

November 14, 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.*



New Member Class / Luncheon - THIS Sunday, November 14, 12:15 p.m.

If you are interested in membership with this vibrant congregation, please join us in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to getting better acquainted with you!

Adult Education In-person Class: "Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction" Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in Room 223

This class taught by **Dr. John Parks**, continues today and November 21. It does not meet November 28, then class 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 will be 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.



Collection for Farmworkers - THIS Sunday, November 14

FPC is an ongoing supporter of Misión Peniel in Immokalee, providing assistance to area farmworkers. See the insert for a list of non-perishable foods and personal care items being collecting to help this community in great need. Financial donations may also be given (instructions on insert). You may leave your donations at the entrances to the services today—or drop them off this week in the church office. Your gifts make a difference!



Hanging of the Greens - Saturday, November 20 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Be a part of the fun and festivity of bringing our sanctuary and fellowship hall alive with greens and other lovely decorations for the Advent and Christmas season. Please call the church office if you would like to help!

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

Children and Youth News

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*.



Presbyterian Women

Thank you to all who participated in the seed-packing event for Hope Seeds International Inc. Together, we prepared 2,500 packages of tomato seeds!

Your financial support to PW is important. If you normally give when we meet together, then it is easy to forget to mail in your PW pledge. 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.



Bible study is on **Wednesday, November 17, at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom**. We will be discussing Lesson 3 on Rahab from the *Horizons* 2021-2022 study guide. All are welcome. The study guide is not required to participate. Please contact Elaine Barnett at (941) 792-0670 for the Zoom link.

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 Street #112, Sarasota, in Courthouse Centre.

Invest in Children

The Blessing Trees are Coming!



Watch for the Blessing Trees to appear on **November 21!** These are special trees, filled with gold stars that offer opportunities to bless some of the Brentwood Elementary School families who are in need of support this Christmas. In previous years, we have shopped for gifts for the children but last year, because of the pandemic, we presented them with gift cards. With the lingering uncertainty about COVID-19, our Invest in Children Steering Committee has decided to request gift cards again this year.

The gift cards will bless 50 children (students at Brentwood and their siblings) with two \$30 gift cards and their parents with at least two \$50 grocery gift cards. On the tree, there will be stars requesting gift cards for \$25, \$30, or \$50 or checks of any amount to support this project. Select the star/s of your choice and record your selection on the sign-up sheet nearby. Thank you for your ongoing support for our mission partner, Brentwood Elementary School, especially in these difficult times. The families from this Title 1 school will be blessed by your generous support.



A Celtic Christmas

*Join a joyful and colorful celebration
with acclaimed musicians
directed by Steven Phillips*

Friday, December 10
7:00 PM

General seating
\$10 suggested donation
Face masks required

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2050 Oak St, Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119
www.firstpressarasota.org



Sarasota Music Club, which is holding its concerts at First Presbyterian this year, invites you to an entertaining program on **Friday, November 19** at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The program is free and open to the public. The barbershop quartet, known as *Afternoon Delight*, will be presenting a program titled "A Delightful Interlude." We hope you'll join us.

International Fair Trade Holiday Sale
At Covenant Mennonite Fellowship (5420 Ashton Road)
Saturday, December 4, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

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!



Memorial Services

Please mark on your calendar memorial services for

- **Irene Halsted and grandson on Thursday, November 18, 2:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary
- **Betty Fee on Monday, November 22, 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.** 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.



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!