

**WORSHIP SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday, March 14, 2021, the Fourth Sunday in Lent, are: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22; and Ephesians 2:1-10. The sermon title is "Faith Through Grace," and the Bulletin is available here: [https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/3-14-2021-Bulletin-PDF.pub\\_.pdf](https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/3-14-2021-Bulletin-PDF.pub_.pdf)

On Sunday, Linda Patterson will sing our anthem, "If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee," and C.F. Schneider will play "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less." Please join us in person or via the Internet to enjoy the beautiful music with which we offer praise and glory to our God.



**“SPRING FORWARD”  
BEFORE YOU COME TO CHURCH  
NEXT SUNDAY!**

This is that time of the year (for many of us, that *annoying* time of the year) when we must remember to adjust our clocks this Saturday, March 13th, before we go to bed in order to wake up on Central Daylight Savings Time on Sunday morning. In the Spring, we advance our clocks ahead one hour-- 2:00 a.m. becomes 3:00 a.m. in the early Sunday morning hours.

This is an annoying time change for so many, because we lose an hour of sleep and, equally important, if we don't remember to set our clocks, we will arrive for our Sunday morning worship service just as it is finishing up! Your preacher is among those who wish the powers-that-be would pick one time regime (Standard or Savings, it doesn't matter) and just stick with it. Meanwhile, however, we must remember to keep track of the changes twice a year in order to be in step with those around us.

By no means is this an absolution from you preacher to skip church this Sunday, but if you do wake up late for church, don't forget that we archive our worship services both on our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria>) and our website ([www.fpcovictoria.org](http://www.fpcovictoria.org)). It is worth watching our service this Sunday just to hear Linda sing and C.F. play our favorite hymns.

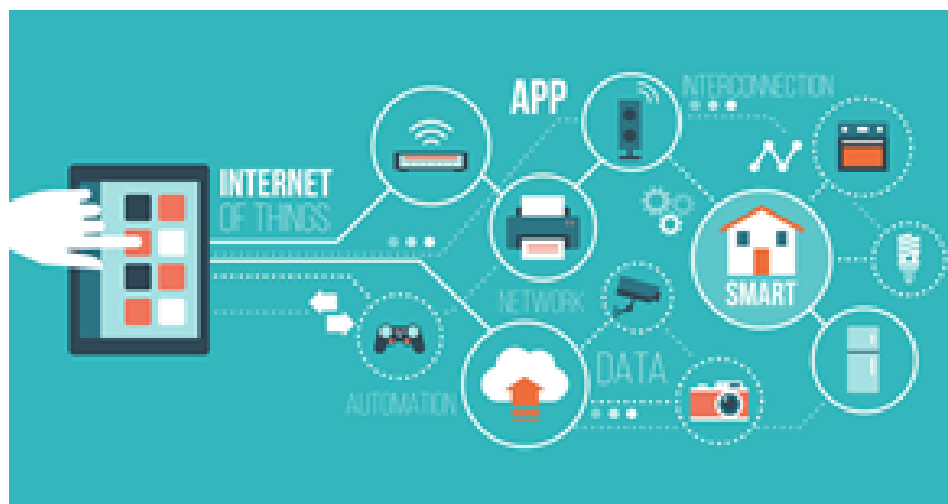
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Please mark on your calendar with these important dates during Lent:

- Sunday, March 28th - Palm Sunday - Palm branches will be distributed among the congregation.
- Friday, April 2nd - Good Friday - This will be a Service of Darkness; the Seven Last Words of Christ will be read while the Sanctuary is darkened, and the congregation will be invited forward, one by one, to symbolically nail their sins to a rough cross in the Chancel.
- Sunday, April 4th - Easter Sunday – *Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!*

Lent is a glorious time when we recall Christ's passion and crucifixion and prepare ourselves through meditation, contemplation, and other spiritual practices for the redeeming, live-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior!



## COVID-19 VACCINE APPOINTMENTS

One last time, we want to mention that the registration process to obtain COVID-19 vaccinations from the Victoria County Health Department has changed. Whereas it used to be possible to secure a confirmed appointment if the individual was lucky enough to “get through” online or by telephone, now the process has been revised.

Under the new procedures, people have to sign up online or on the phone to be placed on a *waitlist* for the vaccine. Individuals have to go to [www.victoriawaitlist.com](http://www.victoriawaitlist.com) or else phone 888-966-5640 in order to sign up for waitlist. Once that is done, vaccine appointments will be assigned in random order to those who register (not on a first come - first served basis).

Here at the Church Office, we can now claim considerable success in assisting members of our congregation obtain appointments under *both* the old and the new procedures. Ruling Elders on the Session remain available to transport members to the vaccination site once we procure an appointment. So far, everything is working smoothly-- thanks be to God!

Therefore, we continue to invite members and their loved ones (as well as friends of members and their loved ones) to contact us here at the Church Office. We will take the necessary information, and we will make sure that the person who wants a vaccination gets an appointment. When the Health Department contacts the church (whether by email or by phone), we will confirm the appointment and contact whoever we need to with the relevant information about that appointment.

As a reminder, this is the information we need: name; address (including county; it does not have to be Victoria); date of birth; telephone number; and, if you have one, email address. These are the eligibility requirements: the vaccine recipient must currently be within eligibility categories “1a” (healthcare workers) or “1b” (over age 65 or otherwise 16 years of age and older with at least one chronic medical condition that puts them at increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19; for further information: <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus/immunize/vaccine/EVAP-Phase1B.pdf>).

I am glad to report that, so far, we have not encountered anyone who has had any reservations or anxieties about taking the COVID vaccines. These vaccines are nothing short of God’s miraculous gifts to his suffering people, and I am glad to

report that the members of First Presbyterian Church appear to be embracing those gifts with joy and thanksgiving.

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**CURRENT COPIES OF  
“THESE DAYS”  
HAVE ARRIVED**

The church has recently received the April/May/June 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.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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