



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY, 4 2024, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Isaiah 40:21-32 (Have you not known? Have you not heard?) and Mark 1:29-39 ("Let us go on to the neighboring towns,. . ."). A copy of the bulletin can be found here:

<https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/2024-2-4-Bulletin-Communion-PDF.pdf>

A Special Worship Note

We want to welcome Rev. Carol Rahn, who will lead our worship service this Sunday, February 4. Reverend Rahn will break the bread and lift the cup with us as we celebrate Communion. Please come and hear her message to us from the word of our Lord Jesus Christ.



FINDING GRACE IN THE WILDERNESS

"The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness." (Mark 1:12)

Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness. Indeed, a great many biblical figures spent time in vast wastelands. Maybe that is why I am driven and drawn to the desert west of Las Vegas.

With a backpack filled with cashews and a few liters of water, I make my way to Red Rock National Conservation Area. Peaks rise six and seven thousand feet from the ground like a phoenix stretching into the blue sky above, flexing broad brushed swatches of red, white and gray rocks.

The wilderness of Red Rock, the starkness of the desert landscape, the barren, dusty, dry rock crumbling and crackling under each step, the sharp pointed cacti, the eerie quiet — all remind me of the wilderness where Jesus experienced his temptation before he began his public ministry.

I have hiked the trails of Red Rock, traversed the blank rock faces, climbed boulders the size of casinos, lowered myself into crevices large enough to swallow tour buses and ultimately scaled the peaks. This wilderness is where I find peace, comfort and solace.

It is in the wilderness that I am drawn to the One who is the fountain of the living water of which we drink. Indeed, the wilderness is where God fashions streams of grace.

During our Lenten journey, to what wilderness will you be driven, in order to experience exceptional closeness and fellowship with the God of peace?

P R A Y E R | Gracious God, who drives us and leads us to lands that may not appear very fertile, open the eyes of our hearts to discover unexpected, beautiful blooms of grace, love and joy in the wilderness, whereby we may experience a closer relationship with you. Amen.



SERVICE OF ASHES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH AT 6PM.

Ash Wednesday is a day of solemn assembly that is built right into the church year. It is a fast day, a day of mourning for our sin and the sin of all humanity before God, a recognition of our mortality save for the grace of God and a request that the Lord remember our creation and breathe new life into our burned-out, dusty lives once more. - PC (U.S.A.)



Your Mission and Outreach Committee will meet Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 2:00 P.M., in the church conference room. The committee currently includes Donald H Anderson, Roxanna Hauschild, Billy Leske, Dolly Stokes, and Frances Miller. Are in interested in making a difference in our community? Please consider joining this team, adding your talents and skills to make a difference in the life of our church.

Get Support

PAW Pet Care Assistance



Our congregation continues to hear the call. The ladies at Meals on Wheels are excited and grateful for your contributions. 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 all donations and food support the over 200-mobility restricted senior citizens they serve who have a pet living with them. The food is partitioned out in 5 lbs. bags for cats and 10 lbs. bags for dogs. This is overwhelming.

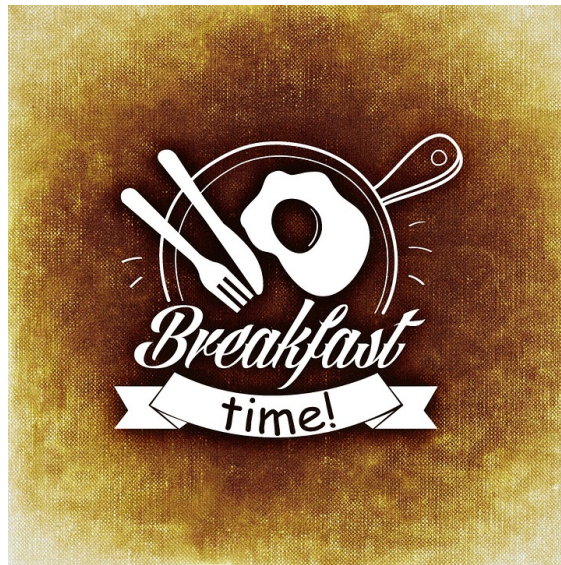
Your support of this important work for God in our community is being felt in the lives of many. We do this in the name of Jesus Christ.



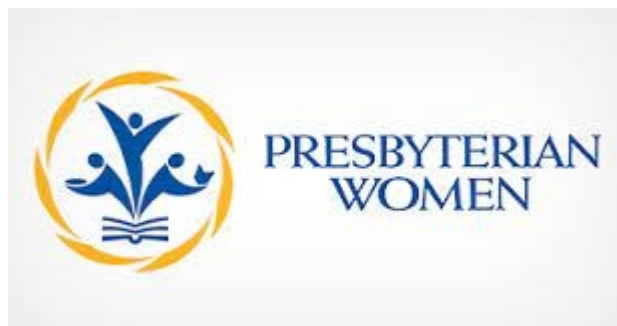
The VCAM food wagon is in the hall by the church office. Please consider bringing an extra item of canned goods or a bag of flour, sugar, rice or beans. We encourage you to volunteer. Contact the church office, Becky Richter, or Jack Kleinecke about how you can spend 2-4 hours a week serving our community. It is truly a blessing and is actually a lot of fun.



Christ Kitchen continues the amazing task of feeding over 200 mouths every day except Sunday. The Kitchen, as some call it, is also a wonderful place to share time with other volunteers. It is a fun place to see how our community continues to respond to the needs of those who are less fortunate than we are. They need you to volunteer. Contact the church office, Billy Leske, or Frances Miller about how you can spend 2-4 hours a week serving a community just across the fence. We are all created in the image of God and each person that graces The Kitchen each day is seen as the same whether one is a volunteer or one that is hungry for a fresh, hot meal.



The Nellie Hudson Sunday School would like to invite everyone to stop by for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning February 4th and 11th from 9am to 10am. For the first Sunday, we will be serving Breakfast Pizza, Bacon and Fruit along with coffee and juice. For the second Sunday, we will have Breakfast Casserole, Scones & Jelly and Fruit along with coffee and juice. Please come and join us before worship for breakfast and great fellowship!



The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will be gathering on Tuesday, February 6th at 12 noon in the church conference room for their monthly meeting.



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

Roar!! We started our lesson on Daniel and the Lion's den this past Sunday. Our stories are always interactive, and this lesson was no different. We had Daniel, lions, angels, and more objects that accompany each page as we read. We crafted up our very own lion using paint and a fork to create a fierce mane. For snack we made our own lions using crackers, peanut butter and pretzel sticks. We also spent some time singing 'My God is so Big'.

Our lessons are multi-sensory – so we read, craft, sing, dance, and snack during each lesson! We will be off on 2/4, but will be back on 2/11 to finish up our lesson on Daniel and the Lion's Den. Join us then to see what else we have cooked up.

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



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

- There will be no Sunday School February 4, and February 11, as we are hosting the All Church Breakfast!
 - Kingdom Kids, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.: Kingdom Kids will take a break this Sunday February 4, but will back in class February 11!
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