December 26, 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.



Epiphany of the Lord
Sunday, January 9 - One service only at 10:00 a.m.

This year we will celebrate **Epiphany** in worship on **Sunday, January 9, at 10:00 a.m.** in the sanctuary. In keeping with our practice, each worshiper will receive a star-shaped piece of paper on which will be written a single word. The word you receive will become a "star to follow" for the coming year—a particular way for you to watch for God at work in the world and in your life. If you would like a star mailed to you, please call the church office (941) 955-8119 or email Rachel Martin at RMartin@FirstPresSarasota.org.

If you have a story to share of what it meant to follow your star in 2021, Margaret would love to hear it! Just give her a call (941) 955-8119 or send her a note (mltorrence@firstpressarasota.org).

Following worship, we will gather in the fellowship hall for **a reception to honor Lydia Chapdelain,** who is stepping back from an official staff role as our Children and Youth Leader. Lydia will continue to be an active member and parent in our community, but we want to celebrate the heroic work she has done in the last couple of years. Please come and share your thanks in person on January 9 (we'll have a **basket available to receive any notes** you may want to share with her).



New Eight-Week Adult Education Class
"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals"
January 16, 23 & 30; February 13 & 20; March 6, 13 & 20
In-person at 10:00 a.m.

Most of us who have had pets intuitively understand that animals are wonderfully noble and have a capacity to love that only can come from God. However, we never hear much in church about animals—why God created them or what God intends for them. The scope of grace is vaster and more creative than we once thought. Bible verses such as Colossians 1:15-20, which speak of God's interest in all things, in fact abound in the Old and New Testament.

Several academic theologians are beginning to think freshly about all living creatures as players in God's plan. This class will draw on their work and set before the participants the biblical evidence that God's intention is to preserve all things, bringing them to perfection and a joyous, harmonious existence. We will consider the nature and destiny of the whole created world.

This class will be taught by **Doug DeCelle,** retired minister, and **Hal Serrie,** anthropologist.
For more details about this unique class, visit Doug DeCelle's website:

https://www.douglasdecelle.net/every-living-creature-gods-design-for-animals/

Presbyterian Women Events



Join us **Tuesday, January 4,** at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our guest is **Cindie Moore** from the **Association of Mam Christian Women for Development.** She has recently been to Guatemala and will give an update on the Mam, an indigenous people living mainly in the western highlands of Guatemala. Cindie will also be making a warm fruit punch similar to one the Mam women serve.

If you have any unused postage stamps to share, please leave them in Mary Webb's mailbox in the church office or bring them to our January meeting. We will be addressing birthday cards to our circle members.

Saturday, February 5, 2022 - Peace River Presbytery PW Annual Gathering at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers, 9:30a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Worship service with special music and communion, business meeting and a biblical fashion show followed by lunch. The cost to register is $15. ***Please contact the church office no later than Monday, January 10 to register and drop off your registration fee*** for Mary Webb. Please make checks out to Presbyterian Women and put "annual gathering" in the memo line. Mary will then submit the one required registration form with the names of our attendees. Scholarship funds to cover the cost of registration are available for anyone who attends and requests it. Contact Flossie Paul at (941) 779-6055 or Pamela Lamb at (941) 210-7478 if you wish to carpool or have any questions.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Inc.



Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Sponsored by the Mission and Justice Committee

NEXT TRIP: Wednesday, January 26
Work at Beth-El: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

You are invited to be a part of the group from First Presbyterian, Sarasota, that gathers at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma to volunteer sorting food or related activities on the last Wednesday of each month. This mission partner distributes food to help 600-900 folks each week—a lot of help is needed. To sign up or for more information, please contact Dave Householder at dphouse47@gmail.com; call or text (724) 462-4235. Let us know of your interest in carpooling. Come and make a difference!



Former FPCS Pastor, Rev. Susan DeWyngaert, Retiring

Our former pastor (1997-2011), **Rev. Susan DeWyngaert,** will be retiring after 39 years of ordained ministry. She has served four congregations including First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota. Throughout her years she has touched many lives.

As a celebration of Susan's life and ministry, Susan's daughters, Sarah DeWyngaert Bumgarner and Rachel DeWyngaert Workman, are putting together a book of notes and photographs from people who were impacted by her life. Please write a note to Susan to be included. It can include a favorite or cherished memory, a photograph, a note of gratitude or admiration. Everything will be assembled into a scrapbook and given to Susan upon her retirement. Remember to sign your name!

Please send your items by **January 30, 2022.** You may email a copy to Sarah Bumgarner at: sarahkdbum@gmail.com, or mail a printed or handwritten version to Sarah at **693 Counsel Drive NE, Marietta, GA 30068.** Please include a photo if you can! If you are interested in sending a video format, please email Sarah in advance to make arrangements.



Faith Focus Weekend / Pastoral Development Seminar
Wednesday - Sunday, February 2-6



The Rev. Neddy Astudillo, a Venezuelan eco-theologian and PC(USA) pastor will be our guest speaker for Faith Focus Weekend. Neddy coordinates GreenFaith's Latinx and Latin America Organizing and Training program. Neddy has a Doctor of Ministry in "Greening the Church." In 1998, she co-founded the Angelic Organics Learning Center, a farm-based nonprofit organization, where people connect with food, farming and caring for the earth. Neddy teaches eco-theology at seminaries in the U.S. and Latin-America.

There will be a special intergenerational event on **Saturday, February 5, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall for our church and community. Neddy's presentation on Saturday morning is titled, ***Ministering with the Earth: What Is Climate Change and What Can We Do About It?*** The environmental and climate crisis challenges us to look at our relationships with nature, understand its root causes, and find our moral and spiritual tools to overcome the crisis. We will reflect and consider faith-based solutions to the environmental and climate crisis. **The CLEO Institute** based in Miami will also be part of the Saturday presentation.

THE CLEO INSTITUTE
IT'S TIME FOR A CLIMATE CHANGE OF MIND

In addition, several **hands-on art and plant-related activities** will be offered. Following Neddy's presentation a $10 boxed lunch will be provided. Be sure to sign up for the lunch in advance by calling the church office (941) 955-8119 with your reservations.

Wednesday - Sunday, February 2-6, will be an exciting time of supporting young pastors while also learning together about climate change. It has been a long time since these two important ministries has been able to occur so mark your calendars to include the many ways we all can participate.



Wednesday, February 2, seven guest pastors will arrive on our campus along with the **Seminar Leader, Rev. Lori Raible,** Pastor of Selwyn Avenue Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. The pastors are from Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. They were originally going to come October 2020 and February 2021, but COVID changed those plans. They have already been meeting together with Lori via Zoom. There will be sermons to hear, meals to share, a Sunday class to attend, and delightful young leaders in the Presbyterian Church to get to know.

All are invited to come hear and offer feedback to these young pastors on their sermons to be preached at **9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 3, and at 9:00 a.m. on Friday morning, February 4.** This group will share learning times together and also moments of fun and recreation, thanks to the kindness of a number of members of First Presbyterian. Sunday morning, **Neddy will be preaching at both worship services and the seven pastors will be leading a Sunday School class at 10:00 a.m.** talking about their ministries; calls, joys, and challenges. It's going to be a great weekend—don't miss it!

Farewell to Sexton Rob Ostermann

We are grateful to Rob Ostermann for serving as our sexton for the past five years. His last day with us will be January 7, 2022. Our prayers and best wishes go with him. Notes of appreciation may be sent to Rob at the church:

Rob Ostermann
First Presbyterian Church
2050 Oak Street
Sarasota, FL 34237

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming FPC Sarasota Blood Drives

Sundays, March 20 and June 12
8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

On Sunday, December 19, 24 life-saving units were collected—potentially saving the lives of 72 people. Thank you to all who donated!

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/

Invest in Children - Bountiful Blessings!



Thank you for your generous contributions of over $8,000 in gift cards or cash contributions for the 16 families and 50 Brentwood students. The gifts were distributed in festive bags filled with beautiful Christmas stockings for each child and a special gift bag full of gift cards for the family.

Your over-and-above gifts provided additional grocery gift cards for each family! A check for undesignated contributions has been sent to Brentwood for ongoing needs of their students. Thank you, again, for bringing a Christmas blessing to these Brentwood families—and for praying for them, and others, whose needs are so great.

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.

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!