

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
AND A CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2023, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 3, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Jeremiah 15:15, 18-21 ("Oh Lord, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors") and Matthew 16:21-28 ("If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me"). The title of the sermon is "Suffering," and copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/2023-9-3-Bulletin-Communion-2-PDF.pdf>

As this will be the first Sunday of the month, we will also celebrate the

Lord's Supper. Our friends worshiping from home should be prepared to celebrate with us by having close by some sort of bread and any liquid as, collectively, we remember the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior.

Special Program Note

As we wind up our 2024 Stewardship Campaign during the month of September, each Sunday morning during our worship service we will invite a speaker to share a “Moment for Mission” with us about one of the various mission and outreach activities supported by the time, service, prayers, and financial contributions of the members and friends of FPC, Victoria. This Sunday, our Moment for Mission will be presented by Becky Richter who will remind of us of our support of the “Paw Bites” program sponsored by the South Texas Meals on Wheels organization.

Musical Program Notes

This Sunday, we welcome back our guest soloist, Kimberly Schneider, who will sing, “Here, O My Lord, I See Thee” as our vocal anthem. Robert Wyatt has also returned well rested from his vacation, and he will be at his familiar spot in the organ loft as we begin our worship in the month of September.



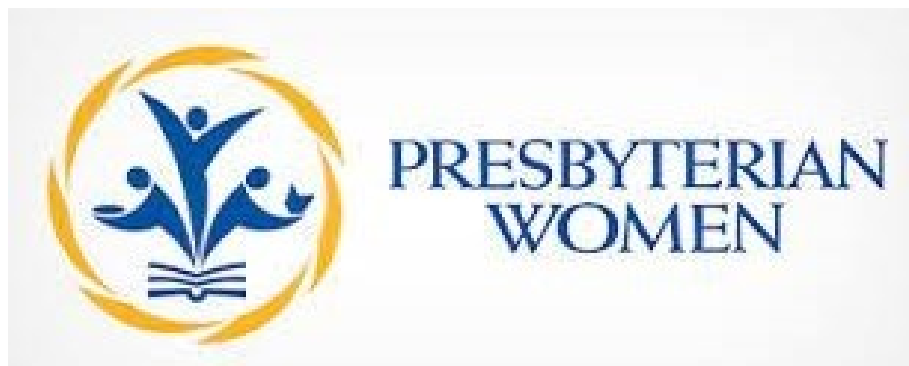
**OUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN:
UPDATE**

***I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
Isaiah 43:19***

As you can see in the picture of our Stewardship Campaign Quilt above, we now have 22 pledges in hand! While it is perfectly alright (not to mention convenient) to mail your pledge card to the church office, it has also been impressive to your pastor to see so many pledge cards placed in the offering plates during our Sunday morning worship services. A year-long promise to support the missions and operations of our church is a gift of the highest order-- a gift involving not only generosity, but faith and commitment as well.

If you have not mailed your pledge card or placed it in the offering plate yet, please prayerfully consider what may be holding you back. The Finance Committee and the Session need to begin planning as soon as possible for our programs and activities during the coming year. The timely receipt of your pledge gives us the ability and the confidence to start now in our planning how best to continue *Our Forward Journey* into 2024.

Howsoever you chose to respond, may God bless your generosity, and may your gift be used wisely in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



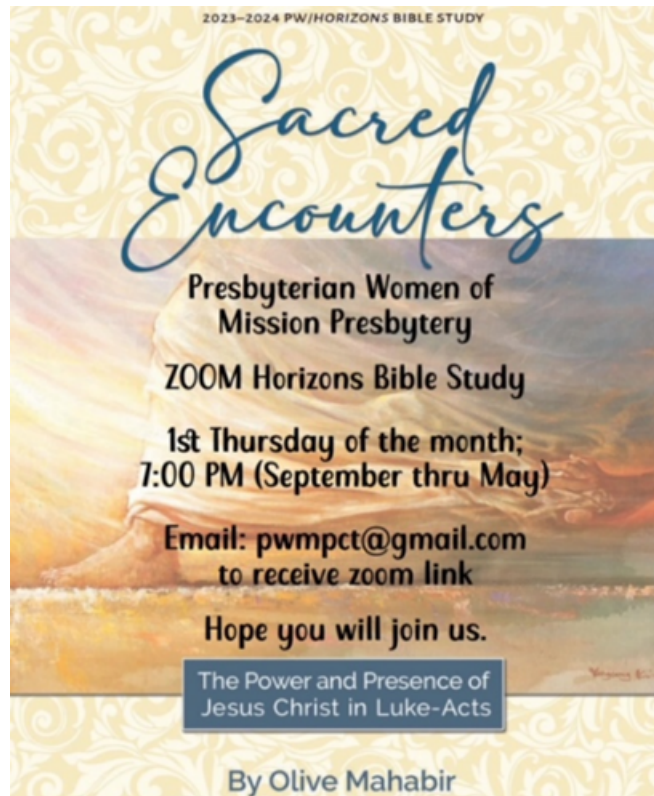
NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

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.



Great news for anyone who is unable to attend monthly circle meetings at FPC, Victoria, but who would still like to participate in the Horizon Bible Study.

This year Presbyterian Women of Mission Presbytery is once again hosting the Horizons Bible Study on Zoom. We will be meeting in online sessions on the first Thursday of each month, September - May at 7:00 PM. We hope you will join us as we consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared

the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.

If you would like to be added to our Zoom bible study invite, please email us at pwmpct@gmail.com. Our first study will be Thursday, September 7th, at 7:00 PM.

**A SACRED
ENCOUNTER
BY THE SEA**

Fall Presbyterian Women's Gathering

1st Presbyterian Church of Palacios
501 3rd Street Palacios, TX 77465

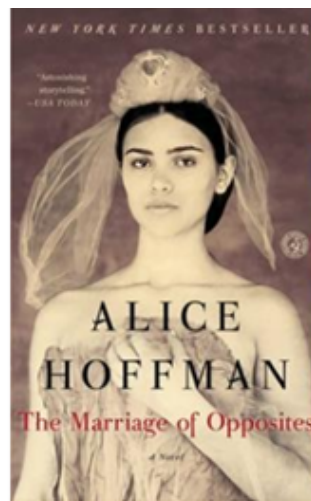
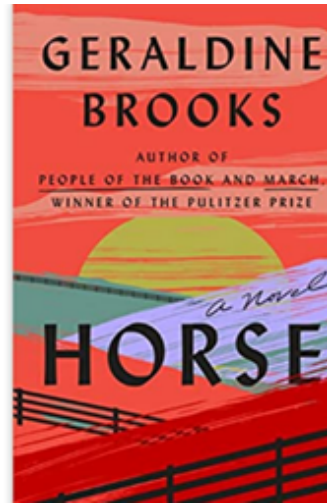
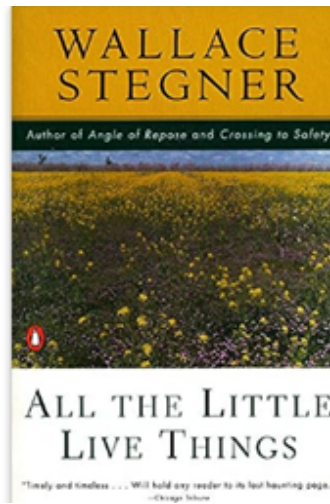
October 14, 2023

9:30am-10:00am Registration
10am-10:45am Icebreakers
10:45am-11:00am Break
11:00am-11:45am Worship
11:45am-12:00pm Break
12:00pm-12:30pm Bible Study Overview
with Liz Anzaldua
12:30pm-2:00pm Lunch, Crafts, Door Prizes

**Please RSVP to Emily Fagan-Baker
at emilynfagan@hotmail.com
or 361-646-5670**

Make a Weekend of it With Friends
or Family! There are many beautiful
places to stay in Palacios.
<https://cityofpalacios.org/places-to-stay/>

Our PW Victoria Cluster Fall Gathering will be hosted this year by the women of First Presbyterian Church of Palacios on Saturday, October 14th. In addition to the information contained in the publicity flyer shown above, Ellen Gray, cluster leader and daughter of our own Mardy Ratliff, will be sending us more information in the following weeks. Be sure and mark your calendars for this wonderful fellowship event!



BOOK CLUB

Won't you join us this Fall for some great books to read and a promise of warm fellowship? Beginning in September, the Book Club will meet on each 4th Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the church parlor. Here is our schedule (happy reading!):

September 26th - *All the Little Live Things* by Wallace Stegner

October 24th – *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman

November 28th – *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

December TBA – *Comfort and Joy* by Kristin Hannah



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
RESUMES THIS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2023, AT 10:00 A.M.**

This Friday, September 1, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., we will once again gather as has become our custom to do some light cleaning around the church. This is an immeasurable 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:

September 1
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)

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.



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.



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.

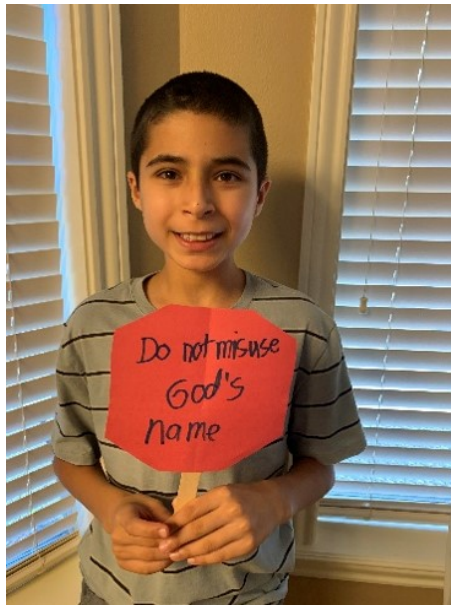


Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". Matt 19:14

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!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- *Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.* This Sunday, the class will commence a new six-week study in the familiar “Being Reformed Faith Seeking Understanding” series, and this time the topic will be “Faith and Science.” We live in a world of faith and science. As Christians in the Reformed tradition, we recognize our duty to love God with our mind and intellect, as well as our heart and soul and strength (see Mark 12:30). We embrace science as one of God’s many gifts to his creation, and we do not see it at all as a threat to our faith or as antithetical to religion.

Come and study with us to learn more! Dawn Neel will have copies of the study material for all who wish to participate in this thought-provoking

examination of the interaction of faith and science in our journeys of faith.

- *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.



ERRATA!

We always appreciate hearing from folks when they find a typo or other error in our Newsletters. Erica and I do the best we can to produce a quality publication, but sometimes the rush of all that must be done during the week interferes with our good intentions. We are grateful for your grace and patience, and we also appreciate it when you notice and tell us about something that needs to be corrected.

In last week's Newsletter, we spelled Mardy Ratliff's name wrong. Here is a corrected version of the announcement:

Our beloved FPC member, Mardy Ratliff, has moved to Seguin, Texas to be closer to her daughter. For those who would like to send Mardy a card or note, her new address is: 226 Preston Drive - Apartment 212, Seguin, Texas 78155.

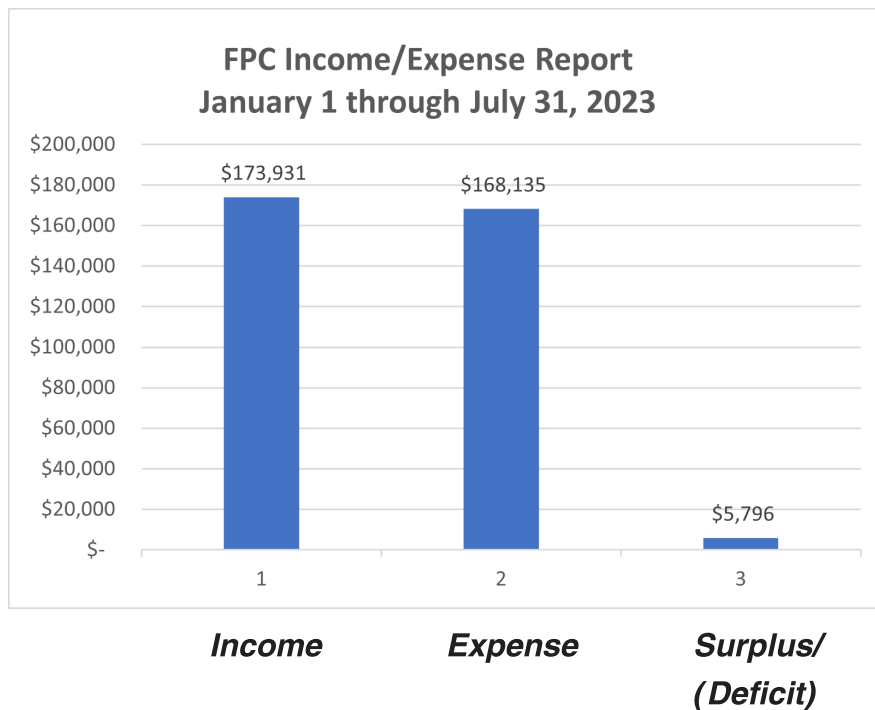


**PERIODIC FPC FINANCIAL REPORT
TO THE CONGREGATION
(JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 31, 2023)**

I am happy to report that, through the first seven months of 2023, church revenue exceeded church expenses by \$5,796. As always, we must remain cautious even in the midst of good news. Nevertheless, this surplus is particularly encouraging, not only by its amount, but also by the fact that it indicates our members and friends have faithfully maintained their generous level of giving even over the normally sleepy summer months.

This is also encouraging news in the midst of our 2024 Stewardship Campaign. It is reassuring for us to see that the hard-earned money we pledge to this church is carefully monitored and wisely spent. You may be sure that the monitoring and other fiscal practices that have been implemented by Treasurer Dawn Neel, our Finance Committee, and our Session keep us watchful and financially responsible every month of the year.

So, as we embrace our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, let us also commit to finishing 2023 in the strongest financial shape possible. If, by God's will, we are able to close out 2023 with a balanced budget, and if we have a strong and generous response to our 2024 Stewardship Campaign, then *Our Forward Journey* will only become stronger and more exciting!



*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



**LABOR DAY,
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2023:
A DAY TO SALUTE**

**THE MEN AND WOMEN
WHOSE LABOR MAKE
OUR COUNTRY GREAT!**

Labor Day has been a federal holiday in the United States since 1894, when President Grover Cleveland signed the law that Congress passed designating the first Monday in September as a holiday to honor and recognize the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development, progress, and achievements of our great nation.

In honor of those who labor that we may enjoy the many blessings of their work, **the church office will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2023.**

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

