

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2023, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, October 8, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Isaiah 5:1-7 ("Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard ...") and Matthew 21:33-46 ("Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom"). The title of the sermon is "The Parable of the Wicked Tenants," and a copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023-10-8-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>

***A Special Note about  
Last Sunday's Worship Service  
Celebrating  
World Communion Sunday***

Didn't we all admire and enjoy our beautifully adorned altar last Sunday morning as we celebrated World Communion Sunday with our Christian sisters and brothers around the world?

Accordingly, all of us will want to extend a special note of thanks and appreciation to Lynn McAuley, Dawn and Chris Neel, Martha Tarkington, and Bonnie Wilkinson for giving of their time and talent to make our Chancel so lovely for this special occasion. As the team worked, you will know that Linda Patterson was once again remembered fondly for the many years that she worked to beautify our altar, and indeed our entire sanctuary, to the glory of God.

All of us who love and remember Linda believe she would have been proud of the work done by the many faithful hands who carry on in her spirit and tradition. Admire this picture and see if you agree!



***A Musical Note***

This Sunday we will be singing two familiar hymns written by the famous nineteenth century gospel hymnist, Fanny Crosby: *To God Be the Glory* and *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine*. In addition, Dawn Neel will be singing our

Anthem, *I Am the Vine*.

Music is such a beautiful, spiritual part of every worship service at our church. We hope you can join us this and every Sunday to enjoy the peace, comfort, and inspiration that comes from listening to, and joining in!, the music by which we worship, praise, and glorify our Triune God.

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**THANKS BE TO GOD!  
OUR 2024 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN  
HAS YIELDED WONDERFUL BLESSINGS**

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

During our Moment for Mission last Sunday, Dawn Neel, our Treasurer, reported that as of the close of our 2024 Stewardship Campaign (September 30, 2023), we had received 32 pledge cards from the members and friends of our congregation for a total giving commitment in 2024 of \$202,500. Although there were 2 fewer pledges than we received in 2023, our generous members and friends collectively increased their pledges by almost 7% over last year's total (\$189,800).

Surely, the work of the Holy Spirit was at work among us, sustaining our faith, rekindling our hope, and giving us confidence that our worship, our

service, and our mission and outreach programs at FPC, Victoria, will continue forward as they have for the past 182 years

Inspired by the confidence and generosity of the members and friends of this church, the Finance Committee will now begin to prepare a budget, for presentation to the Session soon, of our anticipated income and expenses for 2024. We have no doubt that many sacrifices and hard decisions remain to be made, but the faithful support of all those who have answered the call and responded so faithfully to our 2024 Stewardship Campaign will lighten that burden considerably.

As has been said throughout this Stewardship Campaign, we continue to pray that God will bless your generosity and that your gifts will be used wisely in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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### **VCAM Raffle Fundraiser**

And speaking of generosity, Becky Richter reports that VCAM's Raffle Fundraiser was a big success this year-- and of course some small measure of that success can be attributed to the members and friends of our church who bought lots of raffle tickets with no expectation of winning anything.



But then, you never know! This year, Bonnie Wilkinson won a modest prize, so congratulations to her!

When we support VCAM, we are always winners, even when our generosity goes “unrewarded” in a material sense. Since the inception of VCAM, our church has been a faithful supporter of VCAM's efforts to sustain the hungry and the poor in our community-- and there's no reason to let up now. 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 your contributions are promptly taken to VCAM.



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.

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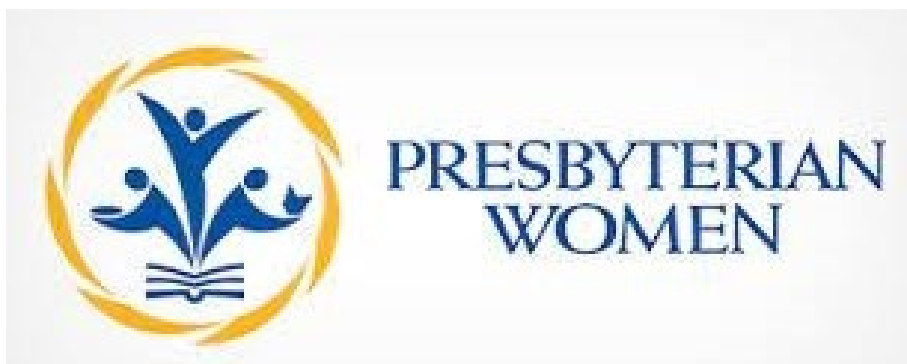


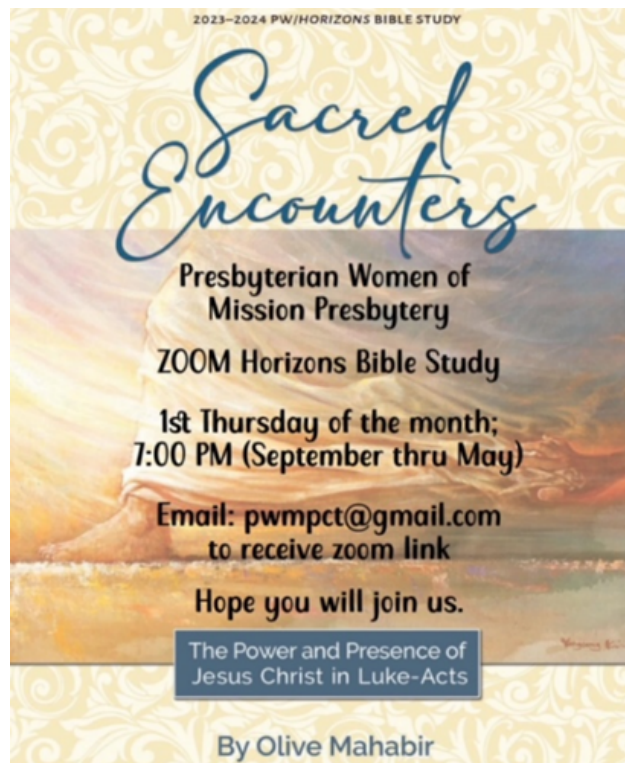
**WHY DOESN'T MY KEY  
TO THE CHURCH  
WORK ANYMORE?!**

In case you have not already heard, this is a reminder that, with the exception of the classrooms in the Presbyterian Day School, all of the exterior and interior locks of the church building have been “re-keyed.” In addition, the code on our interior alarm system has been changed.

**THEREFORE:** If you have an old key to the church, and if you are someone who needs regular 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!

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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 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)
- \* Plastic cereal bowls (found at various dollar stores)
- \* Plastic food storage containers (sizes: 2, 3, or 5 cup)
- \* HEB & Walmart gift cards

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

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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

Number 6, " Do not murder anyone". As we are working our way through the 10 commandments, the craft and snack ideas are getting a little more challenging, but we pushed past commandment #6. After reading our book and singing the 10 Commandments song, we crafted up a sword, and used stickers and crayons to dress it up. For snack, we kept it simple unrelated to the commandment we were learning - apple slices and caramel dipping sauce.

Mark your calendars to join us this Sunday, from 9:45am – 10:15am, as we continue our new multi-sensory series on the 7th 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!



## **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.



The family of our longtime member, Kathleen McCameron who joined the Church Triumphant on April 26, 2023, has informed the church office that her ashes will be interred in the Cheapside Cemetery (Gonzales County, Texas) on Saturday, October 14, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. It will be an intimate affair, and your pastor has not been asked to officiate. Nevertheless, Kathleen's family understands that Kathleen's many friends (over many decades) will want to know this news.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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