



**WORSHIP SERVICE ON
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday, December 13, 2020, the Third Sunday of Advent, are: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; and John 1:6-8, 19-28. The sermon title is "John the First Witness," and the Bulletin is available here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/2020-12-13-Bulletin-PDF-2.pdf>.



WELCOME TO THE SESSION CLASS OF 2023

As elected at the Special Meeting of the Congregation held at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, December 6, 2020, and having been appropriately examined by the Session at its meeting on Tuesday evening, December 8, 2020, John Horadam, Lynn McAuley, and Bonnie Wilkinson will, effective January 1, 2021, serve on our Session as members of the Class of 2023.

Our worship service on Sunday, December 20, 2020, will include a special Installation Service to celebrate the commitment of these faithful Christians to the leadership of our church.

Rotating off the Session, with the heart-felt thanks of the Congregation, the continuing members of the Session, and your Pastor, are Linda Patterson, Marsha Ricottilli, and Bill Wilkinson. Although their service on the Session is complete for their present term, each of them has pledged to continue to support the missions of FPC, Victoria with their time, energy, and talent. We are grateful for their past leadership, and we know we will continue to be blessed by their faithful service in our midst.

May God grant our new leaders and all of us 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 poinsettias for \$15 per plant. You can take you 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>.



CARES AND CONCERNS

Our good friends, Mac and Kathleen McCameron, have moved to the Houston area to be with their grandson. This is their new address in case anyone would like to send them a Christmas card or other note:

Mr. & Mrs. Mac McCameron
9003 Kilrenny Drive
Spring, Texas 77379

As always, let us keep these dear members close in our hearts and prayers.



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 OVERWHELMING RESPONSE TO OUR CHRISTMAS DRIVE

FOR PROMISE POINTE

The response to our Mission Committee's call for gifts and supplies to be given to the residents of Promise Pointe for Christmas has been overwhelming! Our collection box is overflowing, and Marsha Ricottilli is busy making another one. The love and generosity of the members of this church are no secret among us, but it is wonderful when we are able to act in such a way that our love and generosity spill over into the community.

This next Sunday, December 13, 2020, will be our last opportunity to drop off contributions in our collection boxes for Promise Pointe. On December 15, 2020, we will take our gifts to Promise Pointe so that Sister Rebecca and her helpers can sort and otherwise prepare them for distribution at Christmas. If you do not yet attend our in-person worship services, you are welcome to drop off your contributions at the Church Office during normal business hours. We will make sure that they are added to everything we will be delivering to Promise Pointe.

As a reminder, Promise Pointe 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 Point. They work for a minimum wage. Understandably, however, their earnings do not cover some items they need.

Therefore, this is how we, as a church and Christ's followers, can assist. Please prayerfully consider the list of items which appears below, and please respond as you are led by the Holy Spirit.

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 Point, 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 Point" 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 Point
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
-



Christ's Kitchen has again been overwhelmed by an increase in the number of homeless who look to that organization for likely their only meal of the day. At the same time, the customary suppliers who assist Christ's Kitchen in providing desserts for the meals prepared by the volunteers at Christ's Kitchen once again cannot keep up with the demand. ***Therefore, Christ's Kitchen volunteers from First Presbyterian Church once more need the congregation's help.***

Here is a reminder, from Frances Miller and Billy Leske, concerning how each of us can donate desserts to feed the homeless on Tuesday, the day that FPC's dedicated volunteers prepare to-go lunch boxes for over 900 needy people:

1. If you are able to donate store-bought or homemade cakes, cookies, brownies, etc., you can bring them to the church office on Monday or to Christ's Kitchen (611

Warren Ave.) by 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday mornings.

2. Individual desserts such as cookies, brownies, lemon bars, etc., should be put in small ziploc storage bags before being delivered. Typical servings per storage bag are 3 to 4 cookies or 2 to 3 donuts, brownies, lemon bars, etc. Cakes or pies should be delivered in disposable, non-returnable containers.

In addition, Frances and Billy have asked me to remind everyone that Christ's Kitchen volunteers from FPC now prepare meals on Monday afternoons to be distributed on Tuesday. During this pandemic, it is safer working in the afternoon with no clients around. Masks are worn and social distancing is faithfully observed. So, if you can volunteer your time as well as extra desserts, please join Frances and Billy and other faithful members of our church on Monday afternoons as they participate in this most sacred ministry to God's poorest children.



A CALL FOR BACK-UP CAMERA HELP

“Touch wood,” but for the past several Sundays the live-streaming of our worship services has been free of technical problems. Last Sunday (December 6, 2020), our worship service ran past 11:45 a.m., due primarily to our communion service and our Congregational meeting. Our Internet connection automatically cuts off after an hour and 15 minutes, so it may have appeared to some that they lost the connection. This disconnection was as planned, however, because seldom do our worship services last that long.

A while back, I was asking the Congregation for help in finding someone to run

our camera and live-streaming broadcast on Sunday mornings. Happily, however, we have installed a system that is easy and automatic. Thus, all the camera person has to do is turn on the camera and point it in the right direction.

Sally, my lovely bride, currently does this task joyfully, and without pay! What we now need, therefore, is someone to operate our camera when Sally is out of town on a Sunday. The task involves nothing more than arriving a few minutes early for the worship service, and then participating in that service while sitting in the balcony. If you or someone you know could, every now and then, help us with our camera work, it would be a blessing.

The last time when Sally was out of town, we were unable to broadcast Bette Burris leading our worship service. Surely, we can find someone among us who, again just once in a while, can help us run the camera on Sunday morning. Please contact the Church Office if are willing to help or if you can suggest someone whom you believe we should contact.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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