

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

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday (the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost), October 4, 2020, are: Isaiah 5:1-7; and Matthew 21:33-46. The sermon title is "The Wicked Tenants," and the Bulletin is available here: https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/2020-10-04-Bulletin1-pdf.pub_.pdf



COMMUNION SUNDAY

Being the first Sunday in October, we will also celebrate the Lord's Supper. Please be prepared to take communion from wherever you may be watching us on the FPC Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria/>). As always, bread of any sort is suitable, including crackers, tortillas, etc.; any sort of fruit juice would be appropriate, as would wine or even water.

Howsoever we take communion, the central theological message is that we do these things "in remembrance of" the One who lived, died, was resurrected, and will come again in glory. In reverently sharing with one another the Last Supper that Christ served his disciples, Christians around the world remember that Christ died so that we might be in eternal communion with our God and Creator.



Our beloved member, Ruth Williams, is recovering from a case of shingles which was so severe that she was briefly hospitalized. Her family reports that while Ruth is now home convalescing, she is still a bit disoriented and not yet fully recovered.

Ruth is being well taken care of by her family, and I have assured them that Ruth's church family will be in prayer for her healing and full recovery. Meanwhile, Ruth's family has told me 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.*

We pray that God in his mercy will bring Ruth healing and prompt recuperation and that he will bless and uphold her family and all who are attending to her in love.



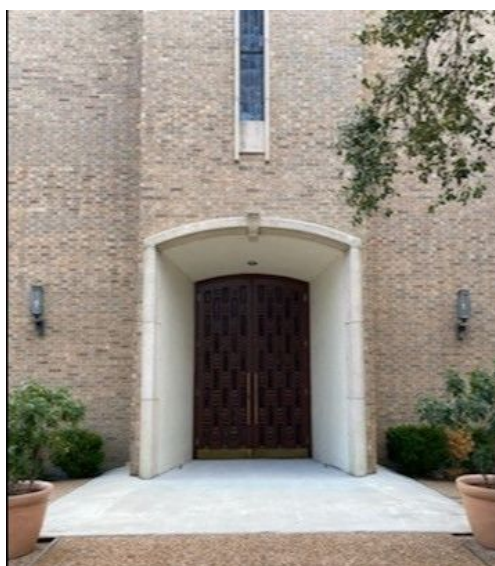
HELP FOR CHRIST'S KITCHEN

This past week the members of FPC have responded overwhelmingly and generously to our continued call for cookies and other desserts to help Christ's Kitchen feed the increasing number of homeless who look to that organization for likely their only meal of the day.

LET'S KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING! Please bring your contributions of cookies, donuts, and other dessert treats to the church office every Monday, and we will make sure they are delivered to Christ's Kitchen the following day. If you are able to pre-package the desserts in individual ziplock 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 have asked me to share with the congregation the heart-warming expressions of gratitude they have received from both their fellow volunteers and the clients at Christ's Kitchen for the generosity and care manifested in the numerous cookies and desserts we are able to deliver on a weekly basis. And remember: 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 others.

Once again, 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

The Worship Committee will for a second time meet 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 we 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; 361.575.2441) as soon as possible.

Also, please continue to read this Newsletter for up-to-date information about recent developments. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, 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 assuredly 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.

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.

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!

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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