

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

Please join us for worship this Sunday, The Fourth Sunday in Lent, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.) and Luke 15:1-3, 11-32 (Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.). A copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/2025-03-30-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>

***A Special Worship Note***

This Sunday we welcome back Rev. Dan Fultz to the pulpit!



“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own?”—1 Corinthians 6:19

As I grow older, I grieve the loss of my younger body. I grieve the metabolism of my 20s and my ability to drink a beer without worrying about expanding my waistline. I grieve knees that don't grow sore if I eat too much sugar and a lower back that doesn't cramp while bending over to bathe the dog. I grieve the strength of legs that could run me around a track faster than the other girls.

I'm not okay with this loss.

I am in constant negotiations to turn the clock back. If I apply this eye cream, my tired bags and wrinkles will magically disappear. If I stick to this six-day cleanse and eat nothing but soup for a week, I will lose the weight collecting around my waist. If I rub this expensive magnesium oil (filtered from the organic soil of a remote Australian village) on the soles of my feet, then I will stop grinding my teeth while I sleep and eliminate my sugar cravings.

I visited a natural cemetery near my home in Virginia on a writing assignment. I'm claustrophobic and have never liked the thought of my body being buried in a casket. At the natural cemetery, the body is wrapped in a biodegradable shroud before burying. Renewable plots conserve space; 75 years after the deceased has returned to the earth, the cemetery offers the lot to another. This 75-year term extends far beyond the time a body takes to return to its natural elements in the earth.

Touring this natural cemetery in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, I recalled the Book of Common Worship's words of committal at the graveside: "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, says the Spirit. They rest from their labors, and their works follow them.

Rest. Rest from labor. Rest from constant bargaining, constant negotiating of loss. This is what God desires for us. This is where our aging process leads us, a gift to my body and yours.

Prayer: Eternal God, help us accept our bodies as you created them. Help us enjoy the ride that is this life until it is time to rest. Amen.

Teri



### EASTER LILIES

Celebrating the Glory of Easter, and to honor or remember those whom we love and admire, we are once again offering the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church the opportunity to purchase Easter Lilies for \$12. You can make your payment toward the lilies or to VCAM in honor or memory of a loved one. Please indicate your preference at the bottom of this form and put it and your check in the collection plate or bring them by the church office. The lilies will grace our altar on Easter Morning, and all those who are honored or memorialized will be acknowledged in our Easter bulletin.

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please make my donation to VCAM

\_\_\_\_\_ Please use my donation for a lily.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please divide my donation between VCAM and a lily

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Check \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

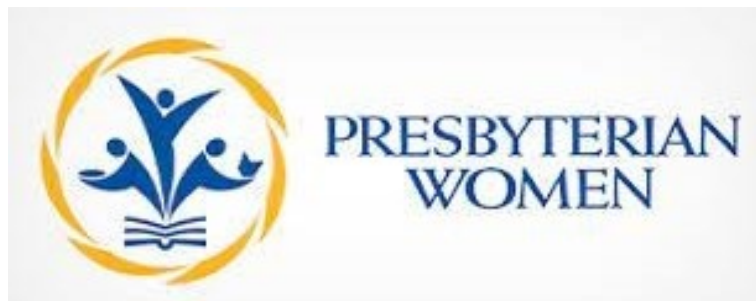
Easter Lilly order forms are now in your bulletin. If you would like to purchase a Lillie in memory or in honor of someone, please drop your form in the offering plate on Sunday or stop by the church office during office hours.

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Our first gathering up of the Walkie Talkies was held on Saturday, 03/23. It was a perfect day for an outdoor walk. We walked around our beautiful church grounds for a total of  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile!

Hope you can join us next time!



World Autism Acceptance Month is April 2025. In recognition of this, **The Vine School** is the Presbyterian Women's mission focus for April. The Vine School provides a customized learning environment and specialized teaching for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and related communication disorders. Presbyterian Women and members of First Presbyterian Church can assist The Vine School's goal of creating an inclusive and accepting world by donating items that will help school personnel.

The Vine School has requested:  
Nitrile Gloves, size Large  
Paper Towels  
Disinfectant Wipes  
Pine Sol Liquid Cleaner  
Windex Foaming Glass Cleaner

Presbyterian Women should bring their donations to the April Circle meeting.  
Church members are encouraged to take donations to the Church office.



**Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team Meeting**

12 noon in the Church Conference Room

Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

**Women of Faith Circle**

**Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the parlor**

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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 @ 4:15pm**



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**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**

***1<sup>st</sup> time VCAM Clients Served – 54***

Visit our website at: [www.vcamvictoria.org](http://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..."***

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## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

### **Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class**

Lenten Study: March 9<sup>th</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

We will be on break on 03/23 and 03/30. Returning to class on 04/06, we will start our lessons focusing on the Easter season.

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.



Our Kingdom Kids Sunday school class will be participating in Holy Week activities and we'd love for you to join us! There will be a card for each day of Holy Week. On each card, you will find a scripture reading and an activity. We will be distributing the cards on Sunday, 04/13 – Palm Sunday. Hope you can join us!

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