



**WORSHIP SERVICE ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday, December 6, 2020, the Second Sunday of Advent are: Isaiah 40:1-11; and Mark 1:1-8. The sermon title is "The Beginning of the Gospel," and the Bulletin is available here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-12-6-Bulletin-PDF-1.pdf>

Given that this Sunday is also the first Sunday in December, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. If you will be celebrating with us in the Sanctuary, please remember to observe the protocols we have in place as a result of the pandemic: maintain social distancing; keep your mask on until you are served the elements; receive (do

not take) the bread from the Elders; take your own cup and dispose of it as you return to your seat.

If you will not be celebrating with us in person, please be prepared to take communion from wherever you may be watch us on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria/>) or our website (<https://www.fpcovictoria.org/>). 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.



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, December 6, 2020.

Please be aware that the agenda for the meeting has been expanded by the Session to include an informational report from the Church Treasurer, Jim Stokes. No action by the Congregation will be requested, but we encourage you to pay careful attention to this report.

During our brief meeting, Ruling Elder Stokes will present a short overview of the status of FPC's finances as we approach the end of calendar year 2020.

After the Treasurer's report, the Chair of the Congregation Nominating Committee, Bill Wilkinson, will report on the recommendations of the CNC, specifically that John Horadam, Lynn McAuley, and Bonnie Wilkinson be elected to

serve on the Session for a three-year term (the Class of 2023), commencing January 1, 2021.

The Moderator will invite additional nominations from the floor, if there be any. Before submitting someone to be considered for election to the Session, however, please be sure and confirm with that individual that he or she would be willing to serve if elected.

At the end of such discussion as the congregation may desire, a vote will be taken to elect the members of the Session Class of 2023. May God grant us and our new leaders strength, wisdom, and perseverance as First Presbyterian Church enters a new year of hope, promise, and continued service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



The Worship Committee, under Linda Patterson's leadership, will once again create the traditional-- and always spectacular-- poinsettia Christmas tree to decorate our chancel during this Advent Season. As is our custom, members and friends of FPC are being offered the opportunity to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 per plant. You can take your poinsettia(s) home, or you can designate your payment to be used to support VCAM or Promise Pointe. In each instance, your gift can also be designated in honor or in memory of one or more people who are special to you. A list of all the names thus designated will be acknowledged in our Christmas bulletin.

For more information, look for the "Christmas Poinsettias" leaflet which will be inserted in our worship service bulletins during the coming Sundays, or click here to

be able to read and, if you wish, print the form: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Poinsetta-Order-Form-2020-PDF-1.pdf>



ADVENT WREATH

As has been a long-standing tradition at First Presbyterian Church, we will light an advent candle during each Sunday morning worship service during Advent, with the center candle (the Christ Candle) to be lit on Christmas Eve.

We look forward to this being a beautiful and worshipful
Advent Season
at First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas.



AN INVITATION FROM THE MISSION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Advent Season is a time when we think especially of others in need. Having endured a pandemic for over 8 months now, we are particularly mindful of the many who are suffering in our midst due to loss, both economic and emotional.

Each year, First Presbyterian Church embraces an opportunity to share the blessings of the Advent Season with those less fortunate than ourselves. Last year, we had wonderful success with the “Angel Tree,” and this year the Mission and Outreach Committee has identified another opportunity to assist a project in the Victoria community that is now well established and is growing in its capacity to serve the homeless in this area. This worthy cause is called Promise Pointe, and some may remember that it was one of the charities we featured when we hosted the Presbytery Meeting in October 2019.

Promise Pointe is headed by Sister Rebecca. This organization builds “tiny houses” in which homeless people, who are pre-screened for eligibility, can live independently (at this time four males and four females live on the premises). These eight people are expected to work to earn their keep at Promise Pointe. They work for a minimum wage. Understandably, however, their earnings do not cover some items they need.

This is how we, as a church and Christ’s followers, can assist. While these individuals prepare themselves to return as productive members of society, there are certain things they need during this time of transition. The Session of First Presbyterian Church agreed that this is a need we can realistically help to meet. We are proposing, therefore, that the FPC family help support the residents of Promise Pointe during this time of traditional giving and generosity. We are asking you prayerfully to consider the list of items which appears below, and, as you are led by the Holy Spirit, to contribute anything you believe would make life better for these people who are trying their best to improve their situations.

There are several options:

***Pick what you want to buy from the list below. Those items can be brought to the church or otherwise we can arrange for someone to come pick them up from your home. We will deliver them to Promise Pointe, or Sister Rebecca has volunteered to come pick them up from the church office.

***A monetary donation is also a wonderful gift. Make your check payable to “First Presbyterian Church” and write “Promise Pointe” in the memo line. Donations can also be made on the church’s webpage at www.fpcofvictoria.org.

*List of Suitable Gifts for the Residents at Promise Pointe
as provided by Sister Rebecca:*

Toiletries:

- Shampoo:
 - for color-treated hair
 - for dry hair
 - shampoo + conditioner (2:1)
 - conditioner for dry hair
- Deodorants:
 - spray and stick (*Suave* powder, etc.)
 - men's '*Speed Stick*' (green)
- Body Lotions:
 - women's (anything that smells good – floral?)
 - men's (anything that smells masculine)
- Q-tips
- Men's cologne (any kind)
- Disposable towelettes
- Kleenex
- Shower gel (men + women) [1 request for Dove]

Not Needed: toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap (We have plenty)

Food: Note: we have 1 person who is vegan and 1 diabetic

- Brown rice
- Wheat spaghetti
- Powdered coffee creamer
- Sweet N Low
- Coffee (instant & ground)
- Small coffee filters
- Non-diet Sodas (all kind regular with some root beer)
- Canned vegetables: spinach, cream corn, mixed vegetables
- Canned beans: pork & beans, ranch style, variety
- Canned meat: tuna (no sardines), beef stew, chicken chunks, chicken stews
- Canned soups: variety
- Canned fruit: variety
- Packaged soups: variety

- Packaged pastas: variety
- Peanut butter (crunchy and smooth)
- Snack pack crackers, Oreo cookies, etc.

Not Needed: canned green beans, sardines, dry pinto beans, white rice, powdered potatoes (we have plenty)

Household Items:

- Hand sanitizer
 - Paper towels
 - Toilet paper (septic safe – not *Charmin*)
 - Trash bags (13 gal + small)
 - Small bottles of dishwashing soap
 - Laundry detergent
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A FINAL WORD ABOUT INTERNET GREMLINS!

After successfully live-streaming our worship services for several Sundays in a row, we are continuing to experience random, unpredictable degradations in the quality of our transmissions to the point where they become inaudible and unviewable.

We are working to correct our broadcasting problems, but we still experience problems from time to time. Hopefully, we will soon be able to arrive at a permanent, reliable solution.

Meanwhile, we want the members and friends of FPC to know that, *as a backup*, we will continue to post our worship services on the FPC website and Facebook page within 36-48 hours after each service. The problem is limited to our capability to live-stream in real time from our Sanctuary.

To find any past worship service on our website, go to www.fpcofvictoria.org. On the homepage, place your mouse over the tab marked "Worship Services," and then click on the words "Past Messages." Look for the service you missed and, again, click on it in order to watch it. If you prefer Facebook, go to www.facebook.com/fpcofvictoria, review the videos that are there, and click on the one you want to watch. On both our website and Facebook page, the more recent services are the ones you will see first.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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