

**VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICES
ON
FACEBOOK/FPCOFVICTORIA:
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday (the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost), October 11, 2020, are: Isaiah 25:1-9; and Matthew 22:1-14. The sermon title is

“Love and Judgment,” and the Bulletin is available here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-10-11-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

During our worship service for October 4, 2020, we celebrated World Communion Sunday.

World Communion Sunday, held annually on the first Sunday in October, celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to “discern the body” when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration.

Interestingly, World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it was not until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the

celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ collectively gathers at his table to commemorate his dying, his rising, and his promise to come again. For more information, see

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/worship/special-days-and-emphases/world-communion-sunday/>.

As a final comment, I hope everyone was able to appreciate our beautifully adorned altar (pictured above) as we celebrated World Communion Sunday during our previous worship service. The beautiful representation of God's bounty displayed on the high altar was designed and arranged by Elder Linda Patterson, to whom we are always grateful for sharing her talents for the glory of God, the beauty of our church, and the joy of our hearts. Thank you, Linda!



October 15 - Sally DeMent

October 15 - John Horadam

October 17- Henry Hauschild

October 18 - Robert Wyatt

If you or someone you know has a birthday this week,
please contact the church office:

361.575.2441 or info@fpcovictoria.org



We have some encouraging news about Ruth Williams. Her recovery from a severe case of the shingles is progressing nicely. Attended by family and home healthcare nurses, Ruth is feeling much better and is able to get around as well as can be expected. We rejoice that her health is improving, and we continue to pray for her complete recovery.

As I mentioned in last week's Newsletter, Ruth's family says that Ruth enjoys receiving notes or "get well soon" cards from church friends, especially since we are unable to visit her in these days of separation and quarantine. If you would like to send Ruth a card, this is her address: *203 E. Warren Ave, Victoria, Texas 77901.*

In other news, Tasha Wolf (our so very capable Office Administrator) reports that her son, Devon, tested positive today for COVID-19. Devon is a senior and a stellar athlete at Hallettsville High School. Tasha informs me that Devon's symptoms are mild and that she and each member of her family have isolated themselves from one another and the rest of the community. Tasha and the other members of her family remain asymptomatic of the disease.

Tasha has not been in the church building since Friday at noon, October 2, 2020, and Devon did not report feeling unwell until Monday morning, October 5th. Because Tasha does not come into contact with anyone at PDS, and because she and I observe strict facemask and distancing protocols in the office, I have no reason to believe that anyone at FPC is at risk due to Devon's illness.

In an abundance of caution, however, Tasha will not come to the office for the

next 10 days as she continues to monitor her and her family's health. This will mean, unfortunately, that office operations will be a little ragged as your preacher tries to fill in during Tasha's absence. Tasha remains available by phone, and she continues to provide support as we handle things in her absence.

Please be in prayer for Tasha and her family. Work duties become secondary in the face of family illness. With the congregation's patience we will make it through this rough patch, and of course our most important concern is the health and welfare of Devon, Tasha, and their family.



HELP FOR CHRIST'S KITCHEN

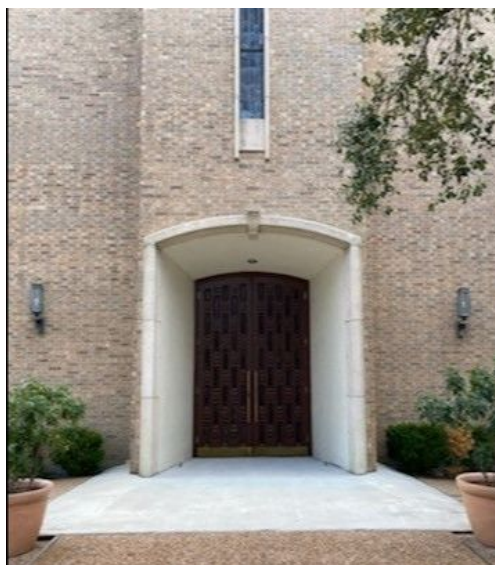
Members of FPC continue to respond overwhelmingly and generously to our standing call for cookies and other desserts to help Christ's Kitchen feed the large number of homeless who look to that organization for likely their only meal of the day.

LET'S DON'T LET UP! THIS GENEROUS CHURCH NEEDS TO KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING! 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 helpful, but it is not essential. 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.

Frances Miller and Billy Leske are grateful for the support they and their fellow

volunteers at Christ's Kitchen are receiving from the members of FPC. We hope that "bring desserts to the church on Monday" will become a growing habit among our members (just like attending worship services-- and indeed such generosity is a form of worship!). Hunger never takes a holiday. Let us continue to be generous in our donations of time and food to those in God's creation who are less fortunate than ourselves.

Also, for those who would like to volunteer their time to feeding the homeless but are understandably apprehensive about being exposed to the coronavirus, Frances and Billy would like to remind us 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.



PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR FPC REOPENING CONTINUES

Please continue to read this Newsletter for up-to-date information about our preparations for the possible reopening of our church for in-person worship. As previously reported, 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 (in Fellowship Hall) on the same day as we return to worship in the Sanctuary.

The Worship Committee has now met twice, and they have developed a comprehensive set of COVID-19 protocols designed to protect our congregation. These protocols will be publicized well in advance of our return to the Sanctuary. 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; 361.575.2441) as soon as possible.

Before making any final decisions about when to reopen, 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 pray for the safety of our congregation, our community and, indeed, all of God's children in the midst of this global pandemic.

ONLINE GIVING

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/>), click on the green button marked "Giving," and continue to follow the instructions from there. You will be pleased to know that with each passing week, usage of this convenient means of making donations to our church is increasing.

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!

**CURRENT COPIES OF “*THESE DAYS*”
HAVE RECENTLY ARRIVED**

The church has recently received the October/November/December 2020 editions of “*These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith.*” Upon request, we would be happy to mail a copy to any member desiring one. Especially in these extended times of isolation and separation, the devotionals in this cherished publication are a wonderful source of inspiration, hope, and comfort. Please contact us at the church office so that we may send you your personal copy.

Peace, grace, and mercy,
Pastor Jim

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