



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
ON SUNDAY, MARCH, 23 2025, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, The Third Sunday in Lent, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Isaiah 5:1-7 (What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it) and Luke 13:1-9 (" . . . No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did."). A copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-03-23-Bulletin-4-PDF.pdf>

A Special Worship Note

This Sunday we welcome Donald Anderson to the pulpit!



“My complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him.”—Job 23:2-3

In the back of Kate Bowler’s book *Everything Happens for a Reason: And Other Lies I’ve Loved*, she includes a helpful appendix listing things people shouldn’t say to someone suffering with cancer or any other terminal disease.

“Everything happens for a reason” is at the top of Bowler’s restricted list:

The only thing worse than saying this is pretending that you know the reason. I’ve had hundreds of people tell me the reason for my cancer. Because of my sin. Because of my unfaithfulness. Because God is fair. Because God is unfair. Because of my aversion to Brussels sprouts. . . . When someone is drowning, the only thing worse than failing to throw them a life preserver is handing them a reason.

Oftentimes, when people say things like “everything happens for a reason” to someone who is dying or grieving, the idea arises out of their own discomfort with the other person’s suffering — and with the anger that suffering ignites.

Bowler’s honesty is refreshing and necessary. We trivialize suffering with shallow clichés. Only when we are honest about our pain, only when we give ourselves and others the freedom to feel all the emotions that come with pain — including anger — are we able to progress to acceptance.

Suffering is on full display in the book of Job, suffering and anger. Job

rails against God and against his unjust suffering. He demands an audience with God to answer all his questions about why. God doesn't answer Job's questions, but neither does God back away from his anger. Job is not placated or denied — which in itself is healing. This biblical text gives us permission to be honest with God. Job reveals a God who doesn't back off, grow uncomfortable or seek to avoid. God loves us, no matter what.

Prayer: O God who hears our complaints and cries, we praise you for the ways you show up for us in love, guiding us to healing and hope. Amen

Teri

JOIN US!

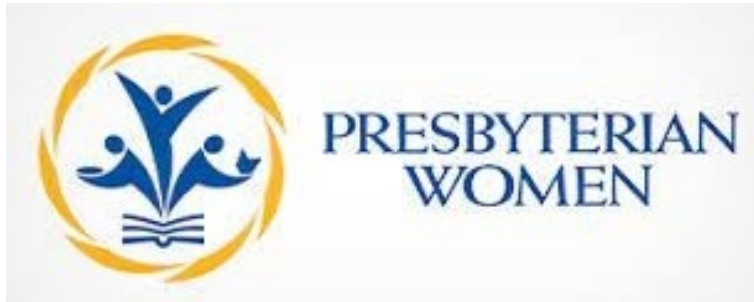
WALKIE TALKIES

SATURDAY AT 9:30AM

**FIRST MEET UP WILL BE THIS SATURDAY,
3/22 AT THE CHURCH PARKING LOT. WE
WILL BE WALKING AROUND THE CHURCH!**

Hope to see you there!

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



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
Spaghetios
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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2ND ANNUAL**
Easter Egg Hunt

NEXT PLANNING MEETING!

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

Apr 4th @ 415pm



**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.



First Presbyterian Church donated 45 pounds of food during the month of February and has already exceeded that amount for the month of March! To date, **183 pounds** of food have been donated in March.

These donations are particularly helpful due to a recent decline in food donations to the **Food Bank of the Golden Crescent**, which is where VCAM purchases much of their food. With less food available through the local Food Bank, VCAM will have to supplement food items purchased at a retail price. VCAM is thankful for the generous donations, so let's keep the momentum going!

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.



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

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Matt 4:19. This week we learned about the "BIG Catch" – nets so full of fish they could hardly hold the weight. For craft, we made our own nets with fish using construction paper and yarn. We spent some time trying to understand the meaning of a miracle and learned how we experience them every day.

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.



BIBLE RIDDLE

Where can you find Solomon's temple?

Answer: On the side of his head.