



**UPDATES ABOUT  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S  
"VIRTUAL" WORSHIP SERVICES**

## ON FACEBOOK/FPCOFVICTORIA

It is now clear that, at least for as long as the CDC guidelines call for stay-at-home and other social distancing precautions, we will continue to post our Sunday morning worship services on the FPC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fpcofvictoria/>). In that regard, we continue to work to improve the means by which we reach all the members of our congregation who want to participate in our services from the safety of their homes.

One detail we are working on involves determining the best way to circulate the Bulletin for each worship service to our members, friends, and visitors so they may print it and have it with them when they watch our video on Facebook. Previously, we have been circulating the Bulletin either by a separate mailing or as an attachment to an email *different* from this Newsletter. This means of “duplicate circulation” has proven inefficient, however, in terms of time, effort, and postage.

Accordingly, what we are now doing with respect to our worship service for next Sunday (April 26th, the Third Sunday of Easter) is making the Bulletin available (1) by mailing it to our members who do not receive email and (b) for our members who receive this Newsletter via email, by providing this electronic link where you can find (and print, if you wish) the Bulletin: [https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-04-26-Bulletin-PDF.pub\\_.pdf](https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/2020-04-26-Bulletin-PDF.pub_.pdf) To access the Bulletin, place your mouse over the link and then simply click on it. Many of you do this all the time, but if this is a new “maneuver” for you, do not hesitate to call the Church Office for help. Once you master this simple means to access the Bulletin, you will greatly appreciate the convenience!

Moreover, what this means for the Church Office is that, starting now, we will be making only *one* circulation per week, namely, this Newsletter. The only reason we were doing two circulations before was to distribute the Bulletin, but now we believe we can accomplish everything with the single weekly circulation of our one Newsletter.

Although this may not surprise you, the number of “visits” to the FPC website ([www.fpcofvictoria.org](http://www.fpcofvictoria.org)) has increased substantially now that our worship services are appearing on Facebook. Naturally, the Session is gratified by the increased attention that FPC is attracting on social media. We cannot know for sure why this is the case, but a plausible theory is that once someone finds us on Facebook, they then want to learn more about us and thus visit our webpage. Accordingly, the

Session's hope is that, once people know about us from visiting our Facebook page and our website, they will want to come see us in person after the coronavirus pandemic has subsided.

To that end, the Session has authorized Tasha Wolf and me to explore with the company that manages our website some additional enhancements to make our website even more appealing. For example, just as our Facebook page contains a direct link to our website, our website will soon include a direct link to our Facebook page. Another exciting possibility is that we may be able to place copies of the video worship services which now appear on our Facebook page in a special section on our website. Thus, even if a visitor does not know about our Facebook page, he or she will be able to see our worship services directly from our website. If we can make this happen easily, this may prove to be a convenience for our members as well.

We will keep you informed of these and other exciting developments as we proceed. And, as always, we want your comments and suggestions as to how to enhance all of our methods of outreach to our congregation, our friends, and anyone else who may be looking for a new spiritual home in these times of darkness, isolation, and fear.

Finally, during this season of Eastertide, our scripture readings are focusing initially on Jesus' various resurrection appearances to his disciples and others. This Sunday, we will study Luke's account of Jesus' appearance to the two companions traveling on Easter afternoon to the village of Emmaus.

The following Sunday, we will study Jesus' great pre-crucifixion declaration, as recorded by John, "I am the Good Shepherd." Joyfully, we shall also celebrate, once again, a "virtual communion." Although not always a part of the words of institution spoken when we celebrate the Lord's Supper, I have been frequently reminded of what Jesus told his disciples as they shared that last meal in the upper room and as he forecast his death and resurrection. His words give me great comfort in these times of anxiety, separation, and loneliness, and so I share them with the prayer that they may also be for you a source of comfort and assurance:

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

I do not give to you as the world gives.

Do not let your hearts be troubled,

and do not let them be afraid.

You heard me say to you,

'I am going away, and I am coming to you.'  
If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father,  
because the Father is greater than I."  
*John 14:27-28*

**COPIES OF "THESE DAYS"  
AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH OFFICE**

The April/May/June 2020 editions of "*These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*" have arrived in the Church Office. If you would like a copy, just phone us (361.575.2441) or email us ([info@fpcovictoria.com](mailto:info@fpcovictoria.com)), and we will gladly send you one immediately. Do not worry about the postage involved, by the way. We have received a generous contribution to our postage budget to help meet our mailing expenses as we try our best to stay in touch with the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church.

Also, if you are interested in online worship devotionals, there is none better than *The Presbyterian Outlook*. Investigate this timely, information, and spiritually motivating publication at: <https://pres-outlook.org/>. I particularly recommend the devotionals presented by Jill Duffield. If you enjoy this publication, you can sign up for a free "internet subscription" and receive the weekly editions by email.

**IN MEMORIUM**

For many of our long-time members who may remember John and Vanessa Scheumack, we noticed with sadness the obituary which appeared in the April 19th issue of the *Advocate* for their daughter Lindsey Paige Scheumack. In life and in death, we belong to Christ.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim



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