

**WORSHIP SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020  
(ALL SAINTS' DAY)**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday (All Saints' Day), November 1, 2020, are: Revelation 7:9-17; and 1 John 3:1-3. The sermon title is "Legacy," and the Bulletin is available here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/2020-11-1-Bulletin-All-Saints-Day-PDF-1.pdf>

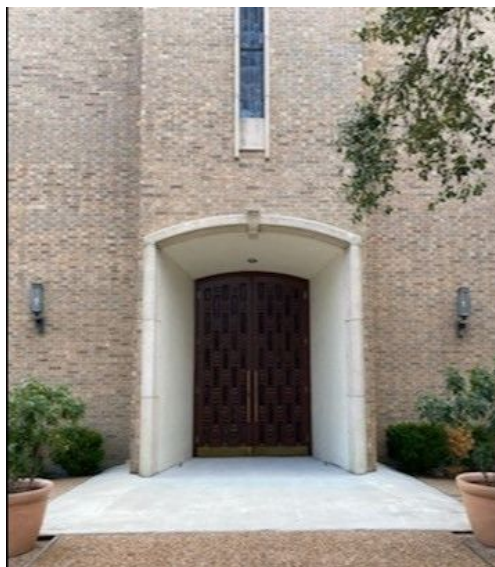
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Unless you are anxious to arrive at church an hour early this Sunday, do not forget to adjust your clocks for the changeover to Central Standard Time this weekend! At 3:00 a.m., Sunday morning, clocks will be turned back one hour, making it 2:00 a.m., Central Standard Time.

Remember, it's "fall back, and spring forward," so this Fall enjoy your extra hour of sleep but don't forget to join us as we celebrate All Saints' Day and share communion (in a safe and careful manner) at the Lord's table.

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**IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES CONTINUE  
BUT  
MEETINGS OF THE NELLIE HUDSON  
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS POSTPONED**

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**WORSHIP SERVICES REMAIN  
AVAILABLE "ONLINE" AT  
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FPCOVICTORIA](https://www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria)  
AND  
[WWW.FPCOVICTORIA.COM](https://www.fpcovictoria.com)**

It was a joy to see, from a safe social distance, so many members and visitors in our re-opened Sanctuary this past Sunday! Steadily and carefully, we are adjusting to our new Health Protocols designed to keep us safe as we provide an opportunity for in-person worship and fellowship for those who feel comfortable in returning to our church premises.

After prayerful consideration, however, one adjustment we believe we should make to our re-opening plans is to postpone further meetings of the Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class until the current rise in COVID-19 cases abates. As much as the members of our Adult Sunday School class enjoy C.F. Schneider's instruction and one another's company, spending two hours at church (Sunday School plus worship) may be too much to undertake at this time. Moreover, given that we are short-handed in the church office for the next several weeks, it is difficult to attend to all the safety protocols necessary for worship in our Sanctuary, on top of which we would have to add similar preparations for Fellowship Hall.

I have talked with C.F., and he agrees with me that it is wise to wait a while longer to resume Sunday School classes. We will continue to monitor the public health data, and by no means are we reducing our commitment to the Nellie Hudson class. When we believe it is prudent to resume, we shall! Pray for that happy day to come soon!

In other matters related to our re-opening, we are happy to report that the transition to “live-streaming” our worship service via our Facebook page and our website appears to have been successful. As is always the case, we continue to work with the sound quality of our broadcasts-- it is so difficult to achieve the same quality of audio over the Internet that we enjoy in our acoustically beautiful Sanctuary. So many folks remarked that it was a totally different (and exhilarating!) experience to hear our new organ played in the Sanctuary than listening to it on a computer, iPad, or smartphone.

Meanwhile, the video of our broadcast was considerably improved thanks to the higher quality of camera we are now able to use. We are also pleased that our view is no longer “frozen” in a single position since we are able to move our new camera to follow the worship service in the Chancel. We shall continue to work to improve the quality of our broadcasts to those members and visitors who remain unable to visit us. Moreover, to help us do a better job of that, we invite you please to pass along your comments, observations, and suggestions to the church office. Please do not be reluctant to do so-- we want our “virtual” worship experience to be every bit as spiritually rewarding as our in-person services.

Finally, allow me to repeat for emphasis the Session’s concerns about safety as we resume in-person gatherings at the church:

- The Session continues to stress that individuals whose health may be compromised, and who are thus especially vulnerable to the coronavirus, should continue to worship with us from their homes. Our advice is, “When in doubt, don’t go out!” You will be remembered in our hearts and prayers as we return to the Sanctuary for worship.
- While inside the church, everyone will be required to observe the Worship Committee’s Health Protocols. A complete list of those protocols appears at the end of this Newsletter. Please read them carefully and plan to follow them to keep you and all church members and visitors safe. We will have greeters at the entrances to the church, as well as additional copies of the Health Protocols, to help you remember all of the precautions we will have in place.

As always, please continue to pray for the safety of our congregation, our community and, indeed, all of God's children as the coronavirus continues to disrupt lives as it spreads illness and death.

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### **CARES AND CONCERNS**

Once again, Tasha Wolf (our indispensable Office Administrator) is faced with the need to self-isolate, this time because her husband tested positive this past weekend for COVID-19. Tasha had just returned from a prior two-week self-isolation period due her son having tested positive for the virus.

Happily, Tasha's husband (Geoff) is recovering nicely and did not require hospitalization. Tasha remains asymptomatic and is, by now, more than familiar with the appropriate quarantine measures to follow. As before, Tasha is helping out with the work of the church from home as best she can, but in an abundance of caution she will not return to the office until Monday, November 7th-- and then only if she has tested negative for COVID-19.

Once again, please be in prayer for Tasha and her family. As always, with the congregation's patience we will make it through these difficult times.

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### November 3 – Kathryn Amsler

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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### RESULTS OF CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At a meeting of the Congregation following our worship service on October 25, 2020, the following individuals were elected to serve on a Congregational Nominating Committee (“CNC”) constituted for the purpose of bringing recommendations to the Congregation of members to serve on the Session for a three-year term (2021 through 2023, inclusive; the “Class of 2023”). The members thus elected to the current CNC are:

Donald Anderson  
Linda Patterson  
Friench Tarkington

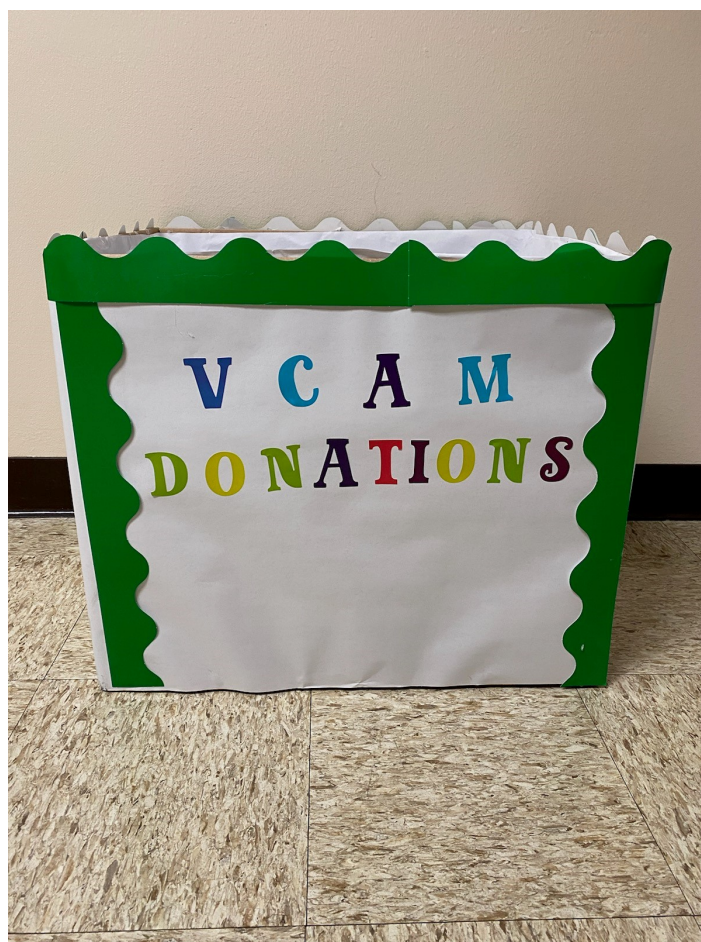


Bill Wilkinson  
Helen Williams

We are grateful to these faithful members of our church for their service and commitment to discern who among us is being called to lead our church into the future according to God's will. Please pray for the members of the CNC as they go about their deliberations, asking God to give them wisdom, vision, and insight.

Also, if you know of someone who you believe would be an appropriate person to nominate to the Session, or if you believe God is calling you to a higher level of service at FPC through membership on the Session, please contact any of the members of the CNC with your thoughts. All communications of this nature are received by the CNC in confidence, so please do not be reluctant to share with them what is on your heart about the future of our church.

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Now that we are returning to worship in our Sanctuary, this is an especially good time to resume our faithful habit of bringing extra canned goods, paper goods, and other non-perishable items to donate to VCAM so those good folks can distribute

them to the many families and individuals who are hardest hit by the current pandemic and economic downturn.

Marsha Ricottilli has made an attractive donation box (pictured above) to replace the rusty old shopping cart we used to have, so please look for it in the corridor outside the church office and give as generously as you can. We will make sure the donations are delivered promptly to VCAM. God bless you!

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### **CURRENT COPIES OF “*THESE DAYS*”**

The church has 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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### **ADDENDUM TO NEWSLETTER: COVID-19 Pandemic Public Health and Safety Protocols for In-Person Gatherings at the Church**

#### **Before We Come**

Check to be sure:

- In the past two weeks:
  - No foreign travel and no travel outside Victoria to any COVID “hotspots.”
  - No exposure to anyone who has tested positive for COVID.
  - No participation in large group activities, such as parties, weddings, funerals, demonstrations, or similar events.
- Before departing home:
  - No fever (temperature above 100.4).
  - No sore throat.
  - No shortness of breath.
  - No cough or flu-like symptoms.



- For your own safety and those around you, remember: “*If in doubt, don’t go out!*”

### **As We Enter**

- Facemasks must be worn *at all times* while in the church. Maintain social distancing. Wash hands frequently.
- Tables with facemasks, hand-sanitizer, and Kleenex boxes will be located (a) inside the front door to the Narthex and (b) inside the door under the porte cochere. A greeter will be at each of these entrances to welcome you and answer any questions.
- Do not be offended if the greeter asks you whether you have complied with all the “Before We Come” criteria listed above. If you are uncertain about your temperature, the greeter will have a “touchless” thermometer to help you check it.
- Due to fire-code regulations, all of the exits from the Sanctuary will be unlocked. Entry to the church, however, will be *exclusively* through the front door to the Narthex or the back door under the porte cochere.
- At separate tables located in the Narthex and at the entrance to the front of the Sanctuary (at the end of the hall that runs past the Church Office), we will set out offering plates and Bulletins. Please place your offering in the plate (either before or after the service), and please take a Bulletin. In order to reduce person-to-person contact, Bulletins will not be handed out by the greeters. Take your Bulletin home with you or discard it in the receptacles provided.

### **While We Are Gathered**

- Seating
  - Certain pews, which will be clearly marked, will be closed to seating. The cushions of open pews will be marked to facilitate social distancing. Family groups may sit together, of course, but otherwise congregants are asked to separate themselves by a minimum of six feet. The aisles will also be marked in six-foot intervals to facilitate social distancing.
  - Because the Sanctuary will be closed to the public and to PDS during the week, we will not remove the Bibles or the hymnals from the pew racks, although everyone is discouraged from touching them. The liturgy, the prayers, and the lyrics to all hymns will be printed in the Bulletin, making the use of the books in the pew racks unnecessary. We will, however, remove the shawls and the attendance pads from the Sanctuary until the pandemic has passed.
- Worship

- Wear facemasks (securely covering nose and mouth) throughout the service, and always maintain social distancing. If you notice anyone failing to abide by these requirements, graciously remind them to comply so that we may all remain safe.
- *Passing of the Peace*: There will be no “Passing of the Peace:” no hugging, shaking hands, or other personal contact. *Despite the temptation, we must avoid all person-to-person contact with one another.* We will, however, pause in the service to call out “Howdy” (or say, “peace be with you”), point or wave at our neighbors, and recognize our joy in being together in God’s house.
- *Singing*: Based on the *best* medical advice available, the Worship Committee has decided: (a) the choir will not yet resume rehearsals; (b) familiar hymns will be played, *but not sung aloud*, during the worship service; and (c) our worship ministry will focus on brief ‘special presentations’ such as solos, duets, organ anthems, and invited instrumentalists.
- *Liturgy*: When indicated in the Bulletin, parts of our liturgy (such as the Lord’s Prayer) will be recited in unison, but facemasks will continue to be worn.
- *Communion*: When served, communion will be voluntary. Those wishing to be served will come forward down the center aisle while maintaining a distance of six feet (based on the separation lines placed on the carpet). The Elders, wearing clean gloves, will place the host (the bread) into each communicant’s cupped hands (please do not reach into the plate to take the bread yourself). The juice will be served in small plastic cups. Each congregant will take his or her own cup. There will be a separate receptacle in which to deposit each cup once it is used (please do not return the cup to the serving dish).

### **As We Depart**

- As much as it grieves us to say this, do not linger after the service. Of course, we should wave at visitors, as well as each other, but it is simply unwise to gather or mingle in any public venue. Conversations, if any, must be brief and conducted outside the church building while remaining at least six feet apart, with all participants wearing facemasks.
- The best practice, however, is to leave the church property promptly, giving thanks to God for our time together, and vowing to stay safe and cautious during the week so that we may return to worship the One upon whom we depend to guide us, protect us, and sustain us not only now in the midst of this pandemic but throughout our lives.

- Tell friends and neighbors who were unable to attend that our worship services will continue to be streamed on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/fpcfvictoria](https://www.facebook.com/fpcfvictoria)) and on our website ([www.fpcfvictoria.com](http://www.fpcfvictoria.com)). While each service will be streamed live on Sunday morning, it will also be “archived” so that it can be played anytime afterwards.
- If, after you attend a worship service, you or a family member or friend with whom you have been in contact tests positive for COVID (even if the family member or friend did not attend the same worship service as you did), you *must* alert the Church Office immediately. Just as the Presbyterian Day School does, we have in place a contingency plan to notify our members to have themselves tested if appropriate. Also, do not be alarmed. Such circumstances do not involve anyone’s fault, but they do require everyone to take precautions when possibly exposed to the virus.

### **A Final Note from the Worship Committee**

These protocols were prepared after a great amount of research and prayerful deliberation by the members of the Worship Committee. The protocols remain flexible and subject to change, and thus we welcome input from members and visitors alike about their worship experience while these precautions are in place.

As we made hard decisions (such as not to sing hymns out loud), we were guided by the advice of a pastor in one of our sister churches in Corpus Christi who said, “You will never know if you have been too cautious, but your failure to be cautious enough will become readily apparent.” If we must err, we have chosen to err on the side of caution.

We acknowledge, also, that many in our midst are not ready to return to public worship. We understand. The preparation of these protocols does not mean that we believe *you* should return to worship. Each of our members should also err on the side of caution. If you have even the slightest concern, we encourage you to stay home, join us on Facebook or our website, and stay isolated until this plague has passed. You will not be forgotten or overlooked, for we shall continue to carry everyone in our hearts and prayers. May God be with us all as we try to cope during these uncertain times.

Amen!

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