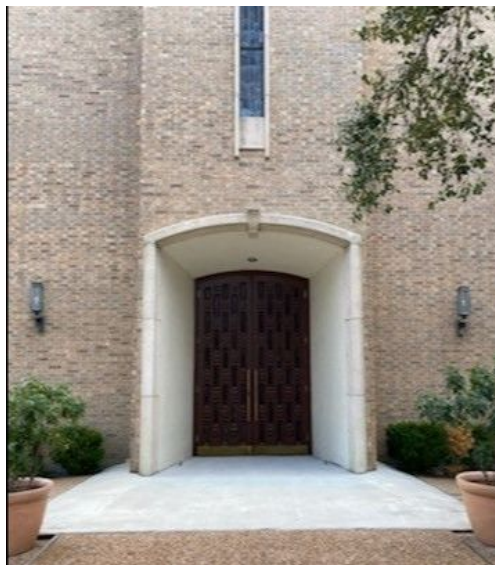


**WORSHIP SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday, November 8, 2020, the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, are: Psalm 70; and Matthew 25:1-13. The sermon title is "Living Expectantly," and the Bulletin is available here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020-11-8-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.

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

We continue to learn how to adjust our worship worships, both virtually and in person, as we held our second worship service (which this time included communion) in our beautiful sanctuary. We have noticed some things we could do to improve and speed things up a bit, but we also want to hear from you-- whether you have joined us in the Sanctuary or continue to worship with us online.

For those who have joined us in the Sanctuary, please call us or send us an email at the Church Office to let us know how you feel about our new Health Protocols. Do you feel comfortable with them? Is there something we could do to improve them? Is there something we could do to improve the worship experience for you, even as we all wear our masks in the pews?

For those who continue to worship online, is the quality better now that we are using a camera that can pick up more of the worship service being conducted in the

Chancel? All who have attended the last two Sunday morning services in the Sanctuary have remarked how much more dramatic and beautiful the new organ sounds in person, but we are also trying to assure that viewers on our Facebook page and website receive the best audio quality in our recorded services as well. Again, please contact us if you have any suggestions in that regard.

As a reminder, we have decided temporarily to postpone further meetings of the Nellie Hudson Sunday School Class until the current rise in COVID-19 cases abates. We will keep the members of our congregation and of that class informed of further developments.

Finally, allow me to repeat yet again 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 worship in the Sanctuary in spirit with you.
- While inside the church, everyone will be required to observe the Worship Committee's Health Protocols. Since a complete list of those protocols has been published already in several previous editions of this Newsletter, there is no need to print them again. A full copy of the Health Protocols is available, however, on our website in an electronic format and by the Sanctuary entrances in a printed format. If you have not already done so, please read them carefully and plan to follow them to keep you and all church members and visitors safe. We will also have greeters at the entrances to the church to help you remember all of the precautions we 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 spread illness and death.

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### CARES AND CONCERNS

Mikey Ruddock's daughter, Elizabeth, contacted the church with the news that Mikey had surgery last Thursday. Although everything went very well with the surgery, Mikey is now experiencing some blood pressure and respiratory issues and thus remains in the hospital for monitoring. She will be evaluated again today, and her doctors will decide whether to allow her to go home or whether she must remain in the hospital for further observation. Mikey has asked that we pray for her healing, peace, and Godly wisdom for her doctors-- and so we shall. Please be in prayer for Mikey, her family, and her medical team. May they find strength and comfort in the loving prayers we lift in her name.

Friench Tarkington had scheduled surgery on his shoulder yesterday (Tuesday), and Martha Tarkington contacted me today to report that the surgery was successful and without complications. Friench stayed overnight in the hospital, per routine procedures, but now he is home and resting well. Martha reports that he is in good spirits and that they are both relieved that the procedure went exactly as planned.

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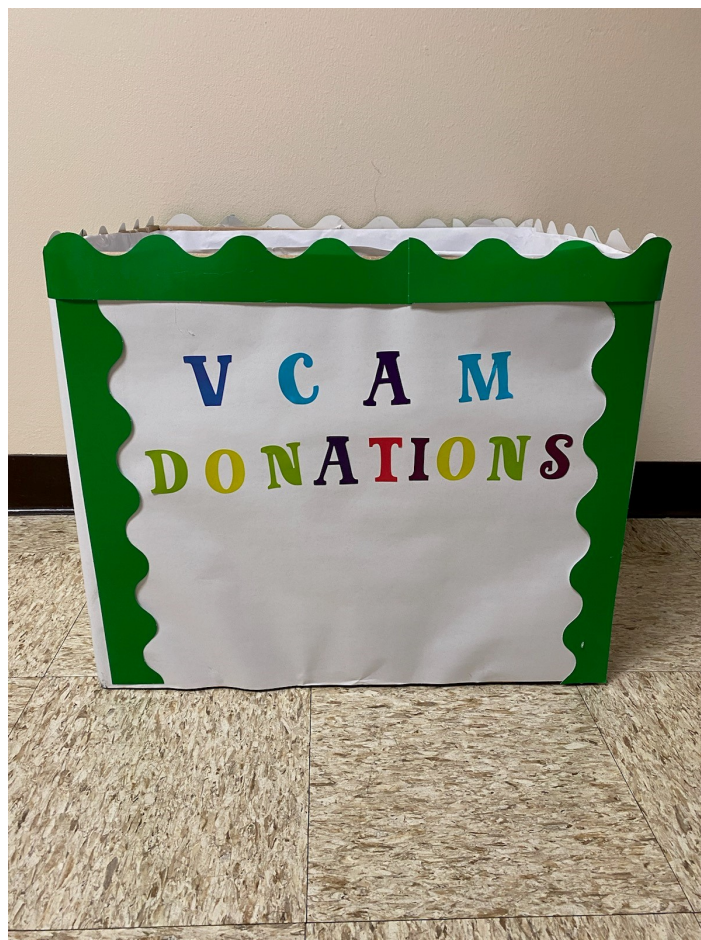




**November 10 – Eileen Fowler**

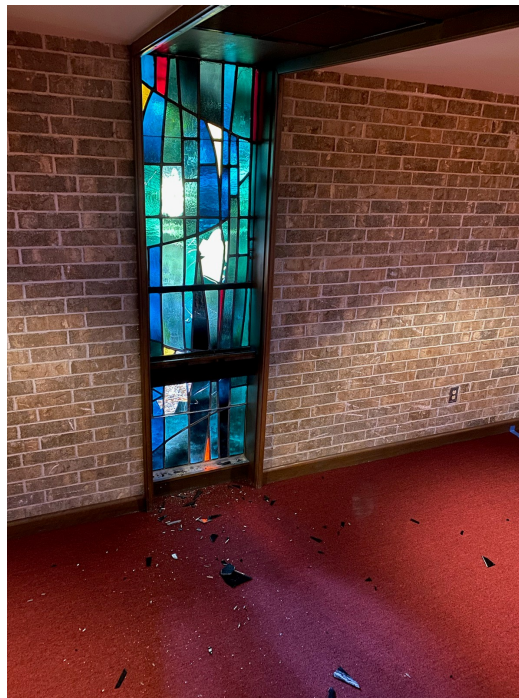
If you or someone you know has a birthday this week,  
please contact the church office:  
361.575.2441 or [info@fpcovictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcovictoria.org)

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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!



### **VANDALISM AT THE CHURCH**

It saddens me to report that two of the church's stained glass windows (one under the North breezeway and one under the South breezeway) were smashed on Tuesday night in a senseless act of vandalism. The police were called at the time of the crime (approximately midnight on Tuesday, November 3), and we believe they have a suspect in mind.

This morning, I was able to contact the stained-glass artisan who repaired our windows post-Harvey, and, as God would have it, he was in Victoria working on a project for another church. He interrupted his work, came right over to our property, and assured me that he would be able to seal the damaged windows against moisture and contamination from the outside air before he returned home this evening. Let us thank God for the fast response of this caring craftsman (Mr. Tim Daily of Victoria Stained Glass Studio Inc.), and let us also not forget to pray for the troubled soul (likely a homeless vagrant in the area) who, in anger, desperation, or for whatever reason, did this dreadful deed.

Naturally, a claim is being filed with our insurance carrier, and the Buildings and Grounds Committee will monitor that process as well as the repair of the broken window. We are early in the process, so we have no idea yet of how much the repairs will cost or how long they will take. We can once again, however, be grateful to God that the damage was not more extensive and that our windows can be

repaired. Subject to our deductible, we have insurance to cover the repairs, and happily, we know the craftsmen best qualified to complete them.

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### **AND YOUR PASTOR APPRECIATES YOU . . . !**

In Seminary, they warn new preachers to be on guard against “secrets in the congregation.” Sometimes, such secrets might spell trouble for the preacher!

Apparently, I failed that class, because (a) I was unaware that October was Preacher Appreciation Month and (b) my sneaky congregation placed a lovely expression of appreciation for their pastor in the Saturday, October 10th issue of the *The Advocate*. Sally and I read the weekday issues of the paper, but only now have we seen Saturday’s picture of yours truly with such a kind message.

In truth, it is Sally and I who appreciate this congregation. As we have said on numerous occasions, we have no doubt in our hearts whatsoever that FPC, Victoria is where God intends for us to be in this season of our lives and the life of this church. We are grateful to find ourselves in the midst of such a loving and caring congregation-- one that truly seeks to discern and follow the will of God; one that loves one another, their neighbor, and their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your kind expression of appreciation. It was unnecessary, but it gave Sally and me great joy. As we carry on together through hurricanes,

pandemics, and even (back in the day!) Indian raids, let us continue to worship and serve God as best we are able.

Peace, grace, and mercy,  
Pastor Jim

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