FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 27, 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.





Palm/Passion Sunday Service
April 10, One 10am service
- Potluck brunch to follow
- Easter Egg Hunt outside, 11:15am

Maundy Thursday Service
April 14, 7pm
- Communion & Tenebrae

Easter
Sunday, April 17, 9am & 11am

Plan Now for the Annual Tradition of Our Easter Cross!

First Presbyterian's **Easter Cross** will be prepared for you and your family to place flowers on it before or after the services on **April 17.** The cross will be stationed in the courtyard near the Fellowship Hall for the 9:00 a.m. NewSong service; it will be outside the entrance to the sanctuary for the 11:00 a.m. traditional service. You are invited to bring your own flowers or use some of the flowers that will be provided.

March 27 - Lenten Devotions for Children and Families

Dig in . . .



Today, many churches will read the Bible story called "the Prodigal Son" in Luke, chapter 15, verses 11 to 32. The story is about three people: a wasteful son, a son who followed rules, and a forgiving loving dad. Some people don't call it "The Prodigal Son", they call it "The Forgiving Father" because the dad in the story forgives and loves just like the way God forgives and loves, and the dad does what God wants all of us to do.

Question . . .



What does the word "forgive" mean to you? Is it difficult or easy to forgive? Is it difficult or easy to ask for forgiveness? Keep praying to God and ask to become more forgiving.

And . . .



This story is a parable. Find out what a parable is. Does the Bible have other parables? Yes, many. Here are a few from Luke chapters 14, 15, 16: Lowest Seat at the Feast (Luke 14:7–14) Invitation to a Great Banquet (Luke 14:16–24) The Cost of Discipleship (Luke 14:28–33) Lost Sheep (Luke 15:4–7) Lost Coin (Luke 15:8–10) The Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32) The Shrewd Manager (Luke 16:1–8) The Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19–31)

The complete Lenten devotional guide is available through *News@First* for your family to use at home. Printed copies are also on hand as you leave the service.

Sunday School for Children and Youth during the Season of Lent

For Sunday school during Lent, we are meeting all together—preschool to high school. Our youth are helping the little ones, but they are also getting some time on their own. With the leadership of all of our Sunday school teachers, we are singing, playing, creating, studying, and reflecting on the scripture for each week. We hope you can join us to "dig in" to the Lent season with your church family and become closer to God through fellowship.



"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals" Adult Education Class Offered via Zoom Continues This Wednesday, March 30, through April 3

The class is on **Wednesdays, at 12:00 noon by Zoom.** The Zoom link is in *News@First,* our Friday electronic newsletter. This class, taught by **Doug DeCelle,** retired minister, and **Hal Serrie,** anthropologist, presents the biblical evidence that God's intention is to bring all living things to a joyous, harmonious existence.

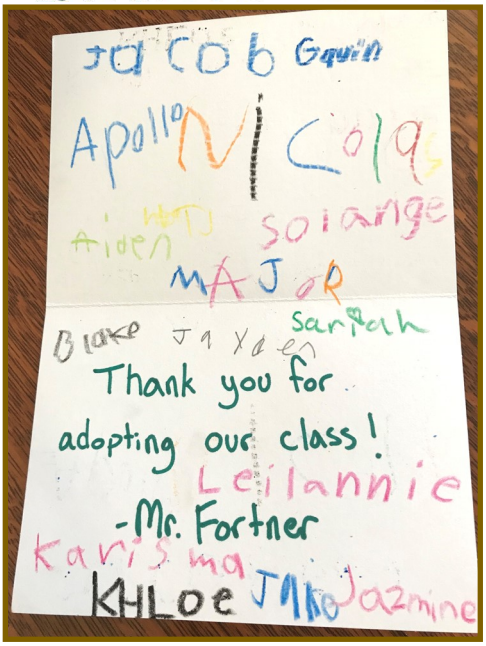
For details visit Doug DeCelle's website:
https://www.douglasdecelle.net/every-living-creature-gods-design-for-animals/

Look to the Cross: A Lenten Study Adult Education Class Offered via Zoom Continues This Tuesday, March 29 through April 12

Lent is a time to focus on the cross as a central symbol of Christianity. Biblical and theological perspectives are being explored to understand why and how Jesus' death is so crucial to our faith. This class is led by **Elaine Barnett via Zoom and held Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. Use the link in *News@First*** to join the class. The lesson title for **March 29** is "Picturing the Atonement."

Invest in Children





Thank you notes from Brentwood Elementary School continue to arrive! The note at left is from Mr. Fortner's class which we adopted in February. Mr. Fortner teaches a combined second/ third grade class of ESE (Exceptional Student Education) students. Thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for your support of Mr. Fortner and his students with special needs.

To find out ways that you can help at Brentwood through *Invest in Children,* contact **Jinny and Ron Miller** at (941) 371-2750, ext. 554 or email jinnyron@gmail.com. They would be happy to hear from you. The students and teachers at Brentwood are waiting for YOU!

Presbyterian Women
Tuesday, April 5 Lunch, 11:30 a.m.

On Tuesday, April 5 at 11:30 a.m. all women of the church are invited to meet for lunch at the **Breakfast House, 1817 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota.** You need not be an active member of PW to attend. Guests are welcome, too. There is ample parking and both inside and outside seating. No reservation is needed to attend The Breakfast House menu featuring soups, sandwiches, salads, and breakfast items can be found on their Facebook page.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: UPDATE on UKRAINE



Many churches are **already providing assistance with basic items for survival. PDA's first priority is to provide funding to partners on the ground.** PDA anticipates that **response from its trusted partners with expertise will include both financial and technical assistance** as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

Ukraine FAQ

What exactly is PDA doing?

PDA is in the emergency response phase, primarily supporting refugees in transit (Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Ukraine in addition to refugees who have crossed borders) with food, hygiene items, potable water, baby supplies, first aid, psychosocial support and more. PDA's partners on the ground have shared that they anticipate this crisis to require mid-term and long-term response, so the needs will change over time. For the most up to date information, visit www.pcusa.org/PDA/Ukraine

A heartfelt thank-you goes to those who have already contributed. **We sent a check this week for $3,300** from last week's contributions—for **a total of $6,050 to-date.**

To support the response by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, make your check out to First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, with "Ukraine" in the memo. You can also give online via our church website or by texting giving. Please select "Psby.Dis.Asst." fund and "Ukraine" in the optional memo.

Tear off and submit form with your check by Monday, April 11!



Easter Lilies & Hydrangeas

Easter is April 17. If you would like to purchase lilies or hydrangeas for Easter Worship Services, please fill out this form and return it with your check (marked with 'lilies' in the memo) to the church office.

Order deadline: Monday, April 11 (No orders can be accepted after this date)

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY.

Name of donor:

_____

_____

Number of Lilies @ $12 each _____

Number of Hydrangeas (limited quantity) @ $20 each _____

Amount Paid: _____ Check # _____

In memory of :

_____

_____

In honor of:

_____

_____

☐ I will pick up my lilies.

☐ I wish to donate my flowers to homebound.

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK'S

CAMPAIGN AGAINST SUMMER HUNGER



This morning we have a group of FPC walkers who have gathered at Nathan Benderson Park for devotions, and then to take part in the **WALK TO END SUMMER HUNGER.**

You can join your FPC family in helping All Faiths Food Bank kick off the **2022 Campaign Against Summer Hunger**. Over 40,000 children could go hungry this summer, but Summer Hunger is a problem we can solve together!

Even if you didn't participate in today's walk, you can still support this effort by making a contribution payable to First Presbyterian Church, "Summer Hunger" in the memo line.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Inc.



Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Sponsored by the Mission and Justice Committee

NEXT Wednesday, March 30

Work at Beth-El: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

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. To sign up or for more information, contact Dave Householder at dphouse47@gmail.com; call or text (724) 462-4235

SURE Nehemiah Rally: Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m.

Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity
SURE

Your participation is needed for the **annual SURE Nehemiah Assembly on Tuesday, April 5,** at 6:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 1031 S. Euclid Avenue. **Face masks will be required.**

At This Year's Action . . .

- Help SURE influence **State Attorney Ed Brodsky** to create a fair and free adult civil citation program! This program will ensure that those who commit first time, non-serious misdemeanors will get a second chance and NOT be branded for life with an arrest record.
- Meet **SURE's new Executive Director, Dai Thao**
- Hear about the exciting future we, together, are stepping into at SURE.
- Hear the great work our Criminal Justice Committee has been doing.
- Learn how you can get re-engaged with SURE!

SURE is asking participating congregations to help make the greatest impact by attending in-person. However, if it is not possible for you, the rally will also be available via Zoom (link in *News@First*). Your participation will make a difference! **We are looking forward to seeing many of you at our first in-person SURE Nehemiah Action in two years!**

Special Offering - OGHS: Sunday, April 17

In Isaiah 58, God issues a call and a challenge—to love one another more deeply by sharing what we have with those in need. Together, we become the household of God where those seeking shelter, food and renewed hope are welcome.

Received during the season of Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the single, greatest way that Presbyterians come together every year to build God's household and welcome our neighbors in need around the world. We provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

Presbyterian Hunger Program: Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

Self-Development of People: Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

This special offering will be received on Easter, April 17. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Stories of Faith and Difference
April 22, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

On **Friday, April 22** you will have a unique opportunity to come and join our deacons for conversation with members of our congregation who also identify as LGBTQ+. The evening will provide an opportunity for us to hear each other's stories and to grow in our understanding of the myriad ways God's love finds expression. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a basket will be available to receive donations to defray the cost of the food. To allow us to plan appropriately, we would be grateful to know if you hope to attend. Please call the church office at (941) 955-8119. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All interested persons are welcome. Margaret Torrence will moderate the conversation and we will conclude the gathering with a brief time of worship.

Kids Against Hunger
Food Packing Event: Sunday, April 24
to benefit Ukrainian Residents and Refugees
1:00-4:00 p.m. - 50 Volunteers Needed
Coordinated by Carrie Mills and Emily Weitekamp

Meal-packing events have been well supported at FPCS in the past, but we've never attempted to pack this many meals on one day. On **Sunday, April 24,** beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we hope to package 20,000 meals to be transported into Poland and Ukraine.

The sponsoring organization, **Kids Against Hunger,** has worked out a special price of 34¢ /meal. All shipping costs are being donated. Volunteers will package highly nutritious, vitamin-fortified soy-rice casseroles, which require only water and heat for preparation.

This is a great event for people of all ages and all abilities. There are sitting jobs, standing jobs, and tasks that kids can easily perform. The Education and Formation Committee and the Mission and Justice Committee have teamed up to fund this event, but we need you to help pack the meals. Please hold the date, and watch for the sign-up, coming soon.

HEALTH and WHOLENESS

Mark your calendar:

Sunday, April 24, All Ears Mobile Hearing Services will be at First Presbyterian from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. providing **hearing evaluations at no charge.** Appointments are required. Please contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, for questions and to reserve your space, 4tracks@comcast.net, (941) 320-3828.

Thank you to those who gave blood last Sunday! 16 donors registered to give—and 16 units of red blood cells were collected. Every donation can save up to three lives. That means our donors saved up to 48 lives. The many patients who benefit from your donations send their gratitude. A blood donor "honor roll" of those who gave is posted in *News@First.*

Our next blood drive at First Presbyterian is Sunday, June 12, 8:30 a.m.—1:15 p.m.

National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI is receiving registrations for their next Family to Family Education Class, Thursday, April 7 - May 26, 5:45-8:00 p.m.

This is a **free 8-week online course** for family and caregivers of individuals with severe mental illnesses. Family and peer support groups also continue. **Sign-up links are in *News@First,* our weekly electronic newsletter.**

There are family support groups, both online (via Zoom) and in person (Sarasota, Lakewood Ranch, and Venice), for particular support needs. The groups are free and confidential, and you don't have to be a NAMI member to participate.

Current COVID Guidelines On-Campus

Due the significant decline in COVID rates in our area, masks are optional for worship and while in any buildings on campus for those who are fully vaccinated.

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!