May 28, 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,

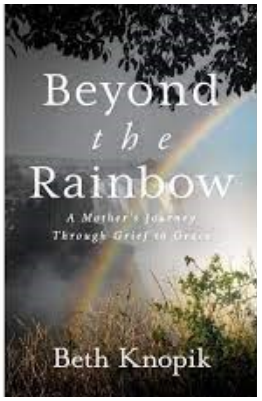
The flowers today are dedicated to the glory of God and to this congregation by Fran & Alan Lawrence in appreciation for all the love, support and prayers they have received from their church family.

PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

Pentecost is Today

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. **We will be taking the Pentecost Offering today**.

Please Join Us for a Book Event in June!



Our very own, Beth Knopik, has written a memoir entitled, *Beyond the Rainbow,* following the loss of her teenage daughter, Leanna. The book was released in the fall of 2022 and has received 5-star reviews on Amazon and Barnesandnoble.com. On **Sunday, June 25**, Beth will host a book event in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m., immediately following the New Song service. Beth will answer questions from 10:00-10:15 a.m., and have books available for purchase for $15 each.

Synopsis of *Beyond the Rainbow*:

In June of 2012, vibrant 16-year-old Leanna Mae Knopik was hospitalized with a rare and sudden cardiac infection. In this unflinching account of her final month of life and the searing sorrow that followed, a grieving mother finds a path to true joy through God's grace.

Beyond the Rainbow describes in candid detail the arduous task of piecing a family back together in the wake of tragedy, and the transformative spiritual awakening that emerges. Not just for the bereaved, all readers will benefit from the author's journey through searing pain and her ultimate discovery of God's grace. This memoir offers a model for how family members can move through grief. It presents an honest and complete examination of the coping skills that worked for Beth and her family—and the ones that did not. The goal of *Beyond the Rainbow* is twofold: 1) to ease the path to healing by offering a roadmap through the early stages of grief, and 2) to broaden the reader's perspective on loss; with God's grace, they can and will live a joyful life.



Cedarkirk Traveling Day Camp is Back!
June 12– 16
See News @ First to Register

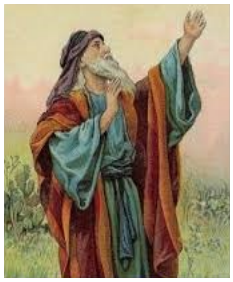
SCAN ME

We need volunteers!

There will be a Volunteer Rally on **Sunday, June 11 at 4:00 p.m.** We will do a quick orientation, final set-up, and host a welcome meal with our Cedarkirk Counselors for the week.

Scan the QR Code to sign up to volunteer.

New Adult Education Class



The Prophets Still Speak
Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. June 13 -July 25
(no class July 4) via ZOOM

Old Testament prophets were concerned with many of the same issues as Christians today: issues of righteousness, obedience, social justice, and visions of hope for the future. This study explores how what the prophets proclaimed to the people of their time still has urgency and importance for our time, as well. This class will be led by Elaine Barnett, a member of FPC, an Elder and Certified Christian Educator. Register by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com.

June 13- Session 1. Prophetic Calls
June 20 -Session 2. Amos and Micah: Calling for Social Justice
June 27- Session 3. Isaiah of Jerusalem: Calling for Righteous Leaders
July 11- Session 4. Hosea and Jeremiah: Calling for Single-minded Devotion
July 18- Session 5. Ezekiel and "Second" Isaiah: Calling for Chastened Hope
July 25- Session 6. "Third" Isaiah and Jonah: Calling Forth a Broader Vision

Invest In Children

You've done it again! In May, because of your generosity, Invest in Children provided a delicious food truck meal for the **Teacher Appreciation Week Celebration** at Brentwood Elementary School and a yummy ice cream truck treat for **all the students** as they celebrated the conclusion of the school year! Thank you for blessing and honoring the students and the teachers in this unique way! It's been a SuperStar year!



College/Continuing Education/Technical School Scholarships



Scholarship money is available for the upcoming school year. Interested students and families should go to the website www.firstpressarasota.org, go to "Grow" tab and select "Young Adult" and print application. The application and transcripts must be received by **Saturday, July 1.** Transcripts, including those from the spring 2023 semester, should be included or forwarded as soon as available. Returning applicants need only to have transcript sent and update their contact information. All college and technical school students are encouraged to apply.

Stephen Ministry

We like to think of ourselves as being self-reliant and we pride ourselves on being able to take care of our own needs, but sometimes life surprises and humbles us. We simply may not be able to deal with a problem all on our own. A sudden change in life, a loss, unwelcome news, and yes, a bad healthcare diagnosis can create a crisis that may become overwhelming. Possibly, you are too close to a person or involved in a situation to be able to offer help. At times like this, it may be important to have someone listen, care, and walk with those who are hurting. That is the wonderful service that Stephen Ministry provides. Stephen Ministers are trained to provide emotional and spiritual support for people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time.

If you or someone you know needs a Stephen Ministry, please call the church office (941-955-8119) to speak with Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse or Timothy Boggess, pastor.