



**WORSHIP SERVICE,
BAPTISM OF THE LORD,
JANUARY 9, 2022, 10:30 A.M.**

Please join us for worship (and bring a friend!) on Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 9, 2022, at 10:30 a.m. (the First Sunday after the Epiphany). Our Scripture readings are: Isaiah 43:1-7; and Luke 3:15-17, 21-22. The title of the sermon is "Named and Claimed in Baptism," and a copy of the Bulletin for this service can be found here: <https://fpcovictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-1-9-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>

BOOK STUDY HAS BEEN POSTPONED

The book study, "*Do It Afraid*" by Joyce Meyer, due to begin Saturday, January 8, has been postponed because of our continuous concern about the rising number of COVID cases in the Crossroads Area. Leila Galvan and Dawn Neel have decided to wait until after Easter to present the study. We regret the delay, but want to do what is best for everyone's health ("better safe than sorry"!). Hope to see you in late April!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women have cautiously resumed their regular in-person activities. Here is a schedule of those activities in the coming weeks:

- Monday, January 10, 2022: Mary and Martha Circle meeting at 2:00 p.m.

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!



**2021 CHRISTMAS EVE AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Following our long-standing tradition, the members, families, and friends of First Presbyterian Church participated in a candlelight Christmas Eve service on Friday, December 24, 2021, to celebrate the birth of God's Son, the Savior of the World.

On a technical note, some of you may have been disappointed that we were unable to "live stream" our candlelight service over our website (www.fpcovictoria.org) or our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/fpcovictoria) in real time. We have researched the glitch, but no one has been able to give us any explanation other than "this just happens sometimes!"

Happily, however, we recorded the service on the memory card in our camera, and thus this week we are working to upload the video of the service to our website and Facebook page. Please check either of those sites later this week, and you should be able to watch the service. Even though you would be worshipping "after the fact," a candlelight service is always a moving experience, and I hope you will watch the service to refresh and encourage your spirits as we enter the hectic New Year.

Meanwhile, we have put some pictures (taken by Susanne Salinas -- thank you so much, Susanne!) of the candlelight service here, so that you may see (or recall) the beauty of the evening:



2022 NEW YEAR'S SERVICE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

And while we are sharing pictures, here are some more (again taken by Susanne Salinas) of our first worship service of 2022 (January 2, 2022, the second Sunday after Christmas Day):

SESSION MEETING, MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022, AT 6:00 PM

Our Session will meet on Monday, January 10, 2022, including the newly ordained and installed Class of 2024. New committee chairs will be selected, as will a new Clerk of Session.

Please pray for our Elders as they seek humbly and wisely to lead our congregation through the coming year, a year like past years that will be full of challenges and opportunities. Pray that the Session will meet both with wisdom, courage, and enthusiasm.

Also, this is a good time to mention *why* we publish Session member's names on the back of the Bulletin every Sunday. It is so that you will know who

they are in order to contact them with any ideas, suggestions, or concerns you may have about the church. The Session takes its leadership responsibilities seriously, and each member sincerely desires your input so that she or he is better able to faithfully serve this congregation.

**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@fpcovictoria.org; 361.575.2441), and we will send you this beloved publication right away.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim
