



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, MARCH, 16 2025, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, The Second Sunday in Lent, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Luke 13:31-35 (How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!) and Psalm 27 (The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?). A copy of the bulletin can be found here: [ABCDE](#)

A Special Worship Note

This Sunday we welcome back Gary Mathews!



Living the Gift of This Day

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”—Psalm 118:24

A week after her death from lung cancer, my friend Elizabeth declined my calendar invite for our writing group’s weekly Thursday meeting.

On the morning I woke up to this notification on my phone, sent mysteriously at 1:23, I sat staring at this message from the great beyond, confused and rattled. Grief grabbed my heart and squeezed. No, I reminded myself again, she really is gone. This notification was likely a family member or friend cleaning up Elizabeth’s calendar, or perhaps her computer was automatically sending last notifications before it went offline for good.

I called my dog and grabbed his leash to go for a walk. I needed a minute.

Elizabeth loved her morning walks, the only exercise she could do with her diminished lung capacity. As her cancer progressed, she complained about how slow she had to walk, how difficult it was for her to breathe. I spent the night at her place once and was in her kitchen when she came home from a walk gasping for air, her chest wheezing. She kept walking, though. Eventually, she needed the support of a rolling walker.

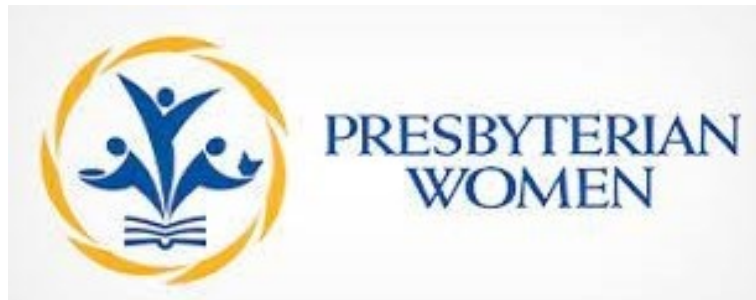
Denial is easy to slip into because death doesn’t feel real. How could someone be here walking her neighborhood one day and be gone the next? But the reminders of this natural cycle are everywhere. Friends and loved ones live and die. Flowers bloom and wilt. The leaves turn from green to red and gold each fall. Life is fragile, limited and precious. Every created thing has an

expiration date.

Our faith reminds us of our mortality as well as our hope in Jesus Christ. Jesus died so we could live. This isn't just an eternal promise. It's also the gift of this very day, and it's a blueprint for how to live it. In the wake of Elizabeth's death I ask myself, How will I live the gift of this day? When I wake up each morning, I wonder what I might do with this next beautiful stretch of 12 whole hours. Who can I love? What good can I start and spread? How can I honor the precious yet fragile gift of life God has given?

Prayer: O God, our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end, wake us to the beauty and opportunity of this day, so we can honor its gift as well as its Giver. Amen

Teri



The Salvation Army of Victoria is the March 2025 mission project for Presbyterian Women. The Salvation Army has an urgent need for food to replenish their food pantry. Presbyterian Women and First Presbyterian Church can assist this worthy organization by donating:

CANNED GOODS

Chicken
Tuna
Ravioli
Spaghettios
Beef Stew
Mixed Fruit Cocktail
Carrots

CEREAL

Variety of cereals. All size cereal boxes needed. Prefer family size.

Presbyterian Women should bring their donations to the March 26th Circle meeting. Church members are asked to take donations of canned goods and cereal to the church office.



Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting

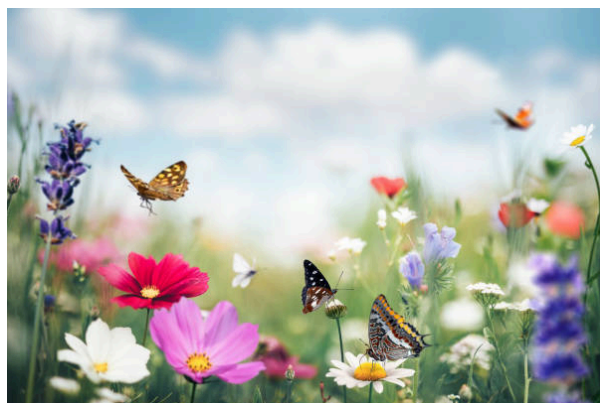
12 noon in the Church Conference Room

Tuesday, April 1st

Tuesday, May 6th

Women of Faith Circle

Wednesday, March 26th at 2pm in the parlor



Presbyterian Women Spring Luncheon

Fellowship Hall

Friday, March 14, 2025, at 11:30 am

Bring your favorite salad to share!

All are welcome!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2ND ANNUAL

Easter Egg Hunt

Apr 12th from 10am - 12 noon

PLANNING MEETINGS!

*If you are interested in helping plan
for this event, please join us in the
Church Conference room.*

Mar 14th @ 1pm (after PW meeting)

Apr 4th @ 4:15pm



missions
and outreach

Christ's 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 are seen as the same whether one is a volunteer or one that is hungry for a fresh, hot meal.



March 2025
February Services

Total Households Served – 1405
Total Number in Households – 3527
Food Boxes – 1279
Basic Needs - 2572
Home Delivery - 22
Homeless Served – 156
Homeless Visits - 761
1st time VCAM Clients Served – 54

Visit our website at: www.vcamvictoria.org or our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/vcam.org/> for VCAM services or news.

VCAM operates Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – noon, for the homeless population & qualifying residents of Victoria County. Regular (monthly) clients can come on a once-a-month basis, while the homeless can come on a daily basis. In addition to pre-packaged groceries for monthly clients, VCAM also has a free clothing store “Family Closet”, stocked w/ clothes strictly from donations. Donations are accepted Mon. – Fri., 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Due to limited space, donations are limited to ***clothing only***.

As we approach Easter, churches, businesses, civic organizations & individuals are encouraged to start a food drive to benefit our pantry & of course, the clients in need.

Staple inventory items currently in dire need in the pantry:

**rice (1 or 2 lbs. bags – uncooked),
cereals (box or bag),
pastas,
tomato sauce,
canned veggies or fruits.**

The homeless population served at VCAM also increased. Homeless needs for perishable foods are not always the most cost-effective, so donations in this area to help meet the increased need are greatly appreciated. Donations of small hygiene kits are also encouraged:

**Small Canned Meats & other proteins,
peanut butter or cheese crackers,
breakfast/granola bars,
fruit/jello cups.**

Of course, the most spiritual & practical way to give is in the form of monetary donations:



Blessings...

Marc

"Providing hope when things seem hopeless..."



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class

Lenten Study: March 9th through April 27th.

9:30 am Sundays in the church parlor



Lenten Study Book

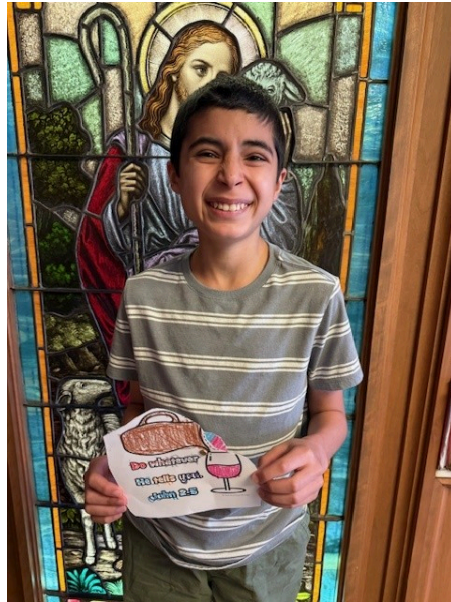
With keen insight and unwavering conviction, visionary pastor Kathy Escobar guides readers on a Lenten journey inspired by the ways of Jesus to dismantle the systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice.

From flipping the moneychangers' tables in the temple to uplifting the poor and marginalized, Jesus' actions and words turn the world's idea of power on its head.

With each week of Lent, readers will dig deeper into Jesus' challenge to the pervasive influence of privilege and oppression that have dominated since ancient times. Through poignant reflections and thought-provoking practices, readers will discover how they can harness the disruptive power of Jesus' teachings to bring about meaningful change in their communities and beyond. Together, we can turn the tables and build a world where justice, healing, and greater equity reigns supreme.


Kingdom Kids
AT
FPC Victoria

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 will be spending the next several weeks learning about Jesus' miracles, with a break in between miracles for our Easter lesson. We started with the Wedding at Cana.

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

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

JOIN OUR NEW GROUP!

**WALKIE
TALKIES**

SATURDAYS AT 9:30AM

**WE WILL BE MEETING ON RANDOM
SATURDAYS - AND AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- TO WALK AND CHAT.**

**Look for our meeting dates and locations in the
Church Bulletin, Newsletter or Facebook!**

*Contact Leila if you need more Info
(956-367-2234)*

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