



**WORSHIP SERVICE,
JANUARY 16, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

During our worship service on January 16, 2022 (the Second Sunday after the Epiphany), we will be welcoming the Junior and Senior High Sunday School Class, led by Mike and Julie Klinkerman, from Fellowship Bible Church here in Victoria, Texas!

This class has embarked on an ambitious and impressive study of comparative Christian traditions, and after each study, they visit a church in the Crossroads Area that practices in that tradition. They have visited a Catholic church, a Lutheran church, and this Sunday they're coming to see the Calvinists! May they learn that we all love the same Lord, even though we may express our love in different ways and with different customs. Please plan to attend our worship service this Sunday (and bring a friend!), and help us welcome the enthusiastic young Sunday School students (and

their leaders) from Fellowship Bible Church.

Our Scripture readings this Sunday are: Psalm 36:5-10; and 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. The title of the sermon is “Gifted and Talented,” and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/1-16-2022-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.

REPORT FROM THE FIRST SESSION MEETING IN 2022

Joined by the newly elected Class of 2024, the Session held its first meeting of the New Year on Monday evening, January 10, 2022. It was a glorious meeting, full of optimism, hope, and joy, combined with the beginning of some hard to continue the Christ-honoring missions of FPC into the future.

One important act of the Session at our first meeting was the selection of new officers and Committee Chairs for 2022. Here is a list of the Session's decisions in that regard:

Frances Byrne – Mission & Outreach
John Horadam – Worship, Buildings & Grounds
Lyn McAuley – Ass't Clerk of Session, Caregiving & Fellowship
Dawn Neel – Finance, Ass't Treasurer, Worship
Patrick Patterson – Buildings & Grounds
Becky Richter, Christian Education, Personnel
Suzanne Salinas, Mission & Outreach
Gayla Whitaker – Caregiving & Fellowship
Bonnie Wilkinson – Clerk of Session, Personnel

Another happy aspect of our first meeting was that the Session received a report from Presbyterian Women about their activities during 2022. Your Pastor was once again reminded of the faithful service of the members of Presbyterian Women to our church, our community, and beyond. Quietly, humbly, and without fanfare, these women continuously engage in Christian service that goes unnoticed and unheralded.

Although that is the way these faithful women prefer to do their work, I nevertheless want to share with the entire congregation the following report, presented to the Session at its last meeting, of activities undertaken by Presbyterian Women in 2021

(notwithstanding the limitations and hardships arising from the COVID pandemic!). The next time you greet a member of Presbyterian Women, please take a moment to express to her your appreciation for her work and the work of all other PW members. I am certain they do not seek your encouragement, but I know they will appreciate it.

Program and Events Highlights of Presbyterian Women 2021

January through April:

No activity due to COVID 19 pandemic

May:

Annual Birthday Offering. Donations in the amount of \$844.00 were collected. In lieu of a Birthday Celebration Luncheon, individual slices of birthday cake were sent home with all who attended worship May 9

June:

Re-election of previous year's officers

July:

Installation Service of new class of officers for 2021-2022 on July 25th by the Rev. Jim DeMent

August:

COVID-19 protocols for returning Circle meetings were developed and communicated to circle members.

Bible Study Guides were ordered.

Yearbooks were updated.

Mission Focus list was compiled.

September:

Mission Focus was Christ's Kitchen.

Circles resumed with the start of the Horizon Bible Study: "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus," by Merryl Blair

October:

Mission Focus was Presbyterian Day School.

The covenant between Presbyterian Women and First Presbyterian Church of Victoria was updated and signed.

November:

Mission Focus was Perpetual Help Home.

PW annual Thank Offering on Nov. 14 with \$608.00 collected.

Remaining balance of the Presbyterian Women's Katie Heck Meyer Fund in the amount of \$1085.31 is earmarked for the Austin Theological Seminary to be used by seminary students in need of assistance for their education.

December:

Mission Focus was The Angel Tree Project. With help from the churchwide membership, twenty-eight area children in the Texas Department of Family and Protective Service's Kinship Program were given Christmas presents.



**PDS CONTINUES TO FOLLOW
CDC GUIDES TO REDUCE
COVID INFECTIONS**

Although COVID infections from the omicron variant of COVID continue to rise in the Crossroads Area (as in the case throughout the nation), and although the Presbyterian Day School has had a very small number of reported infections, students and faculty alike continue to engage in strenuous measures to reduce the opportunities for such infections.

Enjoy the pictures below, as we see how our young disciples are learning to care for one another in these difficult times:



**AFTER TEMPORARY SUSPENSION DUE TO COVID,
CHOIR PRACTICE WILL ONCE AGAIN RESUME
ON WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 5:30 P.M.**

After a brief “time out” resulting from the spike in COVID infections from the omicron variant, we are happy to announce the resumption of choir rehearsals on **Wednesday evenings, at the NEW start time of 5:30 p.m.** In an abundance of caution, rehearsals will be held in the Sanctuary to facilitate social distancing.

Despite the interruption, we are still working as best we are able to expand our choir in at least two ways: (1) with the use of “section leaders” as we were doing just before the original pandemic struck; and (2) by recruiting new members (no matter how bashful they may be!). If you have ever “thought about” singing in a church choir, now’s your chance! Please join as we begin our rehearsals anew. Not only will you have a good time singing, you will also experience the special bond of fellowship that choir members share!

Please contact Robert Wyatt before or after any worship service or otherwise please take a moment to call (361.575.2441) or email (info@fpcovictoria.org) the church office to confirm your interest.

<i>First Presbyterian Church</i> 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"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weekly	<input type="checkbox"/> Monthly
\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>	\$ <input style="width: 100px;" type="text"/>
OR	
Name(s) <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	
Signature <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	
Address <input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	
<input style="width: 90%;" type="text"/>	
Phone: <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>	E-mail: <input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>

**YOUR PLEDGE CARD
HAS BEEN MAILED!**

It is gratifying to report that completed and signed Pledge Cards are *already* being received in the church office. This is very encouraging, because as I have said (over

and over!), we cannot reliably plan our expenses for 2022 if we do not know how much income to anticipate.

Please help the Session help all of us to be good stewards of the gifts given to this church and, at the same time, be assured that the Session monitors and manages our expenses as prudently as possible. After thoughtful prayer and contemplation, therefore, please confidently join the members of our congregation who have already done so and complete and return your Pledge Card as soon as you are able. God bless you for your support and generosity!



**REPORTS OF
CHARITABLE GIVING
ARE BEING PREPARED**

And speaking of gifts to our church, Erica Colding, our Office Administrator without equal, has begun to prepare the annual Contribution Statements which will be mailed to each person for whom we have a record of making a financial contribution to First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas in 2021. These reports will first be reviewed by Jim Stokes and then mailed to the appropriate families and individuals by, we anticipate, no later than Friday, January 28, 2021. When you receive your form, please review it carefully, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Erica in the church office (361.575.2441; info@fpcovictoria.org). Once more, thank you for your faithful support of the missions of this church even in a time of pandemic and economic hardship.

THESE DAYS
Daily Devotions for Living by Faith

**CURRENT COPIES OF
“THESE DAYS”**

HAVE ARRIVED

The church has received the January/February/March edition of "*These Days: Daily Devotions for Living by Faith.*"

We have placed copies of this Devotional on this tables in the Narthex and in front of the Church Office for people to pick on Sunday mornings or whenever they are at the church. Also, upon request, we will gladly mail a copy to anyone desiring one. Simply contact the church office (info@fpcofvictoria.org; 361.575.2441), and we will send you this beloved publication right away.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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