THIRD SUNDAY
In Lent

March 20, 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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Flower Dedication

The flowers in the sanctuary are provided by Merle and George Chorba with gratitude to God for their daughters, Carrie and Bethany.

FPC Sarasota Blood Drive TODAY!

SUNCOAST BLOOD CENTERS

The SunCoast Blood Mobile will be at First Presbyterian **TODAY, March 20, 8:30 a.m.- 1:15 p.m.** Contact person - Cheryl Track, FPC Faith Community Nurse: 4tracks@comcast.net; (941) 320-3828. Walk-ins welcome! You may use the Quick Pass below to begin the blood donation process on the day of your donation.

Access Quick Pass at https://suncoastblood.org/donate/quickpass/

CHORAL ARTISTS OF SARASOTA

"She Is the Music" Concert
Presented by Chorale Artists at First Presbyterian, Sarasota
TODAY, March 20, 2:30 p.m.

Female composers throughout history take the stage front and center. Celebrate Women's History Month with this unique program devoted solely to works by female composers. Nannerl Mozart, Fanny Mendelssohn, Clara Schumann, Hildegard von Bingen and many others are featured in this program with **Thea Lobo,** mezzo-soprano and **Francisca Mendosa,** violin.

Purchase tickets online: ChoralArtistsSarasota.org (adults $35; students $5)

Look to the Cross: A Lenten Study
Adult Education Class Offered via Zoom
Continues This Tuesday, March 22 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 22** is "Accessing the Presence of God."



"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals"
Adult Education Class Offered via Zoom
Continues This Wednesday, March 23, 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/

March 20 - Lenten Devotions for Children and Families



Dig in . . .

Today, some churches will read the story of Moses and God talking with each other. Not talking through a phone, but through a burning bush! At the end of the conversation, the bush was not burned up. Read the story in Exodus, chapter 3, verses 1 to 15.

Question . . .



God wants to communicate with us all the time. God loves us and wants to tell us many things. That's why we need to pray, and hear what God has to say. When do you pray? Do you always talk to God, or do you spend time in silence? Remember we have two ears and one mouth, so we should listen for God twice as much as we talk . . . listening is praying, too!



And . . .

Jesus taught all his friends to pray the Lord's Prayer. It starts with "Our Father, who art in heaven." Have you memorized it? Do you pray it every day?

Sunday School during the Season of Lent

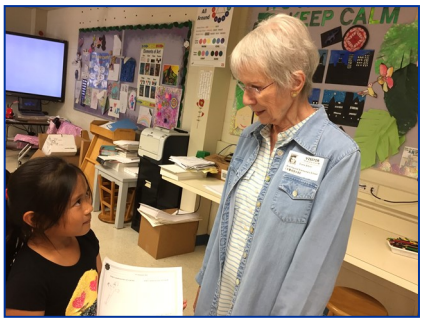
For Sunday school during the season of Lent, we are meeting all together—preschool to high school. Our youth are helping the little ones, but they are also get some time on their own. With the leadership of all of our Sunday school teachers, we are singing, playing, creating, studying, and reflecting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

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.

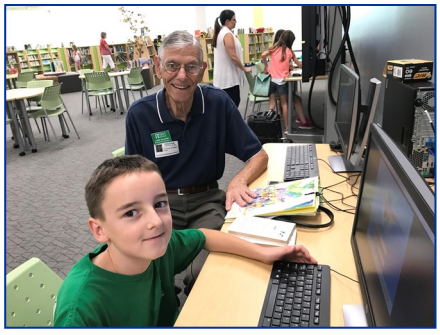
Invest in Children



Now that volunteers are able to return to Brentwood Elementary School, you may wonder how YOU can help! There are many ways.



You can volunteer in a classroom, sort books in the media center, prepare crafts/lessons, file or copy helpful material, assist in the office doing clerical work, help in the computer lab, or even be a one-on-one mentor. You can choose the day (or days), the hour (or hours) you can be there, and the tasks you'd prefer. In return you'll be welcomed by an amazing staff and precious children.



To learn more, 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!



ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK'S
CAMPAIGN AGAINST SUMMER HUNGER

Join your FPC family to help 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 don't participate in the March 27 walk, **you can still support this effort by making a contribution** payable to First Presbyterian Church, "Summer Hunger" in the memo line.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

UPDATE on humanitarian response to UKRAINE



In the midst of violence and chaos there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who 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. Thank you for joining PDA in praying for an end to this violence. PDA is asking the U.S. Government and our European allies to make a commitment to the Ukrainian people for a peaceful solution.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to those who have already contributed. We sent a check this week for $1,425 from last week's contributions—for a total of $2,750 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.

Presbyterian Women - Tuesday April 5 lunch

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

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

Your participation is needed for the **annual SURE Nehemiah Assembly on Tuesday, April 5, at 6:30 p.m.** (location to be announced). **State Attorney Brodsky** will be attending. Please be among those present to show him our church's support for creating an adult pre-arrest diversion program. **SURE's new Executive Director, Dia Thao,** will be introduced. Your presence makes a difference!

This is what the Lord requires of us: To do justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. - Micah 6:8



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.

NAMI
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.** The program 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. By actively sharing in the work of the group, you can gain confidence in your ability to cope as an adult family member or caregiver. You can achieve a renewed sense of hope for your loved one living with mental health challenges

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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!