



August 13, 2023 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.*



The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Sara Hurst Jenoure in memory of Edgar & Antonia Hurst and in gratitude of her church family.

Summer Sermon Series - by Rev. Timothy Boggess

This summer, while many of you find yourselves traveling from one place to the other, we are going to explore some of the Bible's greatest road trips. The title of the series is *Road Trips: Stories of Faith on the Move*. Each Sunday, the sermon title will come from the title of a great travel story.

August 13	<i>In a Sunburned Country</i>	1 Kings 19:1-16
August 20	<i>The Worst Journey in the World</i>	Jonah, selected
August 27	<i>Lost in My Own Backyard</i>	Acts 9:1-22
September 3	<i>A Voyage Long and Strange</i>	Acts 18-20, selected

I hope that you will join us either in-person or online. It's going to be a journey to remember!



Join the 2023-2024 Sunday School Team!

Are you interested in connecting with the FPC children and youth beyond what you hear during the children's moment? The Education and Formation Committee is searching for congregation members who want to build relationships and share their love for God with our youngest disciples. We need teachers for all three classes: Pre-K-2nd, 3rd-5th, and 6th-12th. Please contact Emily Weitekamp at emily.weitekamp@gmail.com if you're interested. **If you are interested but cannot commit to a full year, we still encourage you to reach out. Subs are always needed!



Boys in the Boat - ALL CHURCH EVENT

This Summer the Education and Formation Committee invited you to "Follow Me and Step Into the Boat" by reading, watching and even stepping into a boat for an adventure. Together we read the book or watched the movie *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

Now its time to STEP INTO:

**Benderson Park Boating Adventure
Sunday, August 27 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Benderson Park on the island. Take the east bridge and follow it down to the left.

Attire: water shoes or old sneakers

Cost: \$10 per person Paid by check, memo line: Benderson Boat.

****Must be 6+ to participate.****



Join your church family and STEP INTO a Dragon Boat! Team Building Specialist Don Bickel will lead us in conquering land challenges for team bonding. He uses playful games to build communication and trust to prepare the group for a dragon boat adventure. The real connection happens on the water learning the synergy of paddling a 20 person dragon boat together. Teams learn the commands to paddle as one boat. We will finish with a race to victory, but everyone will be a winner after a day on the water together. Spots are limited so RSVP soon! Questions about what to expect? Contact Emily Weitekamp at emily.weitekamp@gmail.com or our boating guide Don Bickel at dbickel0825@gmail.com

See more information and sign up in *News @ First*



Now Is A Great Time...

To add your voice to our Chancel Choir! This welcoming group will give you spiritual encouragement, artistic growth, and a place to serve. And *Celtic Christmas* music starts soon. No audition is required, although some rudimentary music reading skills are needed. Give us a try this Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in the Forum. Call Steven at (850) 567-3197 if you need that last little nudge to get you in the door!

Gifts Are Being Received in Support of A Celtic Christmas

This major outreach will draw hundreds of people to our church campus. This year our choir teams up with the Lubben Brothers Band, The Tallahassee Irish Step Dancers, Musica Sacra, and bagpiper Kevin Weigand. Your support will help us celebrate the season and serve our community!



From the Director of Christian Education Search Committee:

The educational ministry is critically important to the life of FPC at every age. The committee searching for a Director of Christian Education (DCE) has begun its work with the goal of calling a full-time DCE to lead all our congregation's many educational programs. We are honored to be beginning this search and plan to keep you informed regularly. Please pray for the work of committee members Elaine Barnett, Leah Cotter, Carrie Mills, Joanne Simons, Seth Stottlemyer, and Emily Weitekamp as they seek the person whose education, experience, and sense of call will bless our family of faith.

LGBTQ+ Fellowship Group

This new group meets monthly for encouragement and discussion about spiritual life. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, August 13 at 12:30 p.m. at the home of James Jordan and Steven Phillips 6908 Kimberlyn Circle. Lunch will be served. Call Steven at the church office to let us know you're coming, (941) 955-8119



Mark Your Calendar:

August 27 Rally Day NOTE DATE CHANGE Meet new Sunday School teachers and get ready to kick off a new year of Sunday School classes.



Kayaking Day, September 9

Kayak day is coming! Meet your church family on Saturday, September 9, at 8:40 a.m. on the bay side of Turtle Beach (8918 Midnight Pass Road), Siesta Key. Bring your own kayak or rent from our preferred vendor, Ultimate Kayak SRQ at (941) 720-8807, and ask for the discount rate for FPC. Call Pete by Thursday, September 7, to reserve: a single kayak for \$35 or a double kayak for \$40 for 3 hours. Pay them by credit card or cash.

We'll paddle in the bay down to peaceful Midnight Pass Beach to swim in the Gulf, if you like. Bring sunscreen, hat, clothes that can get wet, and water. Afterward, we'll have lunch at Turtle Beach Grill. If you don't want to kayak, meet us at Turtle Beach Grill around 12:30 p.m.. For more information, call or text Wendy Miller (941) 321-8488.

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget
July		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	\$63,440.71	\$60,398.53
Expenditures	89,402.59	78,603.55
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	680,100.64	616,814.06
Expenditures	\$584,583.43	\$584,336.70

Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillments, especially during the summer months.

If you would like to receive our Friday E-Newsletter, News @ First, please call the church office, (941) 955-8119 or email, info@firstpressarasota.org.

