

**VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES  
ON  
FACEBOOK/FPCOFVICTORIA:  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday (the Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost), September 27, 2020, are: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; and Matthew 21:23-32. The sermon title is “By What Authority?,” and the Bulletin is available here: [https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-09-27-Bulletin-PDF.pub\\_.pdf](https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-09-27-Bulletin-PDF.pub_.pdf)



## **PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR FPC REOPENING CONTINUES**

Based on the Session's determination at its meeting on September 15, 2020 that it is time to begin making preparations to resume our in-person worship services, the Worship Committee held its first meeting on September 17, 2020 to consider the issues involved in a prudent return to our Sanctuary when the time is right. The Worship Committee will meet again on Wednesday, September 30, 2020 to continue its deliberations with the goal of preparing written guidelines for us to have in place come the day that we will reopen our doors to those who want to worship in our traditional manner.

In the meantime, if you have any input or suggestions you would like to share with the Worship Committee (whether or not based on what you have heard about or observed in other reopened churches), we urge you to share them with the church office ([info@fpcofvictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcofvictoria.org); 361.575.2441) as soon as possible.

At this time, the Session is tentatively considering resuming worship services in the Sanctuary on either Sunday, October 25th (which is Reformation Sunday), or Sunday, November 1, 2020 (which is All Saints' Day, as well as the first Sunday when we return to Central Standard Time). If we return on the last Sunday in October (Oct. 25th), we will unquestionably celebrate communion, and then do so

again on the following Sunday (Nov. 1st). We will also continue to broadcast our worship services on our Facebook page and website for those members who, most understandably, are reluctant to venture into public places just yet.

Separately, we are also coordinating with the leader and members of the Adult Sunday School class about the possibility of resuming their studies in the church building (perhaps in Fellowship Hall) on the same day as we return to worship in the Sanctuary.

Before making any final decisions about when to reopen, however, the Worship Committee will continue to plan, and the Session will continue to monitor the public health data. At our Session meeting now scheduled for Tuesday evening, October 13, 2020, the Elders will review the data, prayerfully deliberate, and then make a final determination as to whether, and if so when, to resume public worship in our Sanctuary subject to prudent public health practices.

Please be in prayer for the wisdom of the Worship Committee and the Session, and once again, please share any comments, suggestions, or concerns with the church office about the plans we are making and the direction in which we are headed.

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**September 27 - Marie Ramseur**

If you or someone you know has a birthday this week,  
please contact the church office:  
361.575.2441 or [info@fpcofvictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcofvictoria.org)

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### A REPEATED CALL FOR HELP FROM CHRIST'S KITCHEN

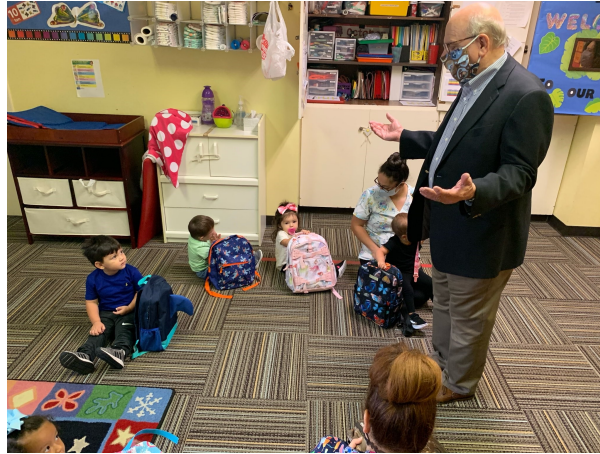
Christ's Kitchen continues to be overwhelmed by the steadily increasing number of homeless who look to that organization for likely their only meal of the day. At the same time, the customary suppliers who assist Christ's Kitchen in providing desserts to go with the meals prepared by the volunteers cannot keep up with the demand.

***Therefore, Christ's Kitchen volunteers from First Presbyterian Church once need the congregation's help.***

By now, we are all familiar with how to help: please bring your contributions of cookies, donuts, and other dessert treats to the church office on Monday, and we will make sure that they are delivered to Christ's Kitchen by the following day. If you are able to pre-package the desserts in individual ziplock storage bags for single servings, that would be very helpful. At the same time, even if you bring cookies and other desserts in bulk, the saints at Christ's Kitchen can make sure they are appropriately packaged to be included in the 900 or so to-go lunch boxes they prepare daily.

Finally, for those who would like to volunteer their time to feeding the homeless but are understandably apprehensive about being exposed to the coronavirus, Frances Miller and Billy Leske would like you to know that it is now possible to help prepare food at Christ's Kitchen on Monday afternoons from approximately 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. There are no clients on the premises at that time, and the kitchen staff, all of whom wear facemasks and other PPE, is small. If you could spare some time, the faithful volunteers at Christ's Kitchen could sure use your help.





### **“BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS” TRADITION CONTINUES AT PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL**

During time set aside for PDS Children’s Chapel in each of the past two weeks, Pastor Jim prayed for God’s blessings on the backpacks and the young disciples who carry them to school each day. Given the current pandemic protocols in place at PDS, Pastor Jim visited each class separately to pray for the children and the parents, guardians, family members, and teachers who care for them. One week he wore a “kitty” facemask, and the next week he wore a “puppy” facemask. Pastor Jim is biased in these matters, but he is fairly sure the “puppy” facemask was more popular (although, admittedly, the vote among the students as to their favorite was close!).

Especially during these dangerous and uncertain times, please pray for the safety and welfare of our dedicated PDS faculty, the young children entrusted to their care, and the families of those students who trust PDS and FPC to guide their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Pastor Jim prayed that the children’s backpacks would always be filled with good things. Please pray that the same may be true for the minds, bodies, hearts, and souls of the precious children who wear them.

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### **ONLINE GIVING NOW POSSIBLE-- AND FUNCTIONING SUCCESSFULLY!**

We want to continue to publicize our upgraded website where it is now possible for visitors and for the members, family, and friends of FPC to make contributions to our church via the Internet. If you have not yet examined this new, convenient

“giving tool” on the FPC website, we encourage you do so soon.

Just go to our homepage (<https://fpcofvictoria.org/>), and there you will see this screen:



Click on the green “Giving” rectangle, and you will be guided through the easy donation process. Have your credit card or checking account information handy, and the process should go smoothly.

Please help us spread the word that this convenient feature exists on our website, and please encourage anyone you know who watches us to use it!

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### **COPIES OF “*THESE DAYS*” AVAILABLE FROM CHURCH OFFICE**

As a reminder, the July/August/September 2020 editions of “*These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*” are also available from church office upon 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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