



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE,  
OCTOBER 31, 2021, 10:30 A.M.**

Our Scripture readings for next Sunday, October 31, 2021, the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, are: Psalm 146; and Mark 13:28-34 ("Which commandment is the first of all?"). The title of the sermon is "A Simple Question," and a copy of the Bulletin for this worship service can be found here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/10-31-2021-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>

Please join us this Sunday-- and why not invite a friend or neighbor to join you?!

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### **GREAT FUN DURING PRESBYTARIAN DAY SCHOOL CELEBRATION**

Judging by the smiling faces in our Sanctuary last Sunday, not to mention the time spent by our visitors touring the PDS classrooms, lingering over the PDS memorabilia on display in Fellowship Hall, and chatting with one another after church, our PDS Homecoming and 75th Anniversary Celebration was a huge success! Shy children sang on our Chancel steps, our PDS teachers were celebrated, and our invited guests of PDS alumnae (students, teachers, and parents) were welcomed, appreciated, and applauded. Amazingly, three students from the founding class of PDS (1946) were present to celebrate with us, one of whom was our own dear member, Joe Cohen!

As you enjoy the sampling of pictures below that we took last Sunday, let us give our thanks and praise to God for the blessing of our Presbyterian Day School, and let us pray for the continued success of this precious education ministry supported by First Presbyterian Church.



Finally, a special word of thanks to Lynn McAuley (posters), Henry Hauschild (memorabilia), the PDS teachers (artwork in the Sanctuary and PDS halls), including Ms. Jennifer Smith who led the "PDS Choir," and our own Erica Colding who coordinated it all.

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## **A NICE NOTE FROM A VISITOR**

FPC always enjoys "fan mail," and so I would like to share with you the nice note we received from a visitor to our PDS Homecoming Anniversary Celebration. Ms. Janet Custer of Port Lavaca writes:

*Dear Friends,*

*I just want you to know how much I enjoyed the PDS Celebration yesterday. The service was very appropriate and everyone was very welcoming. I have very warm memories of my years at the school and the old church building– I really miss that basement. It came in handy for recess during bad weather.*

*Again, thank you for all the work that went into the event. You did well!!! I was present for your 25th year Silver Tea– maybe I'll see you again in 2046– stranger things have happened!!*

*Sincerely,  
Janet Custer*

Thank you, Janet, for your encouragement! We are glad you enjoyed our celebration, and we hope you won't wait another 25 years to come see us again!

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## **PREPARING FOR ALL SAINTS REMEMBRANCE**

One of the most sacred occasions of worship at FPC occurs on the Sunday when we remember those among us who have joined the Church Triumphant in the preceding 12 months. We mark this occasion on the first Sunday after All Saints Day (which always falls on November 1st).

This year we will celebrate our All Saints Remembrance on Sunday, November 7, 2021. The family and friends of our recently departed members will join us on this somber yet joyous occasion as we celebrate the fact that death has been conquered by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Those saints whom we will especially celebrate this year are: Roland Merrill, Mavis O'Sullivan, Frances Stuart, Fiench Tarkington, Jean Whitaker, and Ruth Williams. At the same time, if you are aware (whether as a family member or as a friend) of someone who should be memorialized this year, but whose name does not yet appear among the individuals just mentioned, please contact your pastor or the church office so that we may be sure that all of God's saints are memorialized in a manner befitting of our faith.

Finally, pursuant to the will of the Session, FPC is making a special effort to use the funds that we receive as memorials to our departed members in a manner that befits their memory. While our efforts to provide scholarships to young children variously to attend John Knox Ranch and the Presbyterian Day School were met with administrative difficulties this year, we will continue our efforts to provide such scholarships in the future.

Also, we have used a portion of these memorial funds to buy candles and candlesticks to adorn our altar in the Chancel. On All Saints Sunday, we will be displaying the complete set of altar candles that we have now acquired thanks to the generous memorial gifts we have from family and friends of those whom we lost in the preceding 12 months.



## VCAM

With Thanksgiving right around the corner, this month please help us fill the basket with all things Thanksgiving!

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### OUR PRAYER TREE

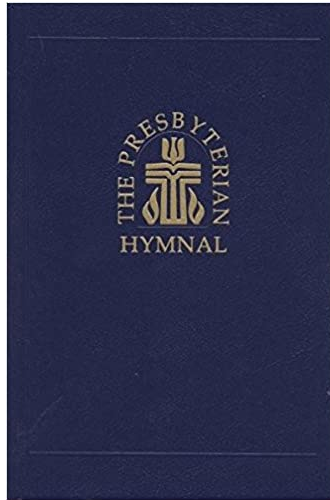
The response to our Prayer Tree, both from parents at PDS and the Vine School and from members of our congregation, continues to be gratifying. Prayer cards appear on the tree during the week and then disappear on Sunday morning!

For better visibility and accessibility, we have moved the Prayer Tree from the Narthex to the main corridor in front of the church office. Please take a card and pray for whom and for what the requester has written.

What an encouraging ministry this is for those who participate in it and for those who receive the blessings of prayer from devoted members of our church!

*- The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective (James 5:16).*

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Although the Session remains cautious about our COVID protocols during worship, with the recent, strong decline in open cases of COVID in the Crossroads Area the Session has decided to allow the use of our hymnals during our worship services for those who prefer to read the music as well as the lyrics during our congregational hymns.

Still, let us be careful and smart about masks, social-distancing, and the other common-sense safety measures we follow when we are together. Let us do what we can to help God spare us from this dreadful pandemic which has already claimed the lives of over 700,000 of our fellow Americans.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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