



**CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE,
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 7:00 P.M.**

Please plan to join us (and bring family and friends!) for our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Friday December 24, at 7:00 p.m. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, we will also celebrate the Lord's Supper. We will sing familiar, sacred carols, and we will raise our candles high as we sing "Silent Night" and then dismiss ourselves in joy.

For our church, this evening service is the pinnacle of the Advent Season. Be with us for this joyful celebration!

And please be mindful of this: even though our Christmas Eve service will be live-streamed over our usual social media outlets (www.fpcovictoria.com and www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria), the Session does not want anyone to miss this service who would like to be present in person. Therefore, the

Session is prepared to arrange a ride for any member of our church who is apprehensive about driving at night. We understand, and we want you to be safe. Nevertheless, if you want to experience the beauty of our Sanctuary and the grandeur of the music you will hear there, please let us help make that possible for you. Simply contact the church office (361.575.2441; info@fpcovictoria.org), and let us know of your needs.



**WORSHIP SERVICE,
FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY,
DECEMBER 26, 2021, 10:30 A.M.**

Our Scripture readings for our next Sunday-morning worship service, December 26, 2021 (the First Sunday after Christmas Day) are: Isaiah 52:7-10; and John 1:1-14. The title of the sermon is "Word and Flesh," and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: [abcdef](#):

Our dear friend, Rev. Bette Burris, will again be our guest preacher for this worship service. Please join us (and bring a friend!) as we celebrate the arrival of our Lord Emmanuel.

First Presbyterian Church Commitment Campaign 2022	
<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>	
\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Weekly \$ <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/> </div>	OR
<div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;"> Monthly \$ <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/> </div>	
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Name(s) </div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Signature </div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> Address </div> <div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; height: 20px;"></div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; padding: 2px;"> Phone: E-mail: </div>	

YOUR PLEDGE CARD HAS BEEN MAILED!

During our Congregational Meeting after our worship service on Sunday, December 5th, our Treasurer, Jim Stokes, acknowledged how full our mailboxes get this time of year with envelopes stuffed with solicitations for a myriad of charitable causes. Often in self-defense from the deluge of so many solicitations, we simply toss those envelopes, unopened, into the trash.

As Jim cautioned, however, be careful! Your Pledge Card for the coming year was mailed last Friday, December 10th. The envelope has a real stamp on it, in the full amount of first-class postage, so please don't overlook it!

The members of First Presbyterian Church have a long history of solid, dependable, and generous giving to support the ministries of this church. Such habits have been challenged by the effects of the COVID pandemic, but our members have remained faithful and undaunted.

Beyond surviving, our goal is to thrive in the work of the Lord, and the Session hopes you will prayerfully consider the amount you will be able to pledge to support the work of First Presbyterian Church in the coming year. Equally important, we hope you will faithfully complete your 2022 Pledge Card and return it to the church office as quickly as possible. Pledge cards are the only reliable means the Session has to responsibly plan our annual budget. We cannot reliably plan our expenses if we do not know how much income to anticipate!

After thoughtful prayer and contemplation, please complete and return your

Pledge Card as soon as you are able. God bless you for your support and generosity!



**COMING IN JANUARY 2022:
A GROUP BOOK STUDY!**

Starting in January 2022, our Mission and Outreach and Christian Education Committees are coming together to offer a book study to all who are interested. Leila Galvan and Dawn Neel will lead this nine-week study from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturday mornings beginning January 8 and running through March 5, 2022.

“Do It Afraid: Embracing Courage in the Face of Fear,” by Joyce Meyer is the book chosen by Leila Galvan and a group of her colleagues who will be joining us. Books and study guides can be purchased at H-E-B and Hobby Lobby and online at Amazon for around \$10 each.

In *“Do It Afraid,”* Ms. Meyer argues powerfully that you do not have to allow fear to dictate your decisions or determine what you will or will not do. You are free to be led by the Holy Spirit and to do everything God calls you to do. God has an amazing plan for your life, a plan our enemy, the devil, tries to keep you from fulfilling, often through fear. There may be times when you feel fear, but if you learn to do it afraid, whatever it may be in your life, you will break fear’s hold over you and find freedom to live a life of peace, strength, joy, and great fulfillment.

Come explore this and other themes with friends interested in reading and interested in intellectual exploration, friendly fellowship, and a time for conversation about Christian themes and ideas that will help and inspire us in

our daily struggles.

For more information, contact Dawn Neel at dawnspaur@yahoo.com.

Holiday Hours...



**AS A REMINDER:
THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S**

The Church Office will close at noon, Friday, December 24, 2021, and will reopen at 9:00 AM on Monday, December 27, 2021. The church will also close at noon on Friday, December 31, 2021, and will reopen at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

Unless otherwise requested, any donations to the church received or postmarked on or prior to December 31, 2022 will be recorded as a gift made in 2022.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim
