



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, the Third Sunday after Epiphany, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Habakkuk 1:1-3, 2:1-3 ("For there is still a vision for the appointed time ...") and Romans 12 ("Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor"). A copy of the bulletin

can be found here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-1-21-bulletin-PDF.pdf>

A Special Worship Note

The Dr. Rev. Sallie Watson, the General Presbyter of Mission Presbytery, will be our guest preacher this Sunday morning. The title of her sermon is "There Is Still a Vision." We are grateful that Sallie has agreed to travel from her home in San Antonio to be with us on the first Sunday after the departure of our Interim Minister. She will quickly find that the members and friends of FPC-Victoria are a warm and welcoming congregation.



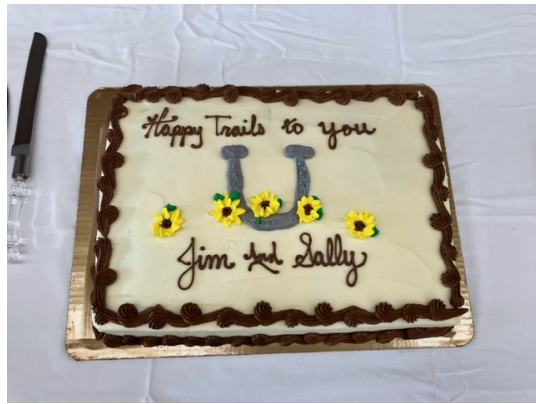
POTLUCK LUNCHEON AND RECEPTION FOR JIM AND SALLY DeMENT

With Roy Rogers memorabilia in abundance, and with delicious food in ample supply, many wonderful saints of this church celebrated six years (where did the time go?!) of ministry with Jim and Sally DeMent, wishing them "Happy Trails" as they return to their home in Missouri City, Texas.

Jim and Sally have been reading through the beautiful cards-- full of kind words and well wishes-- that we received. Frankly, however, it has been slow going as we stop to laugh and cry over the many memories we have enjoyed among so many kind and generous Christian friends. God has truly blessed our time together and permanently sealed our hearts with the love we

have encountered here.

Please know that you are loved in return. May God bless you and keep you, “until we meet again.”



**2023 STATEMENTS OF
TITHES AND OFFERINGS
ARE BEING MAILED**

Today, Wednesday, January 17, 2023, we mailed a 2023 “contribution record” to every individual or family that made a donation to FPC-Victoria last year. If you itemize your deductions on your U.S. federal income tax return, this letter will provide the back-up for your charitable deductions to FPC-Victoria in 2023.

Amazingly, those individuals who submitted a pledge during our

Stewardship Campaign in 2022 (for our 2023 budget) collectively exceeded their pledges by \$4,600. With such generous and loving saints in our midst, the future of our church looks bright!

If you are expecting such a letter and do not receive it within the next 5 to 7 days, please contact Erica in the church office (361.575.2441; info@fpcofvictoria.org).



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

KINGDOM KIDS RESUME THEIR SUNDAY SCHOOL

We're back and ready to learn! We are starting off the New Year learning about David and Goliath.

Our lessons are multi-sensory – so we read, craft, sing/dance, and eat during each lesson – and are so much fun! We will continue learning about David and Goliath next Sunday, so spread the word – we'd love to have more friends join our classes this year.

Contact Leila Galvan at 956-367-2234, or the church office, if you have questions or would like to participate.

Get Support

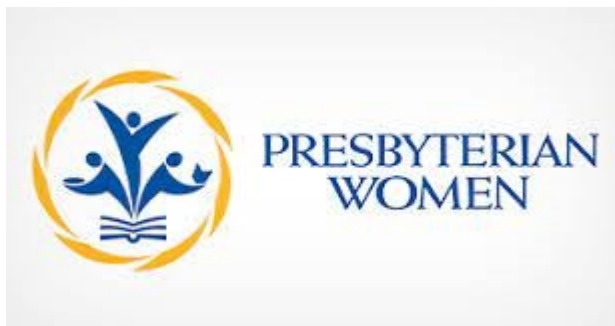
PAW Pet Care Assistance



Our congregation continues to hear the call. In December we contributed 56 lbs. of cat food and 53 lbs. of dog food to the Meals on Wheels Paw Bites program. The ladies at Meals on Wheels are excited and grateful for this contribution. We need to keep it up. Our contributions have diminished over the past several months. Please renew your commitment to this important outreach.

We are reminded they take all of the donations and food they buy to support the 202-mobility restricted senior citizens they serve that have a pet living with them. The food is partitioned out in bags of 5 lbs. for cats and 10 lbs. for dogs. This means our contributions in August provided cat food to 10 of their clients and dog food to 6 of their clients. This is overwhelming. We don't know if some of the clients have a dog and a cat but if not FPC supported 16 of the total clientele.

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.



We look forward to our January circles and the "Sacred Encounters" we will have.

Evening Circle
4th Tuesday of the month at 6pm (January 23)

Church parlor

Women of Faith Circle
4th Wednesday of the month 2pm (January 24)
Church parlor

VISD Connections is the Presbyterian Women Mission Focus for **January 2024**. Presbyterian Women will be collecting:

Laundry Pods
Disposable Plates (8" or 9"; paper or plastic)
Food Storage Bags (all sizes)
Battery Operated Alarm Clocks (with batteries)
Pots, Pans, Skillets, (with or without lids)
Hand Held Can Openers
Condiments: chili powder, cumin, salt & pepper,
garlic powder, onion powder
Sugar
Flour

FPC members and friends can assist Presbyterian Women by purchasing any of the above items and leaving them in the church office.



Book Club will meet January 23, 2024, at 1:00 P.M. in the parlor to discuss "Comfort & Joy." We hope to see you there for discussion, and to find out our next book!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

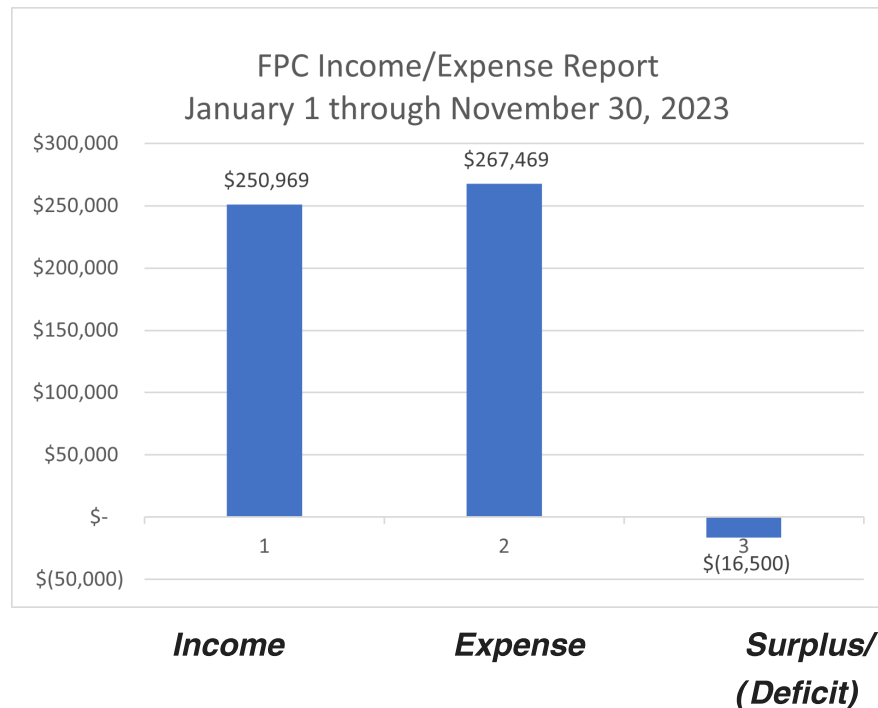
- This Sunday, January 21, 2024, the *Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School Class* will continue its study of “The Seven Essential Marks of a Vital Congregation.”
- Kid’s Kingdom, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.: The Kingdom Kids are back in Sunday School learning about how David, with God’s help, overcame his bigger, more powerful foe, the giant Goliath!

PERIODIC FPC FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

(JANUARY 1 THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2023)

Church expenses through the first eleven months of the year exceeded church revenue by \$16,500. Fortunately, however, we are aware that, as anticipated (but never taken for granted), our collections during the five Sundays in December were strong. It will be several more days before Dawn Neel, our Treasurer, has the final financial reports for 2023 from our accountants, but given the strength of the generous contributions of the members and friends of this church in December, we hope soon to have positive news about the church's 2023 financial results.

Still, our operating expenses never take a vacation or a break, so we must remain faithful and timely with our tithes and offerings. Your church always needs your support!





**BE PREPARED FOR
INTERMITTENT PUBLICATION
OF THE NEWSLETTER
(PLUS A CALL FOR VOLUNTEER[S]!)**

As we have reported before, there is a bit of uncertainty surrounding the publication of our Newsletter while the church works to identify the next minister whom God is calling to lead this church. Therefore, going forward, there may be weeks when we will not be able to publish a Newsletter, and we pray that you will be patient with us.

The Session is prayerfully considering how to maintain this important means of communication during the period while we await the arrival of our new minister. Erica Colding is, of course, a crucial resource for the publication and distribution of our Newsletter, and the various chairs of our Committees have done a wonderful job this year of submitting timely articles to be inserted directly into the Newsletter.

Still, every publication needs an “Editor in Chief.” So, have you considered whether God might be asking you to “do your part” in helping us during this period of transition? We really could use one or more dependable volunteers to step forward to help us publish the Newsletter. Keeping things simple, we are asking for a volunteer or volunteers (who could work from home) to help us a maximum of three to five hours a week (principally on Tuesday and Wednesday) to help Erica compose, edit, and publish the Newsletter.

This is not, by the way, an empty, futile task. Fifteen homebound or out-of-town members and friends of our congregation receive printed copies of the Newsletter which we mail every Wednesday. Our electronic distribution (also on Wednesday) reaches over 100 readers. There is a congregation to

be served, and a ministry to be met among believers who are physically unable to come to our church, not to mention the many folks who do attend regularly but who depend on the Newsletter to keep them informed of the many exciting activities going on in our church every week.

If you feel a tug in your heart--a quiet whisper in your ear, "you know, I would enjoy doing that"--please do not resist. Your church needs an editor for a while. Are you the person God is calling to help carry this church through this critical transition between ministers?

Peace, grace, and mercy,
Pastor Jim

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