**September 11, 2022 Announcements**

*We're glad we can worship together today!*
*We hope that you experience the love of God and of this congregation as we worship, celebrate, and serve with one another.*

# *Thank you, Molly Horner*



Please join us in thanking Molly Horner for the time and commitment she has given to the children and youth of FPC. We regret to share with you that Molly will be stepping down from her position as FPC Children and Youth Coordinator, effective Sunday, today. Her other job has recently increased its demands on her schedule, and she no longer has the time to fulfill her duties at FPC. We are grateful for the love and joy she brought to our community, and we wish her well in all of her endeavors!

We will be looking to fill the part-time position of Children and Youth Coordinator as soon as possible. In the meantime, the Education and Formation Committee will be working hard to meet the needs of our families with Sunday school, service opportunities, and other programming this fall. If you are interested in volunteering with our committee, please let us know!

Emily Weitekamp and Carrie Mills

Co-Moderators, Education and Formation

**Sunday School starts TODAY**
**for children of all ages.**

**Meet in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m.**

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Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity
SURE

**Your Presence is Requested**
**To Meet Newly-Appointed SURE Executive Director, Dai Thao**
**Sunday, September 11**
**10:00 a.m.**
**Between Services in Fellowship Hall**

First Presbyterian Church, one of SURE's 21 congregations, is excited for you to meet and greet SURE Executive Director, Dai Thao.

God is with us as we continue to plan and work together to create a more just Sarasota. SURE's mission is based upon reality, needs, justice and facts. Once a yearly plan is voted upon at our Community Problems Assembly, SURE goes forward with action.

Come meet Dai on September 11 between services in Fellowship Hall. Let him know your joys and concerns. Working together, we look forward to an eventful 2022-23 calendar of SURE accomplishments.

## *The Education and Formation Committee Wants to Hear from You!*

Planning is underway for the upcoming year of opportunities for our entire congregation to learn about and grow closer to God. The Education and Formation Committee seeks information and ideas from you to help shape this vision. Please take a few minutes to complete the online survey using the link or QR code below to contribute your opinion. The survey will remain active until the end of September, although we will begin reviewing responses as they are received. Please reach out to **Emily Weitekamp** or **Carrie Mills** with your questions

Here's the link and a QR code to the survey:

https://forms.office.com/r/bKaM28M9WD

## *Peace and Global Witness Offering*




The Peace and Global Witness Offering supports the efforts of the church at every level and provides witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Gifts to the offering are divided in the following manner: 25% retained by First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota for support of our own peacemaking ministry; 25% used to support presbytery and synod peacemaking efforts; and 50% forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. **We will receive this special offering on World Communion Sunday, October 2**.
We hope everyone can participate in this important sharing of our treasure.

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## *Join the FPC Mission Trip to Our Partner Church in Cárdenas, Cuba February 9 – 15, 2023*



**Interested individuals and families may now sign up for the trip to Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cárdenas, Cuba, in the province of Matanzas.** Some members of our congregation visited in two previous trips, and **Pastor Alison Infante Zamora** spoke here in 2017.

On this trip we plan to develop relationships with members of Juan G. Hall Church and learn about their culture, trials, and achievements while sharing our own. A detailed itinerary is on a link in *News@First* and in this month's *Cross Connections*. We anticipate the cost of this trip to be about $1,500 (US dollars). Financial assistance from the **Mission and Justice Committee** will be available.

For specific information about the area and what it's like, contact **Sue Hargis Spigel,** hargisspigel@yahoo.com or (941) 735-8786, or **Graham Hart,** 2grahamhart@gmail.com**,** for information about their experiences in Cuba. For details about the Cuba Partnership go to https://www.cubapartnersnetwork.info/. To get a feel for Juan G. Hall go to their Facebook page: **https://www.facebook.com/Iglesia-Presbiteriana-Reformada-Juan-G-Hall-en-C%C3%A1rdenas-1096173980413073/?ref=br_rs**

Talk to any on the planning group **(Dave Householder, Rachel Martin, Jay Swick, Sue Hargis Spigel, Karen Olson, and Graham Hart)** to learn more. We will need both "senders" and "goers" to make the trip possible. To sign up, send a note to Dphouse47@gmail.com with what you would like to do.

## *Town Hall Meeting*
## *Sunday, September 18 at 10:05 a.m.*




Recently the congregation was asked **what their dream for our church is**. The responses have been very helpful in guiding the Session and Stewardship Ministry Team. Together we are holding a town hall meeting on **Sunday, September 18 at 10:05 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall, to share the responses of our dreams for the future of FPC.** If you are unable to be present, there will be three additional town hall meetings: **Sunday, September 18 at 12:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and Wednesday, September 21 at 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., both by Zoom**.

## *Fellowship Hour - Sundays Between Services*

Are you hungry or thirsty, and looking for conversation between the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services? The **Membership and Fellowship Committee** invites all church members and friends to come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy hot and cold drinks along with a multitude of baked goods, fruit, crackers, and cheese. This is a good time to **reconnect with people** you haven't seen for a long time and to meet new people.

If you would like to help the team on occasion with setup, cleanup, or bringing snacks, speak to anyone you see setting up or clearing up, or contact Joanne Simons, SimonsJC1@gmail.com, or Sue Hargis Spigel, hargisspigel@yahoo.com.

## *FIRST PRESBYTERIAN AT BRENTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL*





Our church was featured twice on FaceBook following the breakfast served by volunteers from the *Invest in Children* Initiative for the teachers and staff of Brentwood Elementary School on their first day back! One post was from our own FPC office with several photos and the other was from Brentwood with additional photos. The note that accompanied the photos from Brentwood said this: *HUGE "Thank you" to First Presbyterian Church!! They gave our staff a warm welcome back on August 3 — a beautiful breakfast! We are so thankful for their commitment to loving on our staff and students. We look forward to seeing our volunteers back on campus this year.*

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## *FPC'S Weekly All Faiths Food Distribution*

With gratitude to All Faiths Food Bank for a generous $3,000 Capacity Expansion Grant, we have expanded our food offering and **are now averaging over 100 families per week!**

Thanks for the generous donation of time from our FPC volunteers who help make it possible for us to continue to run our drive-through pantry. More volunteers are needed. Please consider **joining us on Thursday mornings to volunteer.** We start packing food at 8:30 a.m. and serve from 10:00-11:30 a.m.



UPcoming EVENTS

HEALTH and WHOLENESS

## FPC Blood Drive: NEXT Sunday, September 18

SUNCOAST BLOOD CENTERS

Anyone who donates twice from June through September will receive a $20 Amazon gift card! Please contact **Cheryl Track,** Faith Community Nurse to register, (941) 320-3828, 4tracks@comcast.net

## Donate Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids

Look for the Lions Club box located in church office to donate eyeglasses and hearing aids you no longer use. Contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, for more information, (941) 320-3828, 4tracks@comcast.net

## Mental Health First Aid Refresher Class

If you took the Mental Health First Aid class April 2019 at First Presbyterian and would like to renew your certification, FPC will be hosting the class **Friday, September 30, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** There will be no charge to attend the class without receiving certification; $30 for certification. Tracy Daniels, BayCare Behavioral Health Educator, will be the instructor. Please contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse to **register by Monday, September 19,** (941) 320--3828, 4tracks@comcast.net

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## Pastoral Care

When you or a loved one is hospitalized, it is important that you contact the church or one of the pastors to inform us directly **and** inform the hospital that you are a member of our congregation and would welcome a visit by one of our pastors. ***Hospitals will not contact the church.*** We have also discovered that some will no longer even list a patient as our church member on their internal records unless the patient is careful to note their relationship with our congregation. Thank you for your assistance.

## We're Here for You!

The FPC care team, Stephen Ministers, deacons, elders and church staff continue to be available for you. Please feel free to reach out to **Cheryl Track,** Faith Community Nurse (941) 320-3828 or call the church office (941) 955-8119 if we can be of support to you.

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## FPC Sarasota Giving Options

**Offering baskets** will be available as you exit. Your gifts make a great difference!

**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:** Text FPC2050 to 73256 to donate via text. Standard rates may apply.

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!