



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
ON SUNDAY, April 6 2025, AT 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship this Sunday, The Fifth Sunday in Lent, at 10:30 a.m. Our Scripture readings will be Philippians 3:4b-14 (Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.) and John 12:1-8 (The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume). A copy of the bulletin can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-4-6-Bulletin-Communion-PDF.pdf>

***A Special Worship Note***

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

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“God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.”—1 John 4:16

After her younger brother died of AIDS-related causes, Marie Howe struggled to write the poetry that had earned her a career teaching at St. Lawrence College as well as four books, numerous awards, honors and fellowships. Howe’s poetry always speaks to me. She has a way of stringing words together about death and life, grief and loss, that are bodily and just right. In her poem “Menses,” she described her melancholy as “a sure dull sorrow, / and a sense of skittering on the very / edge of things.” I imagine this same “dull sorrow” overcoming her after her brother’s death. Howe needed to write, to create, to find her way through the grief. But depression kept her stuck. In an NPR interview with Terry Gross, she said she eventually decided to quit trying and just began writing her brother a letter. What came was the poem “What the Living Do”: “Johnny, the kitchen sink has been clogged for days, some utensil probably fell down there. / And the Drano won’t work but smells dangerous, and the crusty dishes have piled up / waiting for the plumber I still haven’t called.

Her brother was 11 years younger than her, but they were very close. She often referred to him as her spiritual teacher. Howe described his death to Gross as a loss so terrible it changed her life. She didn’t know how to keep living. The crusty dishes pile up. A bag of groceries breaks in her arms, dropping all its contents in the street. She spills coffee down her shirt. All this she reports to John in her poem: her inability to get anything right. Her inability to live. But then, at the end of the poem, she catches her reflection in a shop

window and is suddenly “gripped by a cherishing so deep.”

Eventually, Howe said to Gross, you find a way. You just find a way to keep living.

Prayer: For all those struggling to live today, O God, we pray that they are gripped by your deep cherishing. 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

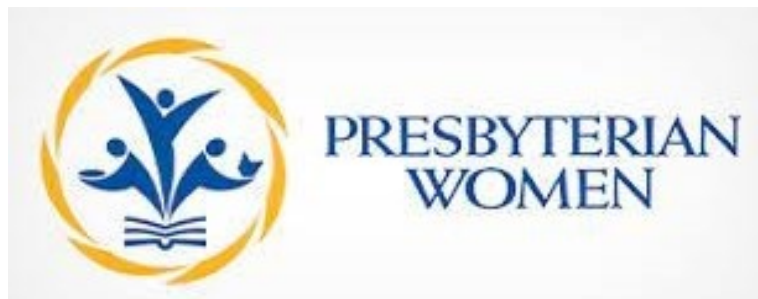
\_\_\_\_\_ Please use my donation for a lily.

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.



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, May 6<sup>th</sup>

**Women of Faith Circle**

**Wednesday, April 23rd at 2pm in the parlor**

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2ND ANNUAL  
*Easter Egg Hunt*

Hop on over to our next Easter  
Egg Hunt Planning Meeting!

Apr 4th @ 4:15pm  
Church conference room



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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.

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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're back! And will start our lessons focusing on the Easter season this Sunday, 4/6.

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.

# HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

IF YOU'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE, DAILY CARDS WITH SCRIPTURES AND ACTIVITY IDEAS WILL BE READY FOR PICKUP ON 04/13

## BIBLE RIDDLE

Which bible names, when put together, sounds like "cannibal"?

Answer: Cain and Abel