



October 3, 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.*



***If you are interested in membership with this vibrant congregation,
please contact Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Transitional Pastor
(mltorrence@firstpressarasota.org), or call the church office (941) 955-8119.***

World Communion Sunday / Stewardship Dedication Today!

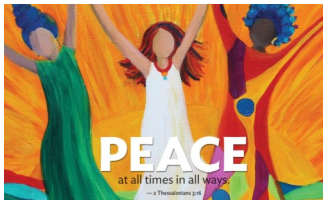
- **One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.**

We celebrate World Communion Sunday by sharing the Lord's Supper together, along with followers of Jesus around the world! The lovely woven piece on the communion table is the result of weaver, Valerie Sharir's artistry, last Sunday. Thank you to the many who contributed items of personal significance to become part of our special tapestry.



- **Dedication of Pledges**

During the service, an opportunity will be given to bring pledge cards forward and place them in a basket as a symbol of the dedication of our lives to the purposes of God. If you have already submitted your pledge, or have not yet had the opportunity to complete one, blank forms will be available for your use, so that all may participate.



Peace and Global Witness Offering Received Today

The Peace and Global Witness Offering supports the efforts of the church at every level and provides witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Gifts to the offering are divided in the following manner: 25% designated by our Mission and Justice Committee, will go to PC(USA) / Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for humanitarian relief in Afghanistan and Haiti; 25% will be used to support presbytery and synod peacemaking efforts; and 50% will be forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. We hope everyone can participate in this important sharing of our treasure.

Called Congregational Meeting TODAY - Sunday, October 3, 2021, 11:15 a.m. In-person AND via Zoom following the World Communion Sunday Worship Service

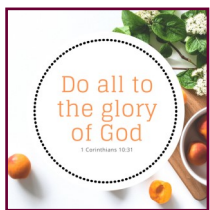
The session has called a congregational meeting to follow the 10:00 a.m. worship service for the purpose of electing church officers (elders and deacons), congregational nominating committee members, and a seven-member Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). A booklet of nominees' biographies is available today and in *News@First*.

Members may take part and vote either in person or via Zoom. If you intend to participate via Zoom, please note that each voting member will need to sign on from their own smartphone or computer in order to vote. We do not have the capability to record more than one vote from a single device.

All church members are asked to participate in this important meeting. This is a milestone moment as we elect the PNC that will conduct the search for our next pastor! Both in-person and Zoom participants will be able to vote. The Zoom link is in Friday's *News@First* and also below:

Join the Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82278570100?pwd=NVIwUGQ0TXd2RXJ6NEJPT0JUNVlWZz09>



New Adult Education Class: “Do Everything for the Glory of God” – Begins THIS Wednesday, October 6, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Presbyterian Christians find their identity as part of a wider theological movement, called the Reformed tradition. Its origins are in the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation. These reformers sought a reform of the church in accordance with scripture. This study provides some Presbyterian perspectives on Christian beliefs.

Our Presbyterian heritage is rich and deep.

These lessons are aimed to spark interest and nurture our Christian faith so we may “do everything for the glory of God.” This class via Zoom will be taught by Elaine Barnett beginning on **Wednesday, October 6 at 1:00 p.m.**, and continuing Wednesdays until November 10. You may sign-up by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com.

Oct 6 - Creation for Presbyterians
Oct 13 - Providence for Presbyterians
Oct 20 - Salvation for Presbyterians

Oct 27 - Church and Sacraments for Presbyterians
Nov 3 - Christian Life for Presbyterians
Nov 10 - Hope for Presbyterians



***No Video/Discussion Series This Sunday - Resumes October 10
10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall—for adults of all ages!***



Presbyterian Women

PW Service Project Workshop - Tuesday, October 12, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, making breast surgery recovery pillows and fidget blankets (for dementia and Alzheimer patients for restless hands). No special skills required. Bring a sack lunch. Donations of construction materials needed by October 10 (see list in

News@First). All are welcome!

Save the Dates:

Saturday, October 16, 2021 - Autumn Retreat at Cypress Lake Presbyterian in Fort Myers

Saturday, February 5, 2022 - Annual Gathering at Covenant Presbyterian in Fort Myers

Monday, March 28 and Tuesday, March 29, 2022 - Spring Retreat at DaySpring Conference Center in Ellenton



SURE FPC House Meetings – Register Now!

There's still time to register for this week's SURE Zoom house meeting on **Monday, October 11, at 7:00 p.m.**

Please register in advance for this meeting through the link in *News@First*.

FPC's Partnership with All Faiths Food Bank

Join our fun team of volunteers and help distribute food to our community neighbors **Thursday mornings, 9:15-11:30 a.m.**

The food distribution is by drive-through with volunteers loading cars as clients circle in the parking lot (between 10:00 and 11:30 a.m.) Volunteers are needed each Thursday. Task options include sorting and distributing food, setting up, cleaning up, and directing traffic.

For information or to sign up, contact Bob Kirkpatrick: rkirkhv@aol.com or (941) 355-0809; or Dave Householder: dphouse47@gmail.com or (724) 462-4235. You may also sign up through the link in *News@First*.





Faith Focus Weekend **Saturday & Sunday, October 23 & 24**

The Rev. Paul Roberts, Sr., President of Johnson C. Smith Seminary (Atlanta, GA), will be returning to FPC, Sarasota, as the keynote speaker for Faith Focus Weekend. The weekend theme will be: “Bridging the Gap: Conversations of Hope and Healing toward Racial Reconciliation.”

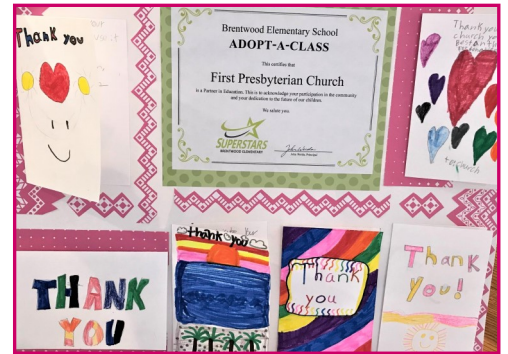


A special event on Saturday in the Fellowship Hall for our church and community will include a **panel discussion** led by members of the **Manasota Interracial Book Club**, a thriving group inspired by Rev. Roberts three years ago. **Rev. Roberts will also offer a presentation** exploring avenues everyday people can take to help build a more just and equitable society. He will preach in both worship services on Sunday, October 24.

Invest in Children



Though visitors and volunteers are currently not permitted on Sarasota School District campuses because of COVID-19, there are other ways we can support our mission partner, Brentwood Elementary, a Title 1 school. One of those ways is to Adopt a Class! By giving \$100, all of the gift goes to the class to purchase extra resources that range from dry erase markers to computer software, learning centers, books, and more!



When the school year began in August, Invest in Children “adopted” four classes. These “adoptions” were possible because of donations from four of our generous families.

There are still many classes that would benefit from our gifts. You, too, can adopt a class through our Invest in Children program by sending a check for \$100 (to First Presbyterian Church with “Brentwood Adopt a Class” in the memo line). Smaller amounts earmarked for BES Adopt a Class can be combined to reach the \$100 needed for an adoption. It’s a worthwhile investment! Thank you for your support for this creative program!

Music to Our Ears



The Sarasota Music Club, a member of the National Federation of Music and the Florida Federation of Music Clubs, has been providing excellent music programs in the area for over 90 years. Because of COVID, programs were not held last year.

The Music Club is happy to announce that this season, on the third Friday of each month, October 2021 through March 2022, all are invited to their performances at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, in the Fellowship Hall to enjoy the music. The first program will be **October 15** at 10:00 a.m. All programs are free of charge. Performing in the October program will be Jane Hoffman, flutist, accompanied by Donald Bryn at the piano. They will be performing Broadway show tunes.

During the year, there will be varied programs, including a barbershop quartet, jazz, and classical performances. In December, there will be a program of Christmas music. We invite you to come and enjoy this delightful music. You can find information cards in the church office with a complete listing of programs.

Thank You to All Who Volunteered at the Rise Against Hunger Meal-Packing Event September 19



First Presbyterian Blood Drive

Please mark your calendar for our next SunCoast Blood Drives, **October 24** and **December 19**.

iTNSunCoast™ iTN Update

Dignified transportation for seniors

iTNSunCoast regrettably announces that it has suspended its senior transportation services due to a lack of volunteer drivers.

The organization hopes to regroup, build up a new fleet of volunteer drives, and resume operations in the future. iTNSunCoast has provided a list of transportation alternative which may be accessed in *News@First*.

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!