



**VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE  
ON  
FACEBOOK/FPCOFVICTORIA:  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2020**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday (the Tenth Sunday after Pentecost), August 9, 2020, are: Psalm 85:8-13; and Matthew 14:22-33. The sermon title is "Standing on the Storm Waves with Peter," and the Bulletin is available here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/2020-08-09-Bulletin-pdf.pdf>



**MS. MURIEL COTMAN  
RETURNS AS OUR  
GUEST ORGANIST**

Robert Wyatt, our faithful Choirmaster, will be enjoying a well-deserved vacation during the next three Sundays (August 9, 16, and 23). Leading us in our ministry of music during Robert's absence will be Muriel Cotman, a talented musician who has played in our Sanctuary before as a featured guest piano soloist. She returns to play our new organ for the entirety of three of our worship services in August.

Muriel is now a sophomore at Victoria College, Texas, where she has been awarded an academic scholarship to study music. She is also a student member of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians as well as of the National College of Musicians Piano Guild and a collegiate member of the National Federation of Music Clubs.

Recently, Muriel performed in her 10th and final American College of Musicians Piano audition where, she modestly informs me, she did "quite well." In a sign of the times, Muriel's audition was conducted by means of a Zoom video conference with each of the judges on her panel watching from various locations separate from Muriel's. Sitting on the bench of our new organ, Muriel will be no stranger to playing for an audience she cannot see!



### **HAVE YOU SEEN THE FPC WEBSITE RECENTLY?**

The FPC website is being modestly upgraded to make it even more attractive to members, visitors, and anyone else interested in our church. If you have not visited our website recently ([www.fpcofvictoria.org](http://www.fpcofvictoria.org)), please take a moment to do so. I believe you will be pleased.

At a minimum, click on the tab marked "News and Events" and then select "Newsletters." Open the drop down menu for July, and there you find a handy archive of all our recent Newsletters. This archive is useful for at least two reasons. First, if you have misplaced a Newsletter that you wanted to keep, you can find it here. Second, if there is a Newsletter you want a friend or family member to have, you can direct them to this location on the website where they will be able to read it (as well as print it, if they wish).

Also, you must not miss the page labeled "Worship Services." When you click on the "Worship Services" tab from our homepage, you will be taken to a very attractive page that contains a video recording of each of our "Sunday" services since we closed the Sanctuary due to the coronavirus. Again, this is a handy page to visit for personal interest or to recommend as a resource to family, friends, and neighbors.

In this period of isolation, social distancing, and loneliness, we are doing our best to adjust our web page to reflect the vitality and faithfulness of the membership of FPC, Victoria. If someone should ask you, "What is FPC doing to continue to

worship, stay connected in fellowship, and carry on in the face of this terrible pandemic?," all you have to do is recommend they visit our website!

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## CARES AND CONCERNS

All of our members about whom I am aware that have had a recent illnesses or medical procedure are doing well and recovering without complications. With that said, however, if you (or others you know) are experiencing an illness or incapacitation, please contact the church office by phone (361.575.2441) or email ([info@fpcovictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcovictoria.org)) so that all of us may offer prayer and encouragement.

Meanwhile, your Pastor seldom pays attention to bumper-stickers, political or otherwise. The other day, however, the car in front me displayed a bumper-sticker that said simply, "Psalm 91." Intrigued, I consulted the Psalter when I arrived at my office, and I was pleased to see that, unlike so many obnoxious slogans (from so many directions) I see these days, this bumper-sticker was intended as a simple reminder of God's power in the midst of anxiety, threat, and turmoil.

Psalm 91 bears the introduction, "Assurance of God's Protection," and, as an offering of hope, comfort, and assurance, I have copied a portion of it below:

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust."

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler  
and from the deadly pestilence;  
he will cover you with his pinions,  
and under his wings you will find refuge;  
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. . . .

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling place,  
no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,



so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.  
You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.  
Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honor them.  
With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.

*Psalm 91:1-4, 9-16*

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**IMPROVING THE “PRODUCTION VALUES”  
OF OUR  
VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES  
(HELP WANTED!)**

Thanks to Bob Whitaker, we are completing significant upgrades to the audio system in the Sanctuary. Not only will this improve the quality of the sound which we stream over the Internet, it will be a beautiful enhancement to the worship services when (someday soon, please Lord!) we return to in-person worship in our Sanctuary.

While all of this is going on, we are still searching for a camera person to help us operate our new camera equipment which we obtained with a grant from Mission

Presbytery. We need someone to be available for two hours on the Saturdays when we record our worship services and, once the pandemic has passed, for two hours on the Sundays when we gather again in the Sanctuary. Additionally, a few additional hours are necessary to process and upload each video from our new equipment to the Internet.

Do you know of someone who might be interested in working for the church in this manner? Do you know a student, family member, or friend who could use some extra cash and would enjoy helping our congregation with this task? If so, please ask them to call (361.575.2441) or email ([info@fpcovictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcovictoria.org)) the church office. We would love to speak with them!

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**NEW EDITION (FALL 2020) OF  
“ THE PRESENT WORD,  
ADULT BIBLE LESSIONS”  
NOW AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH OFFICE**

An additional burden which we must bear during this pandemic is the inability of our Adult Sunday School Class to meet under C.F. Schneider's faithful leadership. Nevertheless, several members have asked to receive copies of the “Participant's Book” which are published as study guides for class members.

If you would like to receive a copy of the latest study guide, entitled, “Love for One Another,” we would be more than happy to mail one to you from the church office. You know what to do! Contact us by phone or email, and we will promptly mail you your copy.

As a reminder, the July/August/September 2020 editions of “*These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*” are likewise available by request.

Also as a reminder, if you are interested in online worship devotionals, please remember there is none better than *The Presbyterian Outlook*. Investigate this timely, informative, 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.

Peace, grace, and mercy,  
Pastor Jim

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