



World Communion Sunday

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2023, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 1, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Psalm 25:1-9 ("Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths") and Philippians 2:1-13 ("... be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves"). The title of the sermon is "Christian Unity and Christian Humility," and a copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp->

World Communion Sunday

This Sunday is World Communion Sunday, and, together with millions of Christians around the world, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper during our worship service. If you will be joining us via social media, please have some bread and liquid (it matters not what you chose) ready to participate with us in this sacrament at the appropriate time. You will be invited, you will be welcomed, to participate with us in this holy remembrance of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord and Savior.



WHY DOESN'T MY KEY TO THE CHURCH WORK ANYMORE?!

At the September meeting of the Session, the Buildings and Grounds Committee recommended that, with the exception of the classrooms in the Presbyterian Day School, all of the exterior and interior locks of the church building be "re-keyed." In addition, the Committee recommended changing the code on our

interior alarm system.

The Session accepted these recommendations and authorized the requisite changes to be implemented as quickly as possible. Therefore, on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, all of the church's exterior and interior locks, as well as the code for our alarm system, have been changed. We did this not because we have had any security breaches to our property, but rather because it was a prudent thing to do to mitigate against possible breaches in the future.

These security steps were last taken approximately five years ago after the completion of the restoration work on our property following Hurricane Harvey. Since then, the church's keys and security code have been shared with countless folks who needed access to our property for their meetings or other activities. With time, such folks move on, and thus we are no longer able to keep track of who might have access (authorized or otherwise) to our property. Thus, every five years or so, it is prudent to update our security (something that only costs a few hundred dollars, and therefore is relatively inexpensive for the level of security provided).

IMPORTANT: If you have an old key to the church, and if you are someone who needs access to the building because of the groups you lead or the work you do on church property, please contact the church office immediately. We will issue you a new key and provide you with the new security code. Until then, however, you are locked out!



**OUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN
COMES TO A CLOSE ON**

SEPTEMBER 30, 2013

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

Although our 2024 Steward Campaign comes to its “official” close on September 30, 2023, there is still time to submit your pledge card if you have not already done so.

As you can see from the picture above, we now have 32 “pledge squares” on our Stewardship Quilt. This is a wonderful response to our Stewardship Campaign, but it would be spectacular if we could add just one or two more pledge squares before the deadline.

During our Moment for Mission this Sunday, October 1st, our Treasurer, Dawn Neel, will announce the results of our 2024 Stewardship Campaign. Regardless of what news she brings, we continue to pray that God will bless your generosity and that your gift be used wisely in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Get Support

PAW Pet Care Assistance



Our congregation has responded again in a huge way helping those in our community that cannot afford to buy cat and dog food for their loving animal companions. In September we donated 136 pounds of dog food and 60 pounds of cat food to the Meals on Wheels Paw Bites program. This was about one-third of what we contributed in August, but it was gratefully accepted and appreciated by the Meals on Wheels South Texas staff.

Each time a member of our Mission and Outreach Committee delivers our church's weekly donation, the staff greets them with open arms and gives thanks for what our church does for those senior citizens they serve. They report that because of our contributions Meals on Wheels has not had to purchase cat or dog food for the past two months to meet their clients' needs!

We fell short of our goal in September. You are encouraged to join in again by purchasing an extra bag of cat or dog food for those needing our help. Our red Paw Bites wagon will continue to be in Narthex of the church for your convenience. Please remember to bring a bag of cat or dog food with you on Sunday.

Your support of this important work of God in our community is being felt in the lives of many. We do this in the name of Jesus Christ.



VCAM Raffle Fundraiser

A big “Thank You” to everyone who so generously supported the Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry by purchasing Raffle Fundraiser tickets. The drawing will be held at noon, Friday, September 29, 2023, at VCAM, located at 108 N. Liberty. Becky Richter will be on hand for the drawing and will contact any lucky winners!

Of course, the real “winners” are the thousands of needy clients served annually by VCAM. Your generous support, not only by purchasing raffle tickets but by leaving donations of food, clothing, and personal hygiene products in our “shopping cart,” helps VCAM throughout the year. Even though this year’s Raffle Fundraiser will soon be over, please don’t forget to continue to bring your donations, all through the year, to our church. Becky, or one of her helpers, will make sure that your contributions are promptly taken to VCAM.



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

Mark your calendars to join us this Sunday, from 9:45am – 10:15am, as we continue our new multi-sensory series on the 10 commandments. Plus, we will be adding 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!



DO YOU KNOW ANY OF THESE WOMEN?

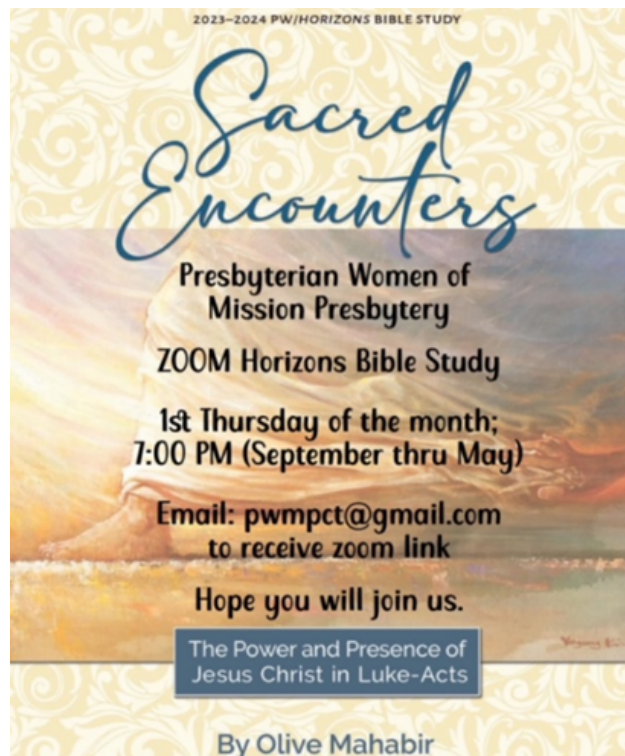
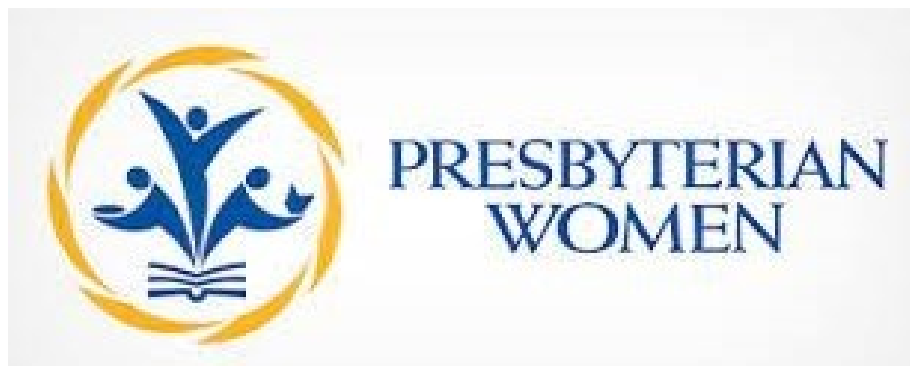
Last week, we published nine framed pictures of women we believed were past PDS teachers, or maybe PW members or some other organization of our church.

This week, we can report that several faithful readers of this Newsletter (thank you for reading all the way through!) recognized three of the nine pictures. We have reprinted all nine pictures above, but this time we have been able to add some information to three of them. Reading left to right in the top picture, we believe these are pictures of Lucile Anderson, [_____ Cohen?], and Lucy Mackrell. Based on

this information, we now believe that all of the women in the pictures were once teachers at our Presbyterian Day School.

If you haven't already, would you please take a closer look at these pictures? It was a delight to be able to preliminarily place names to three of them, and we would like to identify more. Thank you for helping us preserve the history of our church and PDS!

In the event you recognize any of these women, please call us (361.575.2771 or send us an email (info@fpcofvictoria.org) telling us what you know.



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.



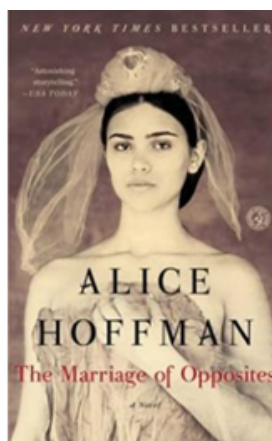
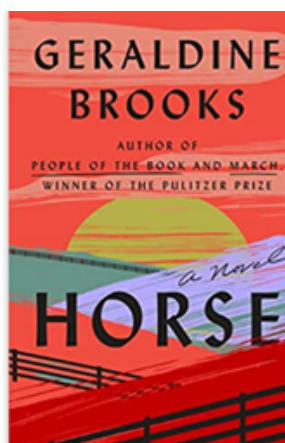
Our PW Victoria Cluster Fall Gathering will be hosted this year by the women of First Presbyterian Church of Palacios on Saturday, October 14th. In addition to the information contained in the publicity flyer shown above, Ellen Gray, cluster leader and daughter of our own Mardy Ratliff, will be sending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



Perpetual Help Home is the Presbyterian Women mission focus for **October**.
Perpetual Help Home needs are:

- * Body Wash
- * Deodorant (solid)
- * Shampoo
- * Conditioner
- * Loofah Bath & Shower Poofs
- * Dish Soap (Large bottles; Dawn preferred)
- * Laundry Detergent (Powder, Liquid, or Pods)
- * Tall Kitchen garbage bags
- * Spray Disinfectant (for Kitchen or Bath)
- * Toilet Paper
- * Paper Towels
- * Condiments (salt & pepper, garlic powder, chili powder)
- * HEB & Walmart gift cards

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



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 fourth Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the church parlor. Here is our schedule (happy reading!):

October 24th – *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman
November 28th – *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks
December TBA – *Comfort and Joy* by Kristin Hannah



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- *Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.* This Sunday, the class continues their six-week study in the familiar “Being Reformed Faith Seeking Understanding” series, and this time the topic is “Faith and Science.”

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.:* Come join us as we continue learning our Commandments, and enjoying snacks with love.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
AGAIN THIS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2023, AT 10:00 A.M.**

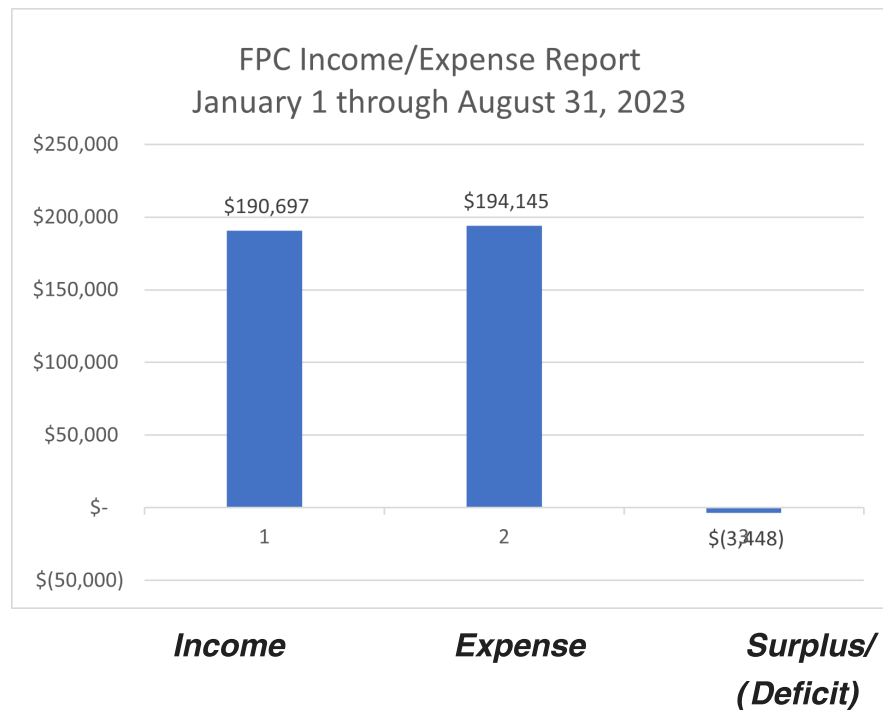
This Friday, September 29, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., we will once again gather as has become our custom to do some light cleaning around the church.

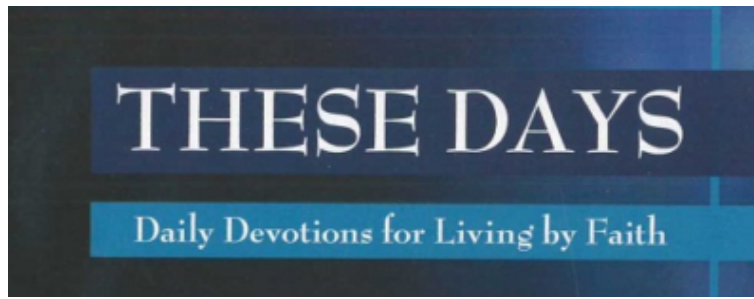
Here, for your convenience is a list of the upcoming dates for our One Great Hour of Caring:

October 13
October 27
November 10
November 24 (may change due to Thanksgiving)
December 8
December 22 (may change due to Christmas)

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

Although not alarming, through the first eight months of 2023, church expenses exceeded church revenue by \$3,448. Given our congregation's typical month-to-month giving patterns, the Finance Committee anticipates that this deficit will soon be erased as we head into the last four months of the year.





CURRENT COPIES OF “THESE DAYS” HAVE ARRIVED

We have received our quarterly delivery of the most recent edition (October/November/December 2023) of *These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*. Upon request, we will be happy to mail a copy to any member desiring one. Also, as is our custom, we have placed copies of these devotionals on the tables in the Narthex and in front of the church office for people to pick up on Sunday mornings or whenever they are at the church.

Many FPC members faithfully follow the daily devotionals contained in *These Days*. If you have not previously considered adding the spiritual practice of spending a few moments each day to engage in a quiet, peaceful reflection on your faith, this carefully designed publication is a great way to introduce yourself to that powerful experience.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

