



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 12, 2023, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, the Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Psalm 70 ("Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!") and Matthew 25:1-13 (the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids; "Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour"). The title of the sermon is "Waiting for Christ's Return," and a copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/2023-11-12-Bulletin2-PDF.pdf>

A Special Musical Note

This Sunday, we welcome back Kimberly Schneider as our featured soloist. She has chosen as the Anthem a piece by the 16th century German composer, Philipp Nicolai, entitled “Sleepers, Awake!” Although not as well known as Johan Sebastian Bach (upon whom he had a profound influence), Nicolai was a highly regarded Lutheran minister, poet, and hymn writer. The work chosen by Kimberly is one of Nicolai’s two most famous works ([*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*](#) [Sleepers, Awake!] and [*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*](#) [How Beautifully Shines the Morning Star]), which are often referred to as the King and Queen of Chorales, respectively. Why not invite a friend to join you this Sunday as Kimberly graces us with her beautiful voice?

A Special Offering

The Presbyterian Women will also be collecting a Thank Offering this Sunday. Envelopes will be inserted in your bulletin. The Thank Offering is one of Presbyterian Women’s two offerings. Received in the fall each year, it gives women a tangible way to express their gratitude for the special blessings in their lives

A Special Technical Note

Every now and then, our worship services are beset by gremlins in the technosphere. Such was the case last Sunday for our Remembrance Service.

First, whenever this happens, we appreciate hearing about it in the church office. Given the past reliability of our livestreaming network, we assume that everything is going well unless we are advised otherwise. But then, when we are advised of problems, we can work with our network provider to avoid difficulties in the future.

Second, in this instance, we will be working to upload a copy of our Remembrance Service into both our website and Facebook archives. Sometimes technical problems prevent us from undertaking this solution, but we believe that, in this instance, you should be able to find a copy of this year’s Remembrance Service on both our website (www.fpcofvictoria.org) and our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fpcofvictoria.org) by no later than Wednesday (November 8th) of this week.



**WE ARE GOING TO HAVE
A FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON ON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023,
FOLLOWING THE 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

In our happy FPC community, there are few things more joyful than getting together with our friends and neighbors to share a meal!

Our Fellowship and Caregiving Committee is inviting one and all to come break bread together during a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall immediately following our worship service on Sunday, November 12, 2023. Please bring your prize-winning salad, side dish, entrée, or dessert to share with us all. Beverages will be provided.

And, while we are having a good time, we will also pause a moment to convene a Congregational Meeting to attend to an important matter in the life of our church. It will take you longer to read the following constitutional notice required by our Book of Order than it will for you to participate in this brief meeting. So, please plan to attend (and yet another reason to invite a friend!) for this always joyful time in the life of our church.

**CONSTITUTIONAL NOTICE OF A
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2023,
FOLLOWING THE 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE**

Pursuant to a call by the Session, notice is hereby given of a Congregational Meeting of the members of First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas to be held during a Fellowship Luncheon immediately following the conclusion of our 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, November 12, 2023. During this brief meeting, the Chair of the Congregation Nominating Committee, Rebecca Richter, will report on the recommendations of the CNC for three members of the congregation to be elected to serve on the Session for a three-year term (the Class of 2026) commencing January 1, 2024

The Moderator will invite additional nominations from the floor, if there be any. Before submitting someone to be considered for election to the Session, however, please be sure and 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 Session Class of 2026. May God grant us and our new leaders strength and wisdom as First Presbyterian Church continues *Our Journey Forward*, and as we enter a new year of hope, promise, and continued service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.





**ONCE AGAIN
FPC EMBRANCES
OUR ANNUAL
ANGEL TREE PROJECT!**

Led as usual by our indefatigable Frances Miller, our church will again participate in an Angel Tree Project during Advent this year. Frances has already received completed Angel Tree forms for 5 children who reside at Perpetual Help Home, and ultimately we expect to receive approximately 25 more children's names from Mid Coast Family Services, although even that number will likely increase as it has in past years.

During our worship service this Sunday (November 12th), Frances will provide us with more specific details (and instructions!) about this year's Angel Tree Project during our Moment for Mission. In advance of that service, Frances and Lynn McAuley will set up the Angel Tree in the Narthex. The Angel Tree will be adorned with "ornaments" made by Lynn, and each ornament will bear the name and other relevant information about a particular child.

As in past years, gifts for all children should be wrapped and labeled with the child's assigned number and returned to the church by no later than December 10, 2023. As they have in the past, Presbyterian Women volunteers will assist wrapping any unwrapped gifts, sorting presents, and delivering gifts if necessary.

All mission projects undertaken by this generous and loving congregation are always done as a joyful and loving response to the love given so freely to us by God. In you pastor's experience, this is especially true as our members embrace our annual Angel Tree Project. The opportunity to make a disadvantaged child happy at Christmas is an irresistible opportunity to celebrate the Advent Season in the way that Jesus, instead of our Black-Friday-crazed society, would have us do. Thank you in advance for your plans to, again, make this a special Christmas for a child for whom the holiday would not be so merry were it not for your generous and caring heart.

NEW COMMUNITY OUTREACH INITIATIVES SUPPORTED BY OUR CHURCH

Please mark your calendar for these important activities and make plans to join your brothers and sisters as we provide support and assistance to our community.

VCAM Thanksgiving Food Scavenger Hunt

The first week of our **VCAM Food Scavenger Hunt** was off to a great start! First Presbyterian Church donated 113 pounds of canned goods to VCAM this week. The VCAM volunteers were very grateful to receive the food donations which will help make a nicer Thanksgiving for others. Let's keep the momentum going! **Week 2** Brown Bags have a new list of food items to gather this week. If you have not already picked one up, they are located on a table in the Narthex and near the rear hallway door. Thank you to everyone for your continued support as we provide food to those less fortunate in our community.

Veterans Fair

December 6, 2023 – FPC, Victoria will sponsor a Veterans Fair in partnership with the Texas Veterans Commission and the Veterans Resource Department of the Texas Workforce Commission. The goal is to inform our congregation regarding benefits available to our veterans and their families and to provide outreach and assistance to all veterans in our community.

Gina Brown, Veterans Resource Coordinator, Coastal Bend & Golden Crescent Areas representative, will organize the Veterans Fair, as well as publicize the Fair through the various veteran organization contacts available to her. She has already received commitments from Victoria Veterans Center and

the Military Veterans Network. She will be working to recruit more veteran organizations to participate.



The Meals on Wheels staff continue to be appreciative of the pet food we continue to the Paw Bites program of Meals on Wheels, South Texas. In October, we delivered 115 pounds of dog food and 110 pounds of cat food. This provided pet food to approximately thirty-four senior citizens who cannot afford food for their pets. Their cat or dog many days are the only companion they have to love and care for.

MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE WANTS YOUR INPUT

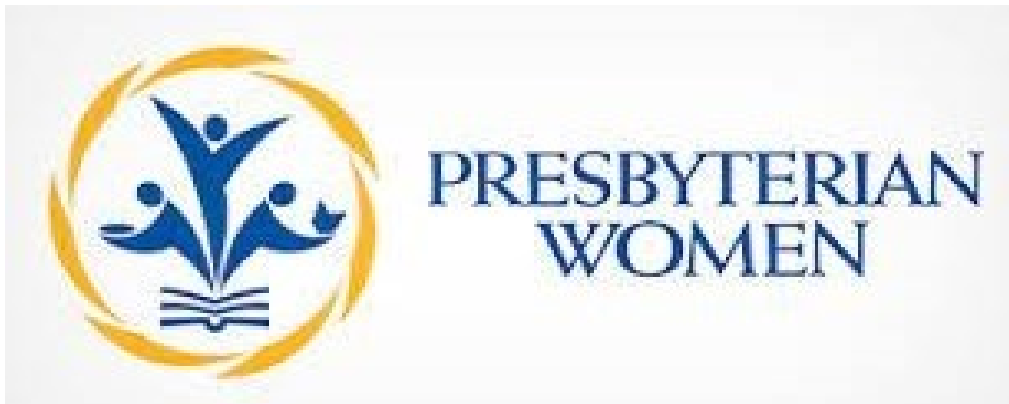
Simultaneously with our email distribution of this Newsletter, the church office will once again be sending church members and friends an email with a questionnaire from our Mission and Outreach Committee. That Committee is requesting your input regarding FPC's mission and outreach efforts.

For those who prefer paper to emails, we will also have copies of the questionnaire available next Sunday in the Narthex (prior to our worship service) and in Fellowship Hall (prior to our potluck luncheon).

The questionnaire will contain three brief questions from the Mission and Outreach Committee and will take only a few minutes to complete. You can wait to fill out a paper copy of the questionnaire next Sunday, or you can return your completed questionnaire the same way you received it-- by email! Simply open the attachment to your email, fill in your answers, "close *and save* the questionnaire. Then (and this is important), hit FORWARD and type in this address in the TO line: info@fpcofvictoria.org. By doing this (instead of just hitting REPLY), you will ensure that your answers are received in the church office. Thank you very much for taking a moment to help us plan *Our Forward Journey!*

For those who receive this letter via first class mail, we have also enclosed a printed copy of the questionnaire. Please take a moment to fill it out. You can mail the questionnaire to the church office (2408 N. Navarro St, Victoria, TX 77901) or you can drop it off at your convenience.

If you chose to include your name in your response, that is fine, but it is not necessary. The important thing is that we hear from *you* regarding your ideas about FPC's mission and outreach activities.



Presbyterian Day School is the Presbyterian Women mission focus for November 2023. We can assist the Day School by donating:

Child Care needs

Baby Wipes

Nitrile Gloves (powder free, size medium)

Arts and Crafts needs

Coffee Filters

Animal Crackers

Gold Fish snack crackers

Paper Towels

Jumbo Craft Sticks

Thick (children's) Paint Brushes for large art projects

Cotton Balls

Googly Eyes (variety of sizes)

"Cheap" small and large paper plates (for art projects)

PDS Office needs

Highlighters (different colors)

Sticky Notes (3"x3" size)
White-Out Easy Correct Tape



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF CARING
AGAIN THIS
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023, AT 10:00 A.M.**

This Friday, November 10, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., we will once again gather as has become our custom to do some light cleaning around the church. So, please join us for some good times and fellowship, all for the benefit of our church!

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

November 24 (may change due to Thanksgiving)
December 8
December 22 (may change due to Christmas)

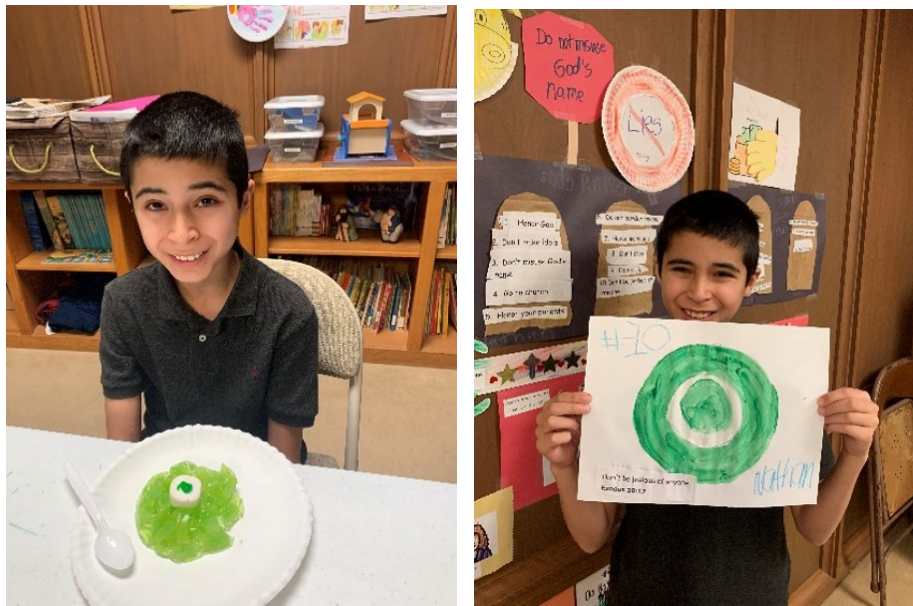


Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these". Matt 19:14

We have officially completed our study on the 10 commandments, wrapping it up with #10, Do not be jealous of anyone. What better way to remember not to be jealous than to craft up a green eye monster - well maybe not the entire monster, we just focused on the eye. We also made our yummy snack using green Jell-O, marshmallows, and green frosting and sang our 10 commandment song.

I for one and glad we have completed this series, as the crafts and snacks were a challenge to come up with. We will diving into our Thankfulness theme for the next few Sundays, which should be much easier to navigate! Hope you can join us.

Contact Leila Galvan at 956-367-2234 if you have questions or would like to participate. All are welcome!



- This Sunday, November 12th, the *Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class* will continue its four-week study of “The Seven Essential Marks of a Vital Congregation.” As always, Dawn Neel will have copies of the study material for all who wish to participate.
 - *Kid’s Kingdom, Sunday, 9:45 a.m.:* Join us this Sunday as we venture into a new theme Thankfulness! We hope to see you there!
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**VETERANS’ DAY
NOVEMBER 11, 2023**

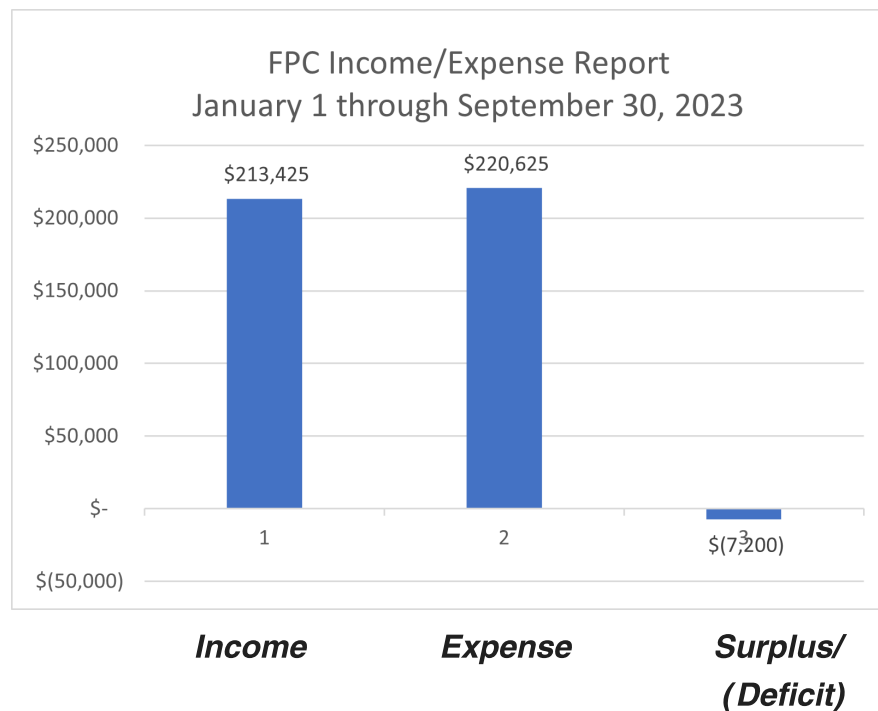
This year, Veterans Day will be celebrated on Saturday, November 11, 2023. Happily, we want to pass along the word that the Annual Victoria County Veterans Council Veterans Day Parade will be held downtown at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11th.

As we always do at this time of year, we pause to express, on behalf of all the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, our deepest gratitude to our veterans and their families as we commemorate this special day dedicated to all the men and women who have served in the U.S. armed forces while defending our freedom, our liberty, and our cherished democracy.

May God richly bless all those who have served our country with pride, selfless devotion, and patriotism!

**PERIODIC FPC FINANCIAL REPORT
TO THE CONGREGATION
(JANUARY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2023)**

Church expenses through the first nine months of 2023 have exceeded church revenue by \$7,200. Fortunately, however, this is neither unexpected nor alarming given our congregation's typical month-to-month giving patterns. At the same time, however, the Finance Committee is counting on the congregation to continue (and if necessary catch up on) their faithful giving through the last calendar quarter of this year. The current deficit is not so large that it cannot be eliminated at year's end by careful monitoring of our expenses and by the faithful support of our members and visitors.



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

