COVID Update: On June 3, the CDC assessed Sarasota County's COVID risk level as "high." In keeping with our current session policy (printed on the back page of this announcement sheet), masks are now required of all worshipers. (Worship leaders may choose to lead without masks, since being maskless makes it easier for those persons to be understood.) Thank you for doing what we can to slow the spread of the virus. When we return to a "medium" or "low" risk assessment in the county, masks again will be optional for those who are fully immunized.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

June 5, 2022 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.



The Reverend Craig Miller's First Sunday as Bridge Pastor

The session is delighted to officially welcome **The Rev. Craig Miller** today! Craig has agreed to serve as a short-term bridge pastor/head of staff. We anticipate that he will serve until our new pastor is called.

Craig obtained a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1980 and recently retired from full-time ministry after serving churches in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Florida. The Millers have moved into a condo on Siesta Key where they will spend most of their week. It is their desire to live in community with us. Their permanent home is in Sun City Center. We are grateful to have Craig and his wife, Donna, joining us for the homestretch of the Pastor Nominating Committee's search.

Pentecost Sunday



Today, on Pentecost Sunday, at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, we welcome **Rev. Craig Miller,** our new bridge pastor, on his first Sunday at FPC. We will

- share in **communion** with individually sealed cups,
- receive the **Pentecost Offering,** which supports children at risk; ministries with children and youth, including the Youth Triennium; and the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program,
- come to the **Meet-and-Greet in the Fellowship Hall** between services (10:00-10:45 a.m.) to meet Craig Miller and his wife, Donna.

Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering received today—June 5, benefits children at risk (10 percent), as well as the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program (25 percent), and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (25 percent). The remaining 40 percent allows congregations to give to local ministries that benefit vulnerable children, youth and young adults. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect us with children, youth and young adults and offers them opportunities to build futures of hope, and lives of vibrant faith.

Stories of Faith and Difference: The Sequel
Friday, June 24, 6:00 p.m.



In late April a group of over sixty persons gathered for dinner and an informative, inspiring conversation around the life stories of our LGBTQ+ members. Because of the overwhelming response, we have planned a follow-up evening, sponsored by our deacons, on **Friday, June 24, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. This open conversation will focus on how we can better nurture and support our LGBTQ+ children and youth, and also how our congregation can better welcome persons of difference into our church. A generous time will be allotted for questions and reflections. Suggested donation for dinner is $10 per adult and $5 per child. Call the church office at (941) 955-8119 to let us know you are coming.

FamilyPromise

Francis House News

Blessings abound! Several months ago, the first mother-to-be and her 10-year-old son moved into Francis House, Family Promise's home for pregnant homeless women. Soon after, she gave birth to a beautiful, healthy baby boy. With support and guidance, the family planned to eventually leave Francis House and secure their own living quarters and employment.

Success! The mother arranged for childcare and is working two jobs. Several Family Promise volunteers helped the family move to their new home over Memorial Day weekend. Family Promise gave the mother the bassinet/changing table she used at Francis House, ensuring ongoing comfort for the baby. First Presbyterian Church members were extremely generous, providing additional gifts including an air purifier, sheets and comforters, flatware, a dining table and chairs, and lamps. ***The Mother and son were overjoyed with your love and care!***

June – First Presbyterian Church Weekly Hot/ Healthy Meals! Francis House will be deep cleaned while new mothers-to-be are being identified to live at Francis House. Our church will provide the hot/healthy meal each week the house is occupied during the month of June. Please contact Pam Mathes if you wish to help: **pjmathes@hotmail.com**

Thank you! Your kind spirit and good hearts have given mother and her family a brand-new start. May God bless you!

Reusable Grocery Bags Needed for Weekly Food Pantry

We are grateful to our faithful team of volunteers that distributes food for All Faiths Food Bank to our community neighbors each Thursday on our campus. One year ago an average of 35 family units received food; currently, an average of 80 individuals or families are served.

You can support this ministry by contributing sturdy reusable grocery bags with handle straps. Please drop your donations off at the church office.

PW Triennial Gathering

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Synod of South Atlantic (SOSA) Epworth **PW Triennial Gathering is Friday, October 21, through Sunday, October 23.** Located in St. Simons Island, GA**,** Epworth by the Sea is a beautiful and peaceful retreat center. The gathering theme is "Plug In and Recharge."

There will be some exciting speakers, plenary leaders, and a special Saturday night guest, along with time for shopping, learning, worship and fellowship.

Our PW has funds available to cover the cost of transportation and registration fees as well as lodging and meals while at the event. If interested in attending, contact Pamela Lamb at (941) 210-7478. More information can be found at pwsosa.com.



Pavilion Construction has Begun

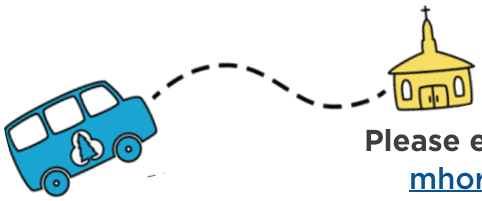
The remaining supports from the old pavilion between the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall have been removed and staging is in place to build the new roof. The wood from the original pergola did not hold up well in our harsh Florida conditions.



This adaptation will create a wonderful versatile outdoor covered space. We have lacked an area on our campus that offers protection from the hot sun. The new pavilion will give us a shaded place that will be used year 'round for gatherings, receptions, and other events. It may even be a space for a class or a concert—the possibilities are endless.



This building project was funded with $25,000 from a Linnie Dalbeck grant, with the remainder from the J. Barr Trust designated account. The structure is scheduled to be completed in mid-July. You will continue to be updated on the progress.



FPC's Traveling Day Camp

Monday - Friday • JUNE 13-17, 2022

Please email Molly Horner, Children and Youth Coordinator
mhorner@firstpressarasota.org, with any questions

First Presbyterian Church is excited to partner with **Cedarkirk's Traveling Day Camp** as they bring their camp program to FPC. You can check out Cedarkirk's website at **https://cedarkirk.org.**

These camps range from age Pre-K to 5th grade with volunteer opportunities for middle and high school youth. There are full-day camps, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ($100), half-day camps (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon ($50), and other options for consideration. You can quickly access online links for registration, payment, volunteer sign-up or making a donation to the program:

https://firstpressarasota.org/grow/children/daycamp/

Adult Education Zoom Class: "Only By God's Grace" Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m., continuing June 7 – 21



As Christians, our worship, theology and way of life all emerge in response to the grace of God. The Church proclaims the grace of God; and as members of the body of Christ, we endeavor to share God's grace with others: by word and deed, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In this class we are exploring what it means to live out the grace of God and perceive God's amazing grace around us. This class is led by **Elaine Barnett** via Zoom on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Elaine (ewbarnet@me.com) to participate. Lesson titles are:

June 7 - Gracious Lives of Others
June 14 - Practicing God's Grace
June 21 - God's Amazing Grace



Session COVID Policy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a tool which assesses COVID-19 risk on a county-by-county basis. According to the CDC, "Levels . . . are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area." They then assign a low, medium, or high risk.

At its April 26 meeting, the session adopted the CDC's community-level risk assessment tool as our guide for masking requirements on the FPC campus.

- **If Sarasota County's risk is determined to be "high," masks will be required of everyone who is indoors on campus, unless that person is alone in a room.** (An exception will be granted to the preschool, which determines its own policy regarding masking.) **Communal meals/receptions will not be held indoors when Sarasota County's risk level is considered "high."**
- If the risk level for the county is considered "low" or "medium," masks will be optional for all who are fully vaccinated. (**As of June 3, Sarasota County is rated "high."**)

Regardless of assessed risk-level, it is the session's desire to create a mask-friendly environment, in which anyone who chooses to wear a mask, even when it is not required, will feel supported in that decision.

Here's the CDC website:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html

Thank you for the flexibility and concern for your neighbors that you have demonstrated since the earliest days of the pandemic. You continue to be an inspirational community!

Our Condolences

Our brother, Andrew Millar, son of Cindy and Glenn Millar, died May 17, 2022. The memorial service will be Saturday, June 18. The details are yet to come. Notes of condolence may be sent to

Glenn and Cindy Millar
736 Shorecrest Drive, Sarasota, FL 34232-2490

Our brother, Charlie Proctor, died May 29. The memorial service will be in June 23 at 11:00 a.m. in the FPC chapel. Notes of condolence may be sent to Charlie's wife:

Ann Proctor
6852 Corral Court, Sarasota, FL 34243-3857

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.

Mail In: All mail, including contribution checks, securely arrives at 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!