November 21, 2021 Announcements

We're glad you joined us today!
We hope that you experience the love of God
and of this congregation as we worship, celebrate, and serve together.



Adult Education In-person Class:
"Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction"

Continues Sunday, November 21, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 223
(No class Sunday, Nov. 28 - for 10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Advent Workshop)

This class taught by **Dr. John Parks,** continues November 21, and resumes December 5, 12, and 19.

As serious literature, good stories offer what Mathew Arnold called a "criticism of life." Stories invite readers to a reflection upon our condition in the world. This often entails grappling with spiritual and moral issues such as innocence and guilt, loyalty and betrayal, choice and fate, meaning and emptiness, hope and despair. Our exploration is prompted by reading stories by Edgar Allen Poe, Stephen Crane, Ernest Hemingway, Willa Cather, Katherine Anne Porter, and Raymond Carver. We may find that these stories offer a diagnosis of our condition and a challenge to our beliefs. Stories to be discussed are posted in *News@First* and on the church website under the "Grow" tab. They are also provided as printed hand-outs in the class and the church office one week prior to discussion.

New Adult Education Zoom Class
"Advent: The Season of Hope and Expectation"
Tuesday, November 23, 11:30 a.m. - Tuesday, December 28



In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Church celebrates Advent. It is a season when the Church prepares for Christmas Day—the great celebration of God, the Savior, coming to us in Jesus Christ. In this time of waiting and anticipation, we will focus on what Advent brings as Christ comes. The class will discuss together the rich biblical and theological terms centering on the message we proclaim as we tell the world of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Join with others to engage in the wonder of preparing for Christ's coming. All are welcome! The class will be led by Elaine Barnett, a member of FPC, an elder and a Certified Christian Educator. You can sign up for the class by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com.

November 23: Advent Hope
November 30: Advent Peace
December 7: Advent Joy
December 14: Advent Love
December 21: Christmas Savior
December 28: Epiphany Light

ENDING HUNGER
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

Attention: Middle School and High School Students
We Need Your Help — Receive Volunteer Hours for School
Monday, November 22

Join us to help those less fortunate at All Faiths Food Bank! This counts toward community service hours for school! It is a great opportunity to give back and show how thankful we are for all God's blessings to us. Meet us at All Faiths Food Bank (8171 Blaikie Court 34240) at 8:10 a.m. for coffee and treats before we begin this much-needed work. We will finish at 11:30 a.m. We need a minimum of ten volunteers! Bring a friend or relative to join us! Sign up through *News@First.*





The four weeks before Christmas—the season of Advent—is a time of waiting and preparation as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. We are excited to begin Advent with a special workshop on **Sunday, November 28, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** This is an intergenerational opportunity for you to connect with your church family. There will be lots of activities for all. Presbyterian Women, the Membership and Fellowship Committee, and the Education and Formation Committee, have teamed up to offer the 2021 Advent Workshop.



One way to teach children about watching and waiting—but not waiting in vain—is with flower bulbs. Tables will be set up in our labyrinth with the supplies you need to pot your own **paperwhite** and watch it grow at home.



Join the fun and fellowship and make some amazing **holiday crafts** —including Advent wreaths for your dining table, front door, or to give as a gift! We will have fresh greens, ribbon, decorations, candles, and frames for your family to create your own beautiful **Advent wreath!** (*If you can donate ribbon, small Christmas ornaments or other decorations you may have, please drop them off at the church office or bring them to the workshop.)* **We hope to see *YOU* there!**

Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

NEXT TRIP: Wednesday, December 1
Work at Beth-El: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

You are invited to be a part of the group from FPC, Sarasota, that gathers at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma to volunteer sorting food or related activities. Due to the holiday schedule, this will be our one day trip for November / December. **We meet at Beth-El at 9:00 a.m. and work until 12:00 noon.** This mission partner distributes food to help 600-900 folks each week. To sign up please contact Dave Householder: dphouse47@gmail.com; call or text (724) 462-4235. Let us know of your interest in carpooling. Come and make a difference!

Presbyterian Women

Your financial support to PW is important. Please send in your pledge this month so that we can make our year-end mission donations and you can take the charitable contribution credit on your tax return. Make your check payable to Presbyterian Women and either mail it to the church office or drop it off while you are on campus. If you have any questions, please contact our PW treasurer, Mary Webb, at (941) 758-6035.

On **Tuesday, December 7, at 11:30 a.m.,** all women of the church are invited to lunch at MADE Restaurant for a time of fellowship. The restaurant is located at 1990 Main St, #112, Sarasota, in Courthouse Centre.

International Fair Trade Holiday Sale at Covenant Mennonite Fellowship

(5420 Ashton Road)
Sat., Dec. 4, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Shop from an array of Fair Trade jewelry, Christmas ornaments, toys, folk art, coffee and chocolate, collectibles, wall hangings, kitchen and tableware, and Nativity scenes.

All sales benefit artisans in developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. Find unique handcrafted holiday gifts AND support farmers and craftspeople in developing nations. Fair Trade guarantees a living wage to workers.

For more information, contact our member, Jean Martin, who will be serving at the event (phone (941) 544-4474 or email jean.martin4474@gmail.com). She will be most happy to welcome anyone from First Presbyterian!

Christmas Poinsettias



As the joyous season of Christmas approaches, our thoughts turn to holiday traditions. Each year we decorate the church with poinsettias for Christmas. Plants may be ordered in memory, or in honor, of loved ones. **To assure quantities, all orders are to be submitted by Wednesday, December 14**. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with "poinsettia" in the memo. Order forms may be turned into the office.

Number of poinsettias at $10 each: _____

Paid by check #: _____

Amount by cash: _____

Name:_____

Home phone:_____

IN MEMORY OF_____

_____

IN HONOR OF _____

_____

Please check one:

___ I will pick up my poinsettia(s) after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

___ I wish to donate my poinsettia(s) to the homebound.

___ I wish to help deliver to the homebound.

Memorial Service

All are invited to attend the memorial service for **Betty Fee on Monday, November 22,** at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

HEALTH and WHOLENESS

First Presbyterian Blood Drive

Mark your calendars! Our next SunCoast Blood Drive is **December 19, 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

Contact **Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse,** to sign up: (941) 320-3828; 4tracks@comcast.net

You may use the Quick Pass to begin the blood donation process on the day of your donation.
Access Quick Pass at https://suncoastblood.org/donate/quickpass/

2022 Offering Envelopes

Beginning Sunday, December 5, through Sunday, December 19 there will be a table set-up for you to pick up your 2022 offering envelopes. Please pickup your envelopes so we can avoid the cost of mailing.

If you have received envelopes in the past and you decide you will not need them for 2022 or if you have opted out in the past and would like to have a box for 2022, please contact Lisa Garcia, Finance Manager, by calling the church office (941) 955-8119 or by email at Lgarcia@FirstPresSarasota.org.

FPC Sarasota Giving Options

Offering baskets will be available as you exit. Your gifts make a great difference during this transitional season.

Online: If you are interested in giving electronically through our secure e-giving process, please visit FirstPresSarasota.org and select the online giving button.

Texting: Are you interested in the convenience of contributing by text message? Text FPC2050 to 73256 to donate via text. Standard rates may apply.

Mail In: All mail, including contribution checks, securely arrives to our church office.

Weaving
a new tomorrow

Stewardship Pledges

Appreciation goes to those who have already submitted their pledge. If you have not yet completed yours, pledge cards are available through the church website (www.firstpressarasota.org). You may also call the church office to request that a new stewardship packet be mailed to you. Each gift is appreciated!

If you are not currently receiving the weekly electronic newsletter, *News@First,* and would like to, please call the church office at (941) 955-8119 or email info@firstpressarasota.org to sign up!