



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 2024, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, for the First Sunday of Lent, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Psalm 25:1-10 (To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul) and Mark 1:9-15 (And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased"). A copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/2024-2-18-Bulletin-2-PDF.pdf>

***A Special Worship Note***

We want to welcome back Reverend Bette Burris, who will lead our worship service this Sunday, February 18.

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Submitted by Donald Anderson

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#### GIVING THANKS FOR TRASH COLLECTORS

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*“Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.” (Matthew 20:8)*

**A**s a Waste Management truck rolled by me at the landfill, I thought of the workers I usually see hanging off the back, pausing at every driveway to pick up our cans and throw our trash into the truck's compactor. God, I give thanks for these garbage collectors, working a nasty but necessary job. Civil servants, they should be called. These workers make about \$28,000 a year in Virginia.

In 1968, after two Memphis garbage collectors were tragically killed by a malfunctioning truck, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke in support of sanitation workers on strike, calling for better safety standards and a decent wage. In 1981, a garbage strike in New York City led residents to pile mountains of trash around Manhattan. Pedestrians had nowhere to walk, and a growing stink filled the air. The strike was resolved on December 17 that year as an early Christmas gift to the city, providing sanitation workers with increased pay and more sick days.

Can we imagine life without these essential workers? When I consider all I throw in the black bins that I conveniently wheel to the end of my driveway – all the nasty, disgusting funk, the bags that sometimes rip and leak – I give thanks to God for sanitation workers, for their diligence despite their dirty, physically demanding jobs. These workers who keep our cities clean and efficiently running often get overlooked. Thank you, God, for the garbage collector.

**PRAYER** | *Thank you, God, for the garbage collector, the essential worker, the overlooked laborer without whom our society would fall into disarray. Thank you for those who work the dirtiest jobs so our homes can be clean and free of trash. Let us not look down upon these servants, but rather embrace them with gratitude and treat them with the dignity and respect they deserve. Amen.*

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

Please join us in this Service of Ashes, as we remember our shortcomings and our mortality. We will receive the imposition of ashes by church elders as a traditional sign of mourning and repentance and be reminded that life is short.

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Submitted by Donald Anderson

Your Session has approved FPC, Victoria to participate in the Silver City Neighborhood cleanup project on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Please contact the church office or Donald Anderson, (361) 550-1221 for more information.



Silver City Neighborhood Clean Up. Please plan on meeting at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church at 3101 Callis St. around 8:30 AM. Program to start activities from 9 AM to 11 AM. More details will be in next week's newsletter.

### **“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**

WOW! You are amazing. The VCAM food wagon is filling up 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 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, also is 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 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 who is hungry for a fresh, hot meal.

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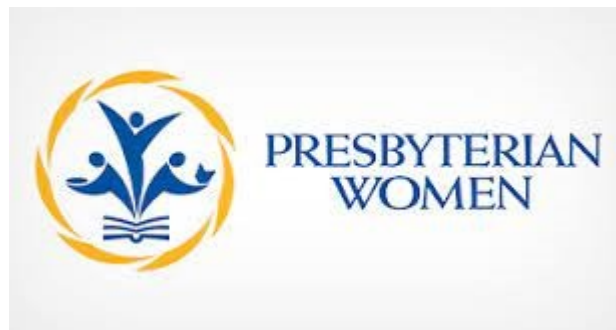
### **A Note of Thanks...**



Submitted by Becky Richter

The members of the Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class would like to thank everyone that joined us for the Valentine Brunch on Sunday, February 11. Twenty attendees were treated to delicious freshly baked scones, wonderful

homemade grape jelly, mouth watering breakfast casseroles and much more! No better way to start a beautiful Sunday morning than with joyful fellowship and soul warming food! We are grateful for our friends here at First Presbyterian Church Victoria!



Submitted by Dawn Neel, and Frances Miller

This month we will study Lesson Six in our Horizon Bible Study, *Sacred Encounters*. The title of our lesson this month is *A Person with a Physical Disability Encounter Jesus* (Acts 3:1-10) God calls us to affirm that each person is a child of God who should be treated with dignity and equity.

Evening Circle                      Women of Faith Day Circle  
4th Tuesday at 6:00pm          4th Wednesday at 2:00pm  
Both circles will meet in the Parlor

Presbyterian Women mission focus for **February 2024** is **Christ's Kitchen**.

We can assist Christ's Kitchen by donating:  
Foil Pans (Large restaurant casserole size available at Sam's)  
Food Storage Bags (NOT snack size)  
Post-It Notes ("sticky notes")  
Spiral Notebooks  
Computer Printer Paper  
Masking Tape (that can be written on)

Donations of these items may be left in the church office, and will be collected by Presbyterian Women.



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

## **KINGDOM KIDS RESUME THEIR SUNDAY SCHOOL**

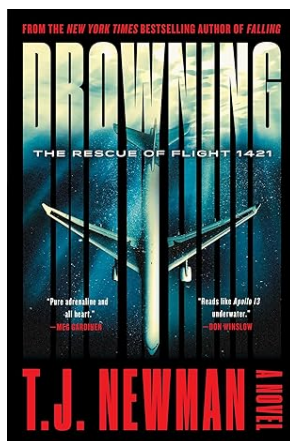
Jonah and the Big Fish. Our interactive story included objects such as Jonah, a boat, a BIG fish and a storm. We crafted up our very own fish using paint and a paper plate - it even included Jonah in the fish's belly. We also spent some time singing "J-O-N-A-H". which is sung to the tune of B-I-N-G-O. We spent time at the church breakfast before class (yum!) and we had no room for a snack this week.

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! We will be continuing our lesson on Jonah this Sunday.

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



Submitted by Dawn Neel



Book Club is implementing something new. Starting in February, we will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month at 12:30 for a combined BROWN BAG lunch and book discussion. We promise heart-felt conversation with great



fellowship. We would love for you to join us!

February 28<sup>th</sup> @ 12:30

*Drowning* by T. J. Newman

Bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy while discussing the book.

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### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

- Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class -On Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30, we will begin our Lenten study titled *Illuminating Lent*. This study will guide us in seeking understanding of God's call to us and exploring ways the Christian faith can be more fully know and expressed. Through this study, we will encounter ways to enhance, enrich, and expand our insights. We will find our minds moved by new ideas, our emotions stirred with responses of gratitude, and calls for action that can lead us in different life directions.

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

- Kingdom Kids, Sunday, 9:30 a.m.: Join us this Sunday, see what fun activates we have planned!
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