



**WORSHIP SERVICE ON
SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2021**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday, January 10, 2021, Baptism of the Lord Sunday, are: Genesis 1:1-5; and Acts 19:1-7. The sermon title is "Remembering Our Baptism," and the Bulletin is available here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-1-10-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA TRADITION— A BEAUTIFUL BLESSING ONCE AGAIN

For many years, the decoration of our Sanctuary with a “Poinsettia tree” has been a beautiful Christmas tradition at First Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Linda Patterson and her dedicated helpers once again gave our congregation the Christmas gift of a magnificently adorned Chancel to mark Christmas Eve and the following two Sundays through Christmastide (December 25 [Christmas Day] – January 5 [the day before Epiphany; also known as “Twelfth Night”]). So strong is this tradition in our church that we even had a Poinsettia tree in our Fellowship Hall during the Christmases while our Sanctuary was being restored after Hurricane Harvey. The Christmas Spirit is always vibrant and alive in our midst.

As part of our tradition, congregation members are also invited to purchase a poinsettia plant in honor, or in memory, of a friend or loved one. This year, over 20 plants were purchased for this purpose. A list of those purchases was included as an insert in our Christmas Eve bulletin, but also, in gratitude to those who participated in the tradition this year, we are printing the list in this newsletter as well.

*In memory of Larry McAuley
from Ms. and Mrs. Jud and Bette Austin*

*In honor of our children and grandchildren
from Rev. and Mrs. James and Sally DeMent*

*In honor of Pastor James DeMent
In honor of Robert Wyatt
from Mrs. Sally DeMent*

*In honor of Martha Farkington
In memory of Willy Farkington
In memory of Fiench Farkington
from Ginny Itz*

*In memory of Charley G. Kidder, Sr.
from Mrs. Ernestine Kidder*

*In honor of Aubrey, Charlotte, and Morgan
Leske
from Ms. and Mrs. Bill and Paula Leske*

*In memory of Reva McAuley Harris
In memory of Larry Allen McAuley
In memory of Travis and Fammie McAuley
In memory of Margaret Manning
In memory of Sara Elizabeth Reddock
In memory of Fiench Farkington
from Mrs. Lynn Austin McAuley*

*In honor of CDR Grant W. Miller, U.S. Navy
In honor of Dr. Jess R. Miller, M.D.
from Ms. and Mrs. Wesley and Frances Miller*

*In memory of Dr. Ern C. Mooney
from Mrs. Ern C. Mooney*

*In honor of Our Choir
In memory of William Bradford
from Mr. Robert Wyatt*

*In honor of my parents, Mr. and Mrs.
Jim and Linda Spaux,
and their 61st wedding anniversary
In memory of the more than 300,000
victims of Covid-19 in the US
In memory of Fiench Farkington
In memory of Ruth Williams
from Mrs. Dawn Neel*

*In memory of Michael E. O'Sullivan
from Mrs. Maivie O'Sullivan*

*In memory of my parents, Mr. and Mrs.
Howard and Mary Kleinecke
from Mrs. Becky Richter*

*In memory of Joe F. Smesny
In memory of Marveline Smesny
In memory of Jerome Stokes
In memory of Margaretta Stokes
from Ms. and Mrs. Jim and Dolly Stokes*

*In honor of Ginny Farkington Itz
In memory of Fiench Farkington, Jr.
from Mrs. Martha Farkington*

*In honor of our wonderful church and
family
from Ms. and Mrs. Bill and Bonnie
Wilkinson*

*In memory of Grady Williams
from Mrs. Helen M. Williams*

*In memory of Lewis and Ruth Williams
from Dave and Ty Williams, John
Williams, and
Elaine and John Phillips*

<p><i>First Presbyterian Church</i> Commitment Campaign 2021</p>	
<p><i>Understanding that all we possess is a gift from God, and that God delights in the generosity of His children, I/we rejoice in pledging to First Presbyterian Church:</i></p>	
<p>\$ _____</p>	
<p>Weekly</p>	<p>OR</p>
<p>\$ _____</p>	<p>Monthly</p>
<p>\$ _____</p>	
<p>Name(s) _____</p>	
<p>Signature _____</p>	
<p>Address _____</p>	
<p>_____</p>	
<p>Phone: _____</p>	<p>E-mail: _____</p>

Many generous and faithful members of this congregation have already completed and returned their pledge cards in connection with our 2021 Stewardship Campaign. We are grateful, also, for those who were able to write an additional, supplemental check to help us close the COVID-caused shortfall in our budget for 2020. May God greatly bless you all!

If you got caught up in year-end distractions, however, there is still time for you to fill out your 2021 pledge card and mail it to (or bring it by) the Church Office as soon as possible. The Session will begin in January to set the church budget for 2021. We cannot plan to spend any more than we can reasonably expect to receive, so please help us plan and prioritize our spending for 2021 by sending us soon your good faith estimate of the financial support you expect to be able to contribute over the course of the year.



FPC'S GENEROUSITY CONTINUES

Although we anticipated that attendance for our traditional Candlelight Worship Service on Christmas Eve would be reduced due to our members' appropriate

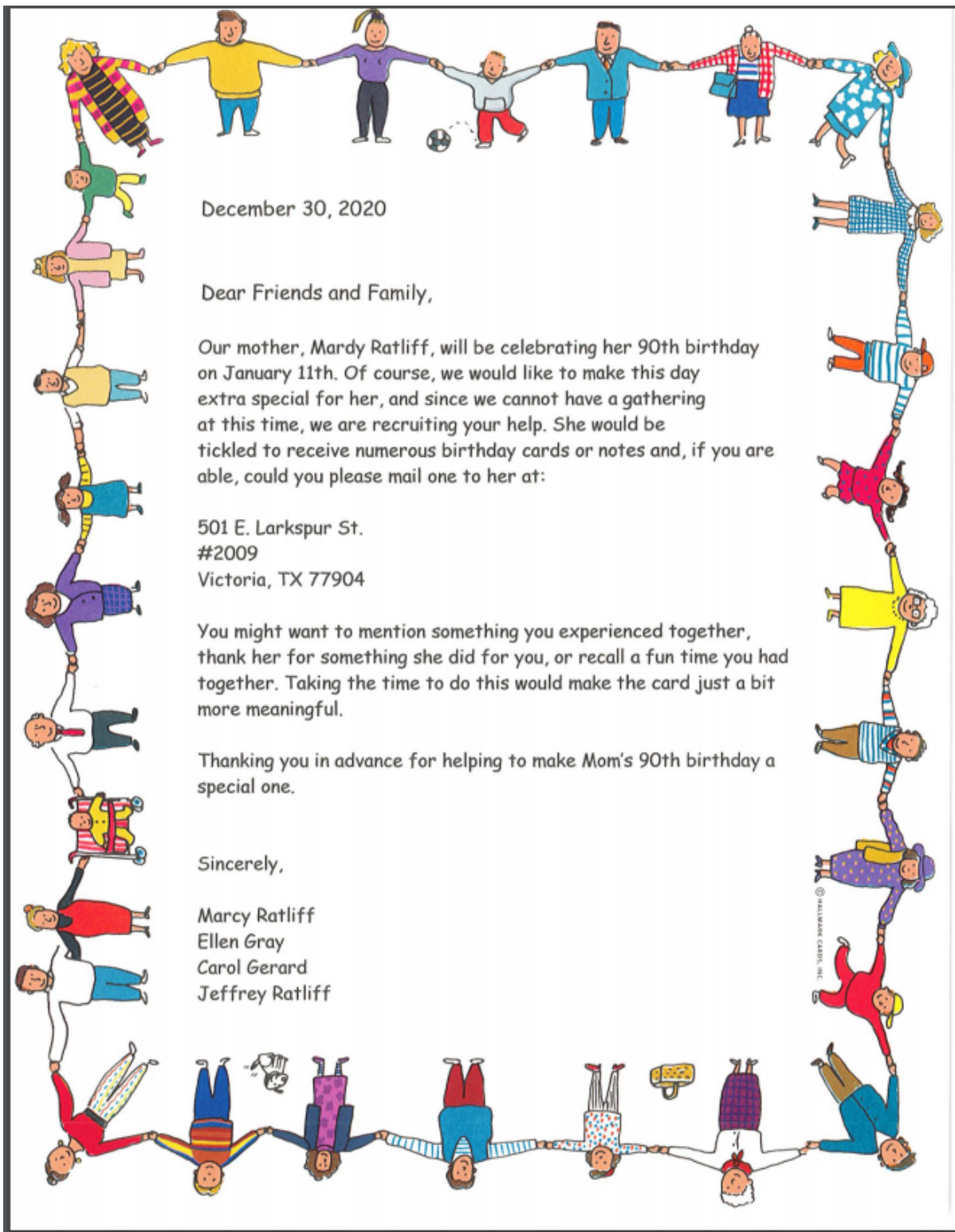
concerns about the pandemic, we nevertheless inserted into the bulletins for that service the annual “Christmas Joy” special offering envelopes we receive each Christmas season from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. The proceeds of this special offering are used fifty percent to assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. The other fifty percent makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools.

In fact, our attendance at the Candlelight Worship Service was strong considering the circumstances and considering that we were unable to sing aloud all the familiar and beautiful Christmas carols which we treasure (although Robert Wyatt played them gloriously on our new organ-- the first time the organ has been played for worship during Advent and Christmastide). Moreover, the generous spirit of this congregation was also not diminished. Led by the Holy Spirit, we contributed approximately \$500 to support the Christmas Joy special offering! May God be praised as the Christmas spirit was very much alive in our hearts at the end of a difficult year full of pain and hardship for so many.



Mardy Radcliff is celebrating her 90th birthday on January 11th! Any birthday with a “0” at the end is a big deal for any of us, but a 9-0 birthday is a very big deal! Mardy’s family has suggested that Mardy’s many friends in our church might like to send Mardy a birthday card on this happy occasion. This is a wonderful idea for our loving Christian community.

We have reproduced below the letter that we received from the Radcliff family and that sets forth the details of their suggestion. Let us help them make this a very special birthday for Mardy!



**CURRENT COPIES OF
"THESE DAYS"
AND
"THE PRESENT WORD"
HAVE ARRIVED**

The church has recently received the January/February/March 2021 edition of *“These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith.”* Upon request, we would be happy to mail a copy to any member desiring one. Also, we will place copies of the Devotional on the tables in the Narthex and in front of the Church Office for people to pick up on Sunday mornings or whenever they are at the church. Especially in these extended times of isolation and separation, the devotionals in this cherished publication are a wonderful source of inspiration, hope, and comfort.

Likewise, the Spring 2021 edition of *“The Present Word”* has arrived, and again, we would be glad to mail this lesson book to anyone desiring it. We continue to coordinate with C.F. Schneider as to when it might be prudent to resume in-person meetings of our Adult Sunday School class-- especially as the COVID vaccine becomes more widely available. Until then, however, please do not hesitate to contact the church office in order to request your copy of this publication.



Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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