



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

Please join us for worship this Sunday, the Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 10, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Psalm 119:33-40 ("Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end") and Romans 13:8-14 ("Owe no one anything, except to love one another"). The title of the sermon is "All You Need Is Love," and a

copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcfvtoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-9-10-bulletin-2-PDF.pdf>

### ***Special Program Note***

As we bring our 2024 Stewardship Campaign to a close 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 Francis Miller who will remind of us of our support for VISD Connection.

### ***Musical Program Notes***

This Sunday, our Vocal Anthem is a duet by Dawn Neel and Becky Richter who will sing, “*Love One Another.*”

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### **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***

With only two Sundays left during our Stewardship Campaign (which ends September 30, 2023), we now have 29 “pledge squares” on our Stewardship Quilt. While we are making good progress, we are still short of the more than 30 pledges we received last year.

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, whether by sending your pledge card to the church office or by placing it in the offering plate, may God bless your generosity, and may your gift be used wisely in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



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 will be back this Sunday, continuing with our Commandments!

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 three commandments 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!

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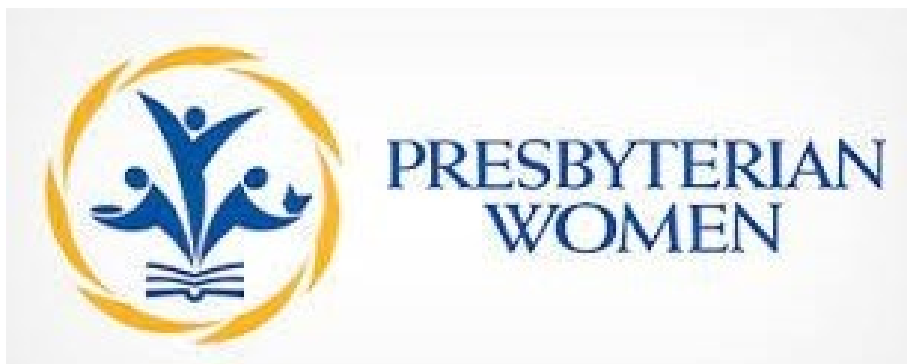
### **VCAM ANNUAL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER**

The Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry (VCAM) is 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 through the remainder of September. Thank you for your continued support of our local outreach.

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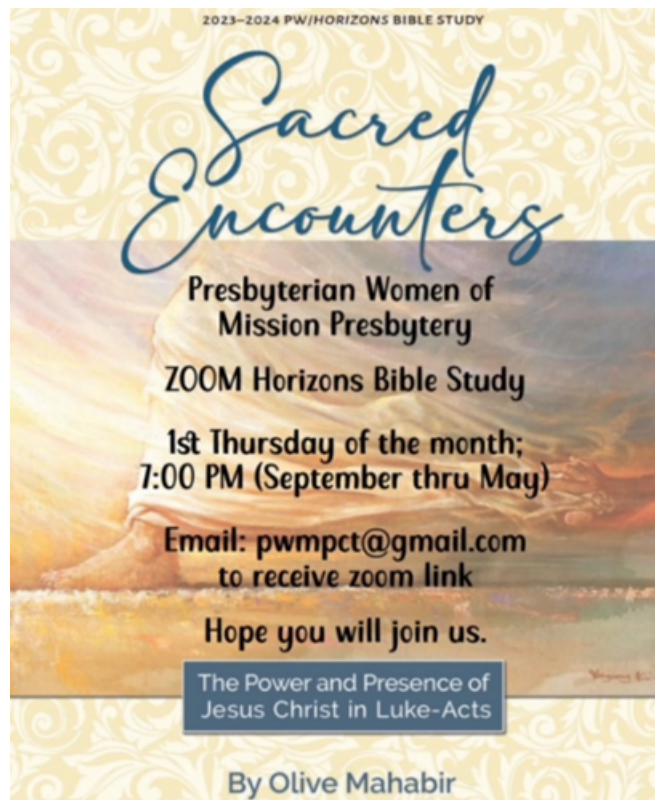
### **NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Pease remember our revised schedule for Circle meetings during 2023-24:

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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



Presbyterian Women mission focus for September 2023 is **Affectionate Arms Adult Care**.

National Adult Day Care Week is being observed September 18 - 24, so it is appropriate that Presbyterian Women recognize and support this worthy organization at this time. Items needed for Affectionate Arms Adult Care are:

### **PAPER PRODUCTS**

- 8 oz styrofoam cups for hot liquids
- Napkins (standard size)
- Paper towels
- 13 Gallon garbage bags (tall kitchen size)
- 55 Gallon trash bags
- Facial Tissue ("Kleenex")
- Small (approx 6") paper plates
- Individually wrapped plastic cutlery packets
- ("party packs" silverware kits containing fork, knife, spoon)
- Printer Paper (standard size)

### **FOOD PRODUCTS**

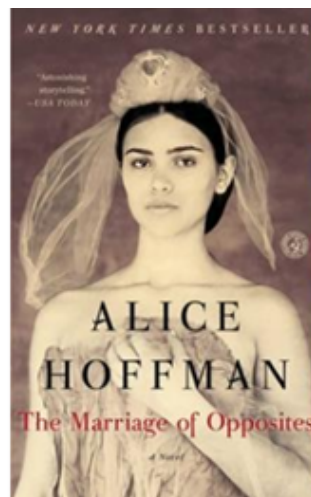
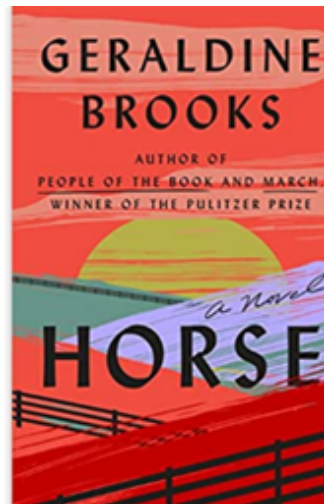
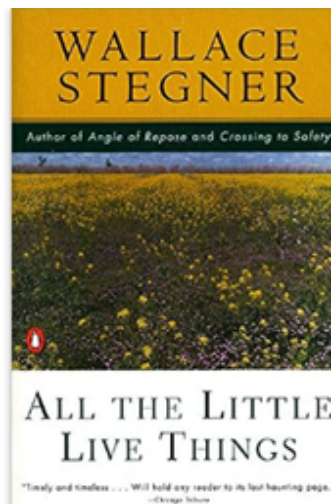
- Sugar
- Folgers Coffee Medium Roast

### **PERSONAL CARE**

- Body Wash
- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Hand soap

Please assist Presbyterian Women by donating any of the above items.  
Donations may be left in the Church office.

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## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the church parlor. Here is our schedule (happy reading!):

September 26<sup>th</sup> - *All the Little Live Things* by Wallace Stegner

October 24<sup>th</sup> – *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman

November 28<sup>th</sup> – *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

## 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.

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### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

- Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. This class has begun their six-week study in the familiar "Being

Reformed Faith Seeking Understanding” series, and this time the topic is “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 back this Sunday! Come join us as we continue learning our Commandments, and enjoying snacks with love.



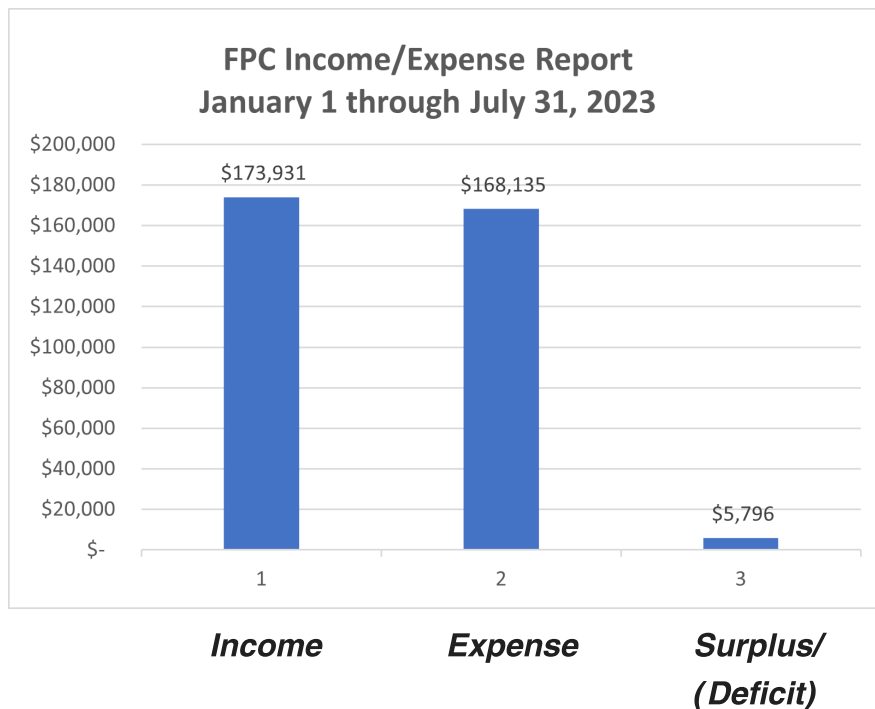
**PERIODIC FPC FINANCIAL REPORT  
TO THE CONGREGATION  
(JANUARY 1 THROUGH JULY 31, 2023)**

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

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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