



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
ON SUNDAY, MARCH 3 2024, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, the Third Sunday of Lent, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Exodus 20:1-17 (Then God spoke all these words:) and John 2:13-22 ("The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem). A copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-3-3-Bulletin-Communion-PDF.pdf>

***A Special Worship Note***

We want to welcome back Reverend Carol Rahn, who will lead our worship service this Sunday, March 3.

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Submitted by Donald Anderson

### **Inner Work**

***Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of  
my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.***

### **Psalm 19:14**

The psalmist had done a lot of inner work by the time he wrote these lines. For the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart to be acceptable to the creator of the universe, I need to do a boatload of reflecting, confessing, and paying attention to what goes on in my mind and my heart. What comes out of my mouth can be wretched too.

Paul's Letter to the Philippians hits me where I live. "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable . . . whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worth of praise, think about these things" (Phil. 4:8). The psalmist's eyes were trained on God's glory in creation, God's laws, decrees, ordinances. What are our eyes trained on?

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***O Lord, our rock and our redeemer, fill my mind and heart with your light.  
Amen***

Source: *These Days*, February 28, 2024



Submitted by Donald Anderson

The Silver City Neighborhood cleanup was deemed a huge success. A team from First Presbyterian Church of Victoria was joined by a larger team from the Seventh Day Adventist Church, Victoria. It was a blessing to be joined by all those that enjoyed being out in the beautiful sunshine helping our neighbors with household and yard trash. The Victoria Fire Department installed smoke detectors, and HEB donated potted plants to be given to the residents.



### **City of Victoria Bicentennial Celebration**

The City of Victoria is planning to celebrate 200 years following the creation of Guadalupe Victoria by Martin De Leon in 1824. First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas is the second oldest congregation in the city organized on October 2, 1841, on lots designated by Martin De Leon for churches and schools. We will be forming a special committee to work on how

FPC can participate in this event to relive how our forefathers helped lead the city over the past 200 years.

### **“Your Life, Your Legacy Pre-planning”**

Watch future newsletter for this exciting and important event sponsored by Dignity Memorial counseling staff. We are in the process of planning this event in our Fellowship Hall at a date to be determined in April.

### **VCAM**

Your food keeps showing up in our food wagon in the hall by the church office and in the Narthex. 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 Klienecke 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.

### **Paw Bites – Meals on Wheels**



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 they take all of the donations and food they buy to support the over 200-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 is overwhelming.

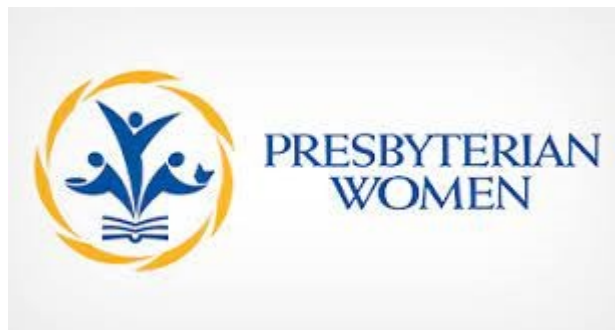
Your support of this important work of God in our community is being felt in the lives of many. We do this in the name of Jesus Christ.

## **Christ Kitchen**

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 that 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 helping a community just across our fence. We are all created in the image of God and each person that graces The Kitchen each day are seen as the same whether one is a volunteer or one is hungry for a fresh, hot meal.

Your Mission & Outreach Committee, Donald Anderson, Roxanna Hauschild, Billy Leske, Frances Miller, Chris Neel, and Dolly Stokes, will meet this Thursday at 6 PM, at the church in the conference room.

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Submitted by Dawn Neel

### **Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering Luncheon**

**Saturday, March 9, 2024**

**Fellowship Hall 11:30 to 1:30**

Ladies from Grace Presbyterian, Nicea Presbyterian and First Presbyterian Churches are invited to this annual Spring Gathering Luncheon! We will come together to share our favorite salad dishes in this potluck encounter. The Ladies of FPC will furnish refreshments and dessert. In addition to the promised fellowship, FPC will be voting on its new slate of PW officers for the 2024-2025 calendar year.

First Presbyterian has volunteered to host the annual Victoria Cluster Fall Gathering on Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Please join us for discussion in



planning this event. We would be overjoyed to include all three Victoria Presbyterian churches in a combined effort to host. Together we can witness to the strength of God's Kingdom through our efforts of mission, study, justice, and relationship.

Please contact Dawn Neel with any questions. (361)652-3925 /  
dawnspaur@yahoo.com

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Submitted by Dawn Neel

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class -All are welcome to join us this Sunday, March 3 for our second lesson in the study *Illuminating Lent*. For the next five weeks, we will be following the directions for living a life as disciples of Jesus Christ, which He gave us in the Lord's Prayer.

*Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name...*

The first words in the prayer direct us to look Upward: To What We Do for God – Glorify God!" The guiding scriptures for this lesson are from Psalms and Romans.

Psalm 96 A psalm of praise to the glory of God  
Romans 4:13-25 God's promise realized through faith

### **Questions for Reflection**

What does it mean for your faith that Jesus invites us to address God in terms of a parental relationship?

What biblical and theological resources can help in gaining understanding about the nature of God?

In what ways can God's name be hallowed or made holy in your life?

Think of ways you explicitly try to glorify God.

What can the church do to show its commitment to the glory of God?

*"To you I lift up my eyes, O you who are enthroned in the heavens!"*  
(Psalm 123:1)

We invite you to join us on this journey of faith seeking understanding. Study booklets are available in the church office.



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

Submitted by Leila Galvan

Our Sunday school lesson focused on the faith, goodness, devotion, and courage of Esther. We learned that we always have to be ready for God to use us, just like He did with Esther. For our craft session, we made our own Queen Esther using a paper bag, construction paper, and some glue. For snack we made rings using apple slices, frosting, and sprinkles to illustrate Esther's marriage to the King. Our song for the next few weeks is "This Little Light of Mine".

Join us this Sunday as we start our lesson on Queen Ester.

Our lessons are multi-sensory – so we read, craft, sing, dance, and snack during each lesson! If you know a child between the ages of 5-12, invite them to join us for some fun!

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



Submitted by Billy Leske, Dawn Neel, Patrick Patterson, Bonnie Wilkinson and Robert Wyatt

### **News from the Pastor Nominating Committee**

The Pastor Nominating Committee is hard at work, meeting each week—and even more often when needed—to review and evaluate potential pastor candidates. We’ve gone through quite a stack of candidate profiles—from all over the country—tuned in to online worship services and listened to all sorts of sermons as we humbly seek God’s will for our next pastor.

We met earlier this month with Rev. Sallie Watson, general presbyter



for Mission Presbytery, who was both encouraging and complimentary of the PNC's progress. Last week we had the pleasure of meeting the church's newly appointed Commission on Ministry liaison, Rev. Cheryl Homsher. Rev. Homsher answered our questions and shared useful information and valuable insight from a pastor's perspective. We highlighted for her the PNC's work since first being elected to represent the congregation back on September 17, when we began with a one-question survey of the congregation, *'What do you think is the single most important role of our next pastor?'*

Of the 41 responses, 22 answered *Caregiving/Pastoral Care*; 10 answered *Preaching the Word*; 4 gave combination answers—*Nurturing the Congregation/Preaching*; *Teaching God's Word/Pastoring the Flock*; *Pastoral Care/Preaching*; and *Meditative Worship/Personal Contact with Members (home visits, rest homes)/Lead Bible Studies/Active in Community*. Five other responses included *Relating Sermons to Real-Life Situations*; *Leadership*; *Approachable*; *Developing New Members*; and *Growing the Congregation*.

The responses from the congregation provided a strong foundation as we carefully developed and wrote the church profile. Called a Ministry Discernment Profile in Presby jargon, our ministry profile is posted online through the nationwide Church Leadership Connection (CLC) of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Our search for the next pastor also includes posting on the Job Board operated by the Placement Office at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary as well as on the Mission Presbytery website and MP Weekly News. Word-of-mouth is also a valuable tool. ***If you are aware of a minister who is seeking a call and who might be a suitable candidate for our church, please encourage him or her to contact a member of the PNC as a self-referral,' or to go online and create a candidate profile through CLC.***

Thank you for your kind words of support and encouraging prayers as we continue our journey. May our decisions and actions bring glory to God, always and forever!

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