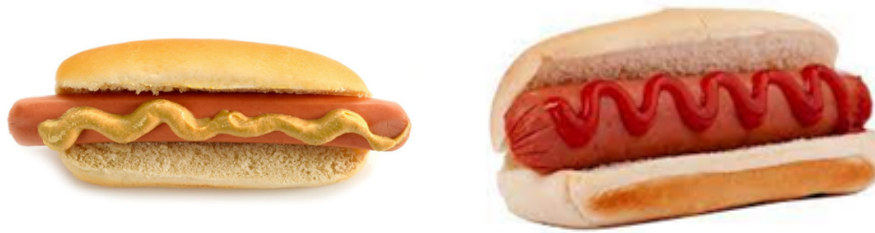
As announced in last week’s Newsletter, the members of our Caregiving & Fellowship Committee have decided that we should not let the summer get away from us without coming together for a typical indoor picnic in Fellowship Hall with hot dogs (with all the fixin’s, including chili, cheese, and onions!), ice cream, summer games, and good fellowship.

This year, we will have a “Wednesday gathering” for just such a celebration on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, beginning 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!

Somewhere in the middle of the fun and games we will also “reveal” the profit we received from the Rummage Sale. Yes, two weeks 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.

The Debate Rages



Last week I mentioned that since your pastor was raised in the South, he was certain that God-fearing folks ate their hot dogs with mustard (with acceptable add-ons). In passing, I mentioned that my less fortunate wife, having been raised in the Midwest, preferred ketchup on her hot dogs (but I forgave her anyway). Not unexpectedly, almost everyone in the congregation has raced to Sally's defense, stating their own preference for ketchup or, in the case of one unfortunate soul among us, mayonnaise!

I must admit, of course, that by theology and personal conviction, we Presbyterians are an inclusive lot. It is heretical for me to suggest, therefore, that mustard-lovers are superior to ketchup-lovers and highly superior to mayonnaise-lovers, so may God forgive me my condescension. Still, please tell me that I am not alone here! Are you a Mustard Person, a Ketchup Person, or, God help us, a Mayonnaise Person?

Come and make your opinion known during our evening of fun and fellowship! It will be a good "practice exercise" for all of us in acceptance, inclusion, and diversity. If we can agree that we all love hot dogs, and further agree that we can also love those who garnish them differently, maybe we can practice such tolerance in other areas of our lives as well. Jesus would be pleased.



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



As we learned from the Moment for Mission presentation during our worship service last Sunday, the Mission and Outreach Committee 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 such clients with food and both routine and emergency veterinary care for their pets.

A red wagon can be found either in the narthex or in the hallway in front of Fellowship Hall, and you can now participate in the PAW Pet Care Assistance Program by placing a sack of dry cat food or dry dog food in it. When you buy food for your own cat or dog, please remember those that are less fortunate and whose only source of companionship and love is their pet.



VISD Connection

VISD Connection, formally known as Kids Connection, is a program affiliated with the 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 which has been identified and embraced by the Mission and Outreach Committee.



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*:

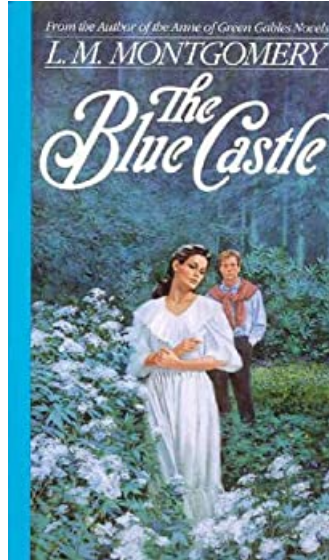
Week Three (Sunday, August 6) – Resurrection of the Body and Life Eternal

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!
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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*.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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