

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, the Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, September 10, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Isaiah 43:18-19 ("I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?") and 1 Samuel 3:1-11 ("See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle"). The title of the sermon is "Transitions," and a

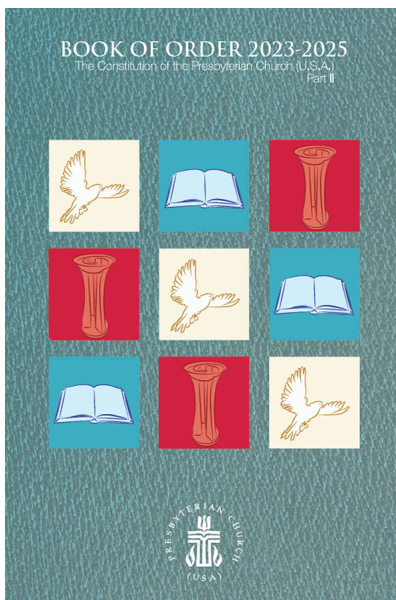
copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-9-17-Bulletin-4-PDF.pdf>

Special Program Note

This Sunday, we will continue our practice, during the course of our Stewardship Campaign, of inviting 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 Jack Kleinecke who will remind of us of our support of the Victoria Christian Assistance Ministry.

Congregational Meeting Following Our Worship Service

As announced below, the Session has called a congregational meeting immediately following our worship service this Sunday during which we will elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. During my sermon, I will provide more context about this important step in the life of First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas. I encourage all who love this church and care about its future to attend this important meeting.



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
CALLED BY THE SESSION
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING OUR WORSHIP SERVICE ON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023**

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas, to be held at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, September 17, 2023. During this brief meeting, the congregation will receive a report from our currently constituted Congregation Nominating Committee on their recommendations for the election of members whom they will nominate to constitute a Pastor Nominating Committee.

The Moderator will invite additional nominations from the floor, if there be any. Before submitting someone to be considered for election to the Pastor Nominating Committee, however, please first confirm with that individual that he or she would be willing to serve if elected.

At the end of such discussion as the Congregation may desire, a vote will be taken to elect the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee. No other business than as stated in this notice will be in order during our meeting. May God grant us and the members of this committee strength, wisdom, and discernment as, guided by the Holy Spirit, our church continues *Our Forward Journey* with faith, hope, love, and continued service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



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 one Sunday left during our Stewardship Campaign (which ends September 30, 2023), we now have 30 “pledge squares” on our Stewardship Quilt.

Are you forgetting something? Our Treasurer is aware that several of our faithful members who turned in a pledge card for 2023 have not yet done so for 2024. Please don't let this important step in the financial welfare of our church slip by unattended.

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. If you have questions or concerns about our Stewardship Campaign, about our church's current financial circumstances, or even about our budget for the coming year, please contact our Treasurer, Dawn Neel. As in all matters involving members' pledges, Dawn will be pleased to talk with you in absolute confidence.

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.



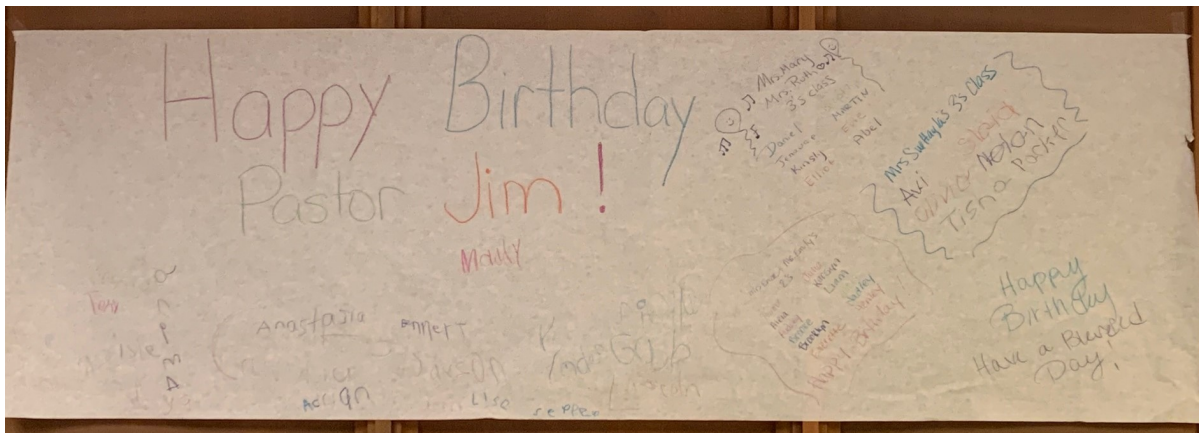
**NEWS FROM
THE PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL**



***Grandparents Welcomed at
First Childrens' Chapel of the Year***

On Monday, September 11, 2023, the young disciples of our Presbyterian Day School attended their first Childrens' Chapel of the new school year. Families, and especially grandparents, were invited to attend as the children showed off their craft projects and sang their favorite songs (including the perennial "God Morning, Lord!"). Pastor Jim welcomed students, teachers, and visitors alike, and our Sanctuary was half-full with children and adults as joy and happiness abounded all around.

Next week, Children's Chapel will be held at 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, and Pastor Jim will bless everybody's backpack! As we always do, FPC will be giving each child a nametag and a happy "trinket" to hang from their backpack. Stayed tuned for more pictures in next week's Newsletter!



***PDS Students Serenade
Pastor Jim
on His Birthday***

Having successfully kept his birthday a “secret” since his arrival at FPC, Victoria, your pastor wasn’t able to do it again this year. Somebody found out and told the teachers at PDS that September 11th was his birthday.

Unbeknownst to me, the children got out their crayons, printed their names on a big sheet of paper that said, “Happy Birthday, Pastor Jim,” and brought it downstairs. One of them, accompanied by their teacher, knocked on my door and ask me to “please step into the hall.” When I did, some two dozen children, ages 2 and 3, burst out into a rousing chorus of “Happy Birthday!” Trust me, 2- and 3-year-olds can put their whole heart (and lungs!) into singing a song associated with cake and presents.

At the end of the serenade, the students gave me the large piece of paper that they had been holding (and on which their brightly colored names appeared). The gift now hangs with pride-of-place in my office.

I confess that maybe I should not have been so secretive all these years. At the end of their serenade, the children all wanted to hug Pastor Jim, and we laughed and giggled as we joined in a big ol’ group hug. Such joy is genuine; such innocence is pure. If anyone wonders why Christ said of children “for of such is the kingdom of God,” I wish they could have been with me on Monday morning.



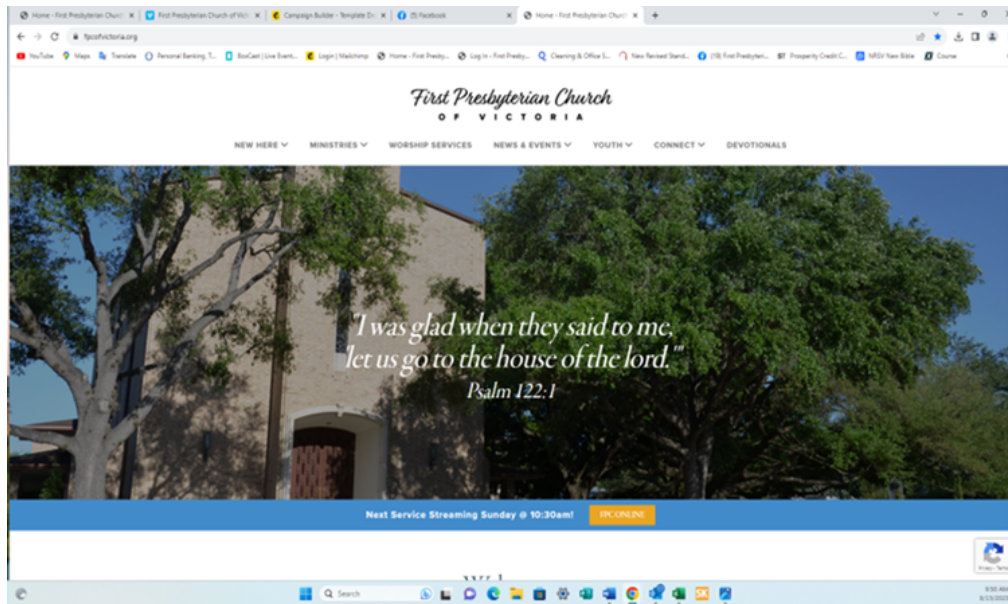
Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". Matt 19:14

We worked this Sunday catching up our friends on the first three commandments, and on learning our fourth commandment - Remember the Sabbath day. The children worked on crafting a church complete with a congregation, to help us to remember to "go to church". Along with singing our 10 Commandments song, we made a yummy cross shaped snack out of bannanas, peanut butter, and jelly beans (to help add some color to our crosses).

Mark your calendars to join us this Sunday, from 9:45am – 10:15am, as we continue our new multi-sensory series on the 5th commandment. 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!





UPDATES TO FPC'S SOCIAL MEDIA

Have you visited our church's social media "platforms" recently? If not, I invite to take some time to scroll through both of them: www.fpcvictoria.org and www.Facebook.com/fpcvictoria. Erica Colding, our dedicated and talented Office Administrator, has been updating and improving each of these sites to entice interest and to provide useful information to our members as well as to those who may be looking for a new church home.

For example, at long last we have a "giving link" on our Facebook page that parallels our website. Moreover, there is now also a link on our Facebook page that the reader can click to be taken instantly to our website. On our Facebook page, we are also now periodically posting devotionals from various sources such as *These Days*, and you can now find current copies of our Newsletter. On our website, we have updated information about our adult Sunday School classes as well as our Kingdom Kids multi-sensory bible studies that both meet before our Sunday morning worship services.

On each platform, we are making a concerted effort to post current information about Presbyterian Women, our church committees, and the special projects in which they are involved. For example, we have posted articles about our summer rummage sale (which attracted over 2,000 views on our Facebook page!) and our "End of Summer" fellowship event with hotdogs, games, and a sing-along. More recently, we have featured articles about our mission activities such as our "Paw Bites" donations for Meals on Wheels and our support of the VISD clothing initiative

for homeless children.

Now more than ever (and especially post-COVID), the vitality of an organization is often gaged, especially by “outsiders,” by the vitality of that organization’s social media. We are also aware, however, that our social media must meet the needs of the members and friends of our church. We know, for instance, that some 35-80 persons view our worship service online *every week*.

For all these reasons and more, Erica and I are concentrating our media production priorities on: the Sunday bulletin, the weekly Newsletter, and now increasingly the upkeep of our social media platforms. If you have any questions or, better!, suggestions, please share them with Erica or me. In the twenty-first century, often nothing says “active and vital church” better than “active vital social media.”



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
AGAIN THIS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023, AT 10:00 A.M.**

This Friday, September 15, 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 a very valuable 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 29
October 13
October 27
November 10
November 24 (may change due to Thanksgiving)
December 8
December 22 (may change due to Christmas)

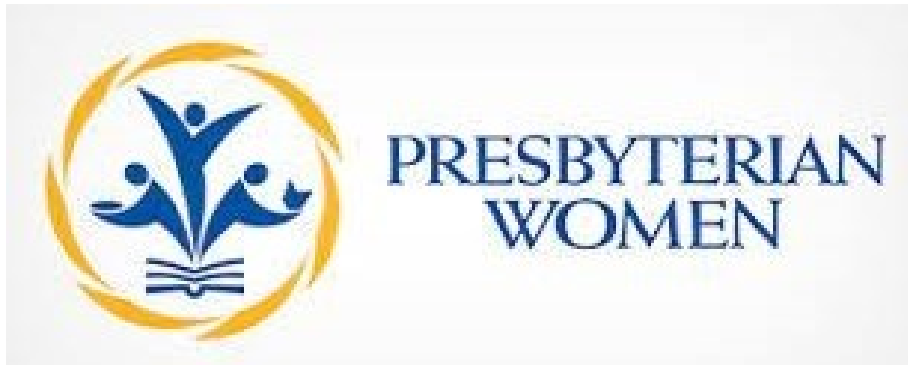


CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- *Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class, Sunday, 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor.*
This class is continuing 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.:* Come join us as we continue learning our Commandments, and enjoying snacks with love.
-



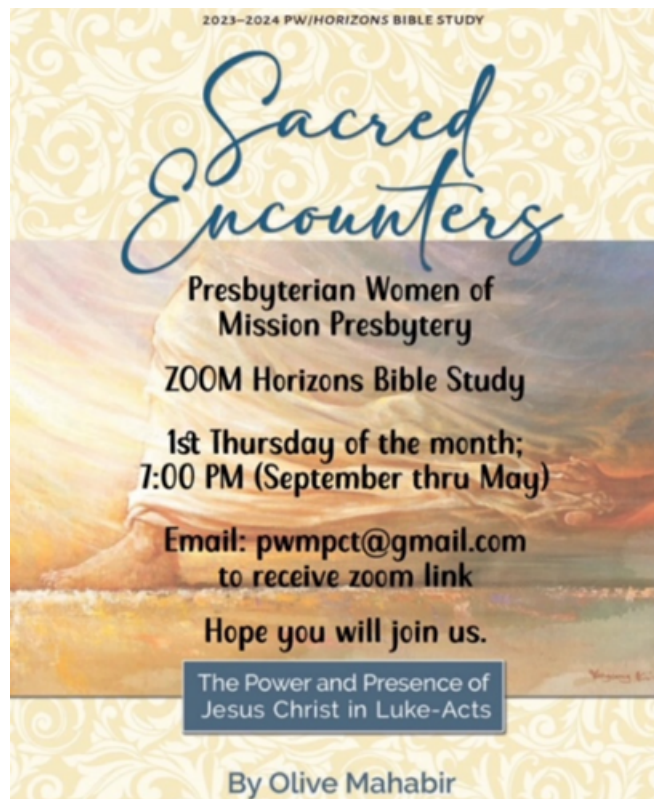
**NEWS FROM
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Please 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.



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)

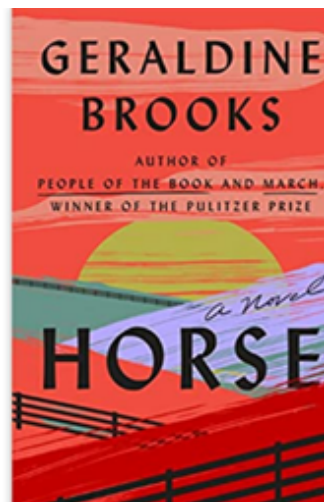
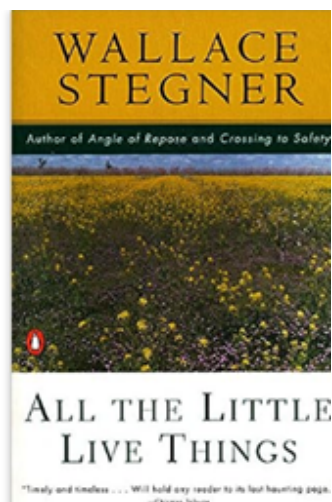
FOOD PRODUCTS

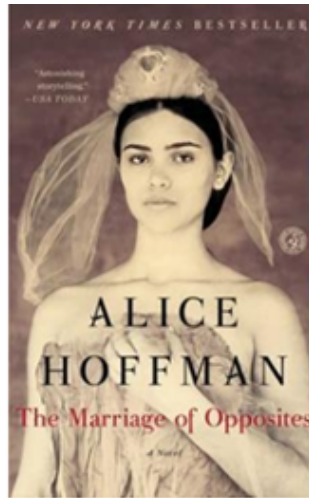
Sugar
Folgers Coffee Medium Roast

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.





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



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.

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.

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. 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.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

First Presbyterian Church · 2408 N Navarro · Victoria, Texas 77901 · USA

