

**WORSHIP SERVICE ON  
SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 2021**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday, April 11, 2021, the Second Sunday of Easter, are: Psalm 133; and 1 John 1:1 – 2:2. The sermon title is “Fellowship,” and the Bulletin is available here: [https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/04-11-2021-Bulletin-PDF.pub\\_.pdf](https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/04-11-2021-Bulletin-PDF.pub_.pdf)

On Sunday, Dawn Neel will sing the beautiful, and so appropriate anthem, “After Calvary.” C.F. Schneider will be with us once again to play “Were You There (When They Crucified My Lord)?” Please help us maintain the enthusiastic level of worship that we enjoyed in our Sanctuary on Good Friday and, of course, on Easter

morning. Join us in person or via the Internet to once more enjoy the beautiful music with which we offer praise and glory to our God.

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### **PDS SUNDAY IS COMING!**

With joy, I am pleased to tell you that on Sunday, **April 18, 2021**, our young disciples in the Presbyterian Day School have been invited to come and sing for us! Naturally, this tradition was suspended last year in the midst of the pandemic, but the teachers and Board of Directors of PDS have carefully reviewed the circumstances for this year.

After careful and prayerful consideration, we believe that, as long as our in-person congregation continues to maintain the public health protocols we currently have in place, there will be little risk in having the PDS students and their parents join us for this always happy occasion. The fact that, by now, so many in our congregation have also been fully vaccinated against the coronavirus was also an important factor in our decision.

On Sunday, April 18th, let us show our support for the faculty, students, and parents of our Presbyterian Day School by coming to worship our Triune God and to enjoy the beautiful, sweet voices of God's most gift to us-- the children!

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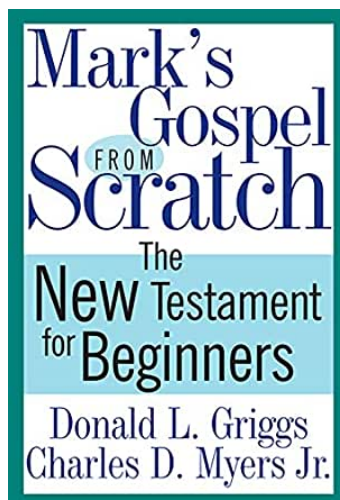
The response to the Session's plans to pursue special, specifically identified uses for the funds that members and friends of FPC donate to the glory of God and in memory of loved ones has been overwhelmingly favorable.

As a reminder, the Session has already made two decisions in response to the generous donations that the church received as memorials upon the passing of French Tarkington and Ruth Williams. First, we have purchased two additional candlesticks and candles to adorn the altar in our Chancel. These adornments match the style of the other adornments in the Chancel (the altar Cross, the Christ candle, and the processional Cross). They were on the altar (in the midst of the Lily Cross) during our Easter Service, and they will be present at all our future worship services-- reminding us that our friends will always be present in our hearts.

Second, the Session is committed to an initiative with the Golden Crescent Court Appointed Special Advocates ("CASA"), a charitable organization in Victoria, Texas that advocates on behalf of children who find themselves caught up in the Texas foster care system. The dedicated volunteers in this organization seek to protect the physical, emotional, and spiritual welfare of children of all ages who find themselves otherwise without a stable family environment. For more, see: <http://goldencrescentcasa.org/>.

Our plans are going well with CASA to establish two FPC-endowed scholarships. One scholarship would make it possible for a junior-high-aged child in CASA's care to attend a week this summer at John Knox Ranch. The second scholarship would provide full tuition to a younger child to attend the Presbyterian Day School, starting in August of this year.

I am grateful that so many members of our congregation support the Session's plans to provide scholarships for the benefit of children who need extra care and attention to succeed in life. What a Christ-honoring use of the memorial gifts received by our church!



**HERE WE GO!**  
**A SHORT BIBLE-STUDY COURSE,**  
**BEGINNING TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021,**  
**FROM 12:00 TO 1:00 P.M.,**  
**IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Let's try this and see how it goes!

Your Pastor is willing to lead a six-week Bible-study course, using as our guide, "Mark's Gospel from Scratch" (from the "New Testament for Beginners Series"). The book is authored by Donald L. Griggs and Charles D. Myers, Jr., prominent Christian educators and authors. A picture of the cover of their book appears above.

The book may be purchased on Amazon (<https://www.amazon.com/>) or at the Presbyterian Book Store (<https://www.pcusastore.com/>), and it costs about \$10, plus shipping and handling if applicable. You can search for the book by title, by authors, or by its "ISBN" number: 978-0-664-23486-7. In my experience, Amazon has faster delivery service than does our denomination's bookstore (sad, but true).

As I have mentioned in this Newsletter before, the book has six discrete chapters, each of which lends itself to a one-hour class and study session. Based on my conversations with others, I have decided that the best time to hold these weekly sessions would be **over the noon hour (12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.)** on each of six successive Tuesdays, beginning on **Tuesday, April 13th**, and ending on **Tuesday, May 19th**).

I believe this class would work best if all participants (a) read the entirety of the Gospel According to Mark in advance (it is not too terribly long) and (b) arrived for class having read the chapter in our study guide that was assigned for that class (thus, the Preface and Chapter One ahead of our first class on Tuesday, April 13th).

We will meet in person as we spread out in Fellowship Hall with appropriate social distancing. Those who are reluctant to participate in person can, if they prefer, join us by Zoom, even though they will miss the fellowship “feel” of the class. Of course, there will be no tests or written assignments(!), and no one will be chastised if they arrive at class without having read the assignment. We just want to experience the joy, inspiration, and learning that I hope will come from studying Scripture together.

Although this is not a prerequisite to attending the class (come as the Spirit moves you!), it would nevertheless be helpful if you would call the church office to “register” your interest and planned participation. It would be especially helpful if you would advise us of your plans by no later than noon, Monday, April 12th.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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