



**WORSHIP SERVICE AND
COMMUNION ON
SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2021**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday, June 13, 2021, the Third Sunday after Pentecost, are: Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; and 2 Corinthians 5:6-17. The title of the sermon is "A New Creation," and the Bulletin is available here: https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/06-13-2021-Bulletin-CommunionPDF.pub_.pdf

Linda Patterson will sing our anthem, "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight," and C.F. Schneider will lead us in the Congregational hymn, "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing."

Also, please remember that because we had a guest preacher on the first Sunday of this month, the Session elected to move the holy sacrament of communion by one week, from the first to the second

Sunday in June (for this month only). Thus, this Sunday we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. If you will be with us in the Sanctuary, those who are serving communion will still wear masks and individually serve each communicant who comes forward to receive the elements. For all who receive communion, however, the wearing of masks will be optional for those who have been fully vaccinated against COVID for at least two weeks. As before, please be prepared to receive (not take) the bread from the Elders and to 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 watching us on our website (<https://www.fpcovictoria.org/>) or our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria/>). 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.



As is the case across America and the rest of the world, the vibrant "arts scene" in Victoria has been in a COVID-induced hibernation for over a year. For that reason, the nationally renowned Victoria Bach Festival was unable to present any live concerts during its traditional concert season in June 2020.

Happily, however, this cultural drought has come to an end for the arts-loving Victoria community, as the VBF resumed live performances (with certain COVID precautions in place, of course) during the week of June 8-12, 2021. Giving many of us even greater joy was the fact that First Presbyterian Church was selected as the venue for two performances during the Festival: a noontime performance of two Bach Cello Suites by the accomplished cellist, Greg Saur, on Tuesday, June 9th; and a noontime performance by the Artisan String Quartet on Thursday, June 11th. For more information about the Victoria Bach Festival in general and this year's numerous performances in particular, see <https://victoriabachfestival.org/>.

As this Newsletter is being prepared, I can report that your pastor, your choirmaster, and several other members of this congregation attended Tuesday's performance of the Bach Cello Suites. There were perhaps as many as 70-75 music-lovers in the audience, and the performance was splendid. As so many members and friends of our church are aware, the acoustics in our Sanctuary are spectacular. Mr. Saur, the solo cellist, commented on their quality after his performance. He played his instrument without amplification from the Chancel, and every note-- from fortissimo to pianissimo-- was clear, crisp, and vibrant. What a joy it is to listen to music in our marvelous Sanctuary-- to God be the glory!



**THANK YOU
BETTE BURRIS AND JIM STOKES**

A special heart-felt thanks goes out to our guest preachers during the past two Sundays while your pastor was on vacation!

Our congregation is always grateful whenever the Rev. Bette Burris is available to lead us in worship. She is a dear and special friend of FPC, and we are always enriched when she brings us the word of God ("On the Mystery") in such a clear and thoughtful way.

And speaking of clear and thoughtful, wasn't it also a delight to have Ruling Elder Jim Stokes lead us last Sunday, June 6th? While Jim is no stranger to public speaking, the effort involved in reading and reflecting on Scripture so as to be able to discuss it in a meaningful way in front of a congregation of faithful Presbyterians can be a daunting task. Preparation and delivery are only a portion of the task; the hardest part is to find a Biblical theme to share and discuss before others. Yet Jim certainly rose to the occasion!

As was mentioned in our last Newsletter, in the Reformed Tradition, we believe that no one, not even an ordained minister, has a privileged understanding of God's word. Jim's discussion of the creation stories in the Old Testament, and his reflections on what it means for each of us to be created in the image of God, was proof-positive that faithful Christians can learn from one another as, collectively, they read and study Holy Scripture together.

Thank you, again, Betty and Jim! We look forward to seeing you in our pulpit once more whenever the opportunity arises!



**CURRENT COPIES OF
"THESE DAYS"
HAVE ARRIVED**

The church has recently received the July/August/September 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. As so many of us are aware, the devotionals in this cherished publication are a wonderful source of inspiration, hope, and comfort.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim
