

Happening Soon at FPC Sarasota!

MAY 22 - ONE SERVICE - 10 AM
Margaret's last Sunday, communion
Farewell reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall

MAY 29 - Two services - 9 & 11 AM
Guest preacher: Rev. Carlos Emilio Ham from Cuba

JUNE 5 - Two services - 9 & 11 AM
Pentecost Sunday, communion; bridge pastor, Craig Miller, begins

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 15, 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.



Saying Goodbye to Margaret LaMotte Torrence

The work of an interim pastor has a beginning and an end, and Margaret's time with us is drawing to a close. **Her last Sunday will be NEXT SUNDAY, May 22**. We will celebrate her ministry with **one combined service at 10:00 a.m.,** followed by a reception. Margaret has requested that no love offering be taken; she would be delighted for any contributions in her honor to go to the FPC General Fund. Please note "in honor of Margaret" in the memo line.

Rev. Dr. Carlos Emilio Ham - May 29 Guest Speaker



The Rev. Carlos Emilio Ham will be our guest preacher **May 29.** He is President Emeritus of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) and has served as a pastor of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba for more than 35 years. He held several staff positions with the World Council of Churches (WCC) before serving in the role of Programme Executive for Diakonia and Latin America-Caribbean until 2013. In 2015 he was installed as the Rector Professor of Mission and Diakonia at the Matanzas Evangelical Seminary of Theology.

Carlos received his first degree in theological studies at Matanzas (1984), his Doctor of Ministry degree at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas (1999), and his PhD, in the area of Theology with the Free University of Amsterdam (2015).



Reverend Craig Miller to Serve as Bridge Pastor

The session is delighted to announce that **the Rev. Craig Miller** has agreed to serve as a short-term bridge pastor/head of staff. We anticipate him serving from the time that Margaret leaves 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. He is a member of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay and served Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Tampa for twelve years. The Millers live in Sun City Center and attend Peace Presbyterian Church in Bradenton. We are grateful to have Craig and his wife, Donna, joining us for the homestretch of the Pastor Nominating Committee's search. Craig was not looking for a position but was willing to follow the Spirit's prompting when it came. (He comes highly recommended by all who know him, including Elaine Barnett!)

Craig's official start date will be June 1, 2022, but you may see him and his wife, Donna, in worship before then! Please welcome them and begin to introduce yourselves as opportunities arise.



Congratulations, Graduates!

Abby Clissold will graduate from Suncoast Polytechnical High School and attend the Tickle College of Engineering at University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Abby's parents are Rebecca and Ed Clissold.

Colin Frost will graduate from Mission Viejo High School in CA. He will be attending Indiana University. Neal and Diane Price are Colin's grandparents.

Sophia Mae Higgins is graduating from Rutgers University with degrees in Psychology and English. She is planning to attend Fordham University. Pat Higgins is her grandmother.

Connor Landers will graduate from the University of Rochester Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, with a Bachelor of Music in Horn and Performer's Certificate. In the fall, he will attend Rice University Shepherd School of Music in Houston, TX, to pursue a Master's Degree of Music in Horn. Connor's parents are David and Denise Landers.

Hazel Landers will graduate with honors from Braden River High School in Bradenton and attend Rice University Shepherd School of Music in Houston, TX, to pursue a Bachelor of Music in Musicology. David and Denise Landers are Hazel's parents.

Sarah Lankford will graduate from Shorecrest Prep in St. Petersburg. She will be attending Texas A&M University where she'll be a member of their swim team. Sarah's grandparents are Tom and Bonnie Lankford.

Nathan Pantling will receive his Associate's Degree from Lakes Region Community College in Laconia, NH with a degree in Applied Sciences/Advanced Manufacturing. Sue Pantling is Nathan's grandmother.

Amanda Sabin will graduate from California Polytechnic State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Anthropology. Amanda is the daughter of Scott and Nancy Sabin, and granddaughter of Katy Sabin.

Eva Schulz will graduate from Fairfield Ludlow High School in CT. She plans to attend Penn State University. Eva's grandparents are Diane and Neal Price.

Welcome, Baby!

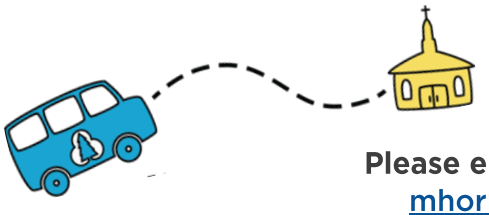
We are delighted to welcome **Ari Jack Fokianos,** born May 7, 2022, at 1:33 a.m., 7lbs. 1 oz. to his happy parents, Kara (Steinman) and Nick Fokianos, and big sister, Lyra, age 2. The proud grandparents are Kay and Dick Steinman. Your congratulations may be sent to the Fokianos family at:

Nick and Kara Fokianos
5315 9th Avenue N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33710-6515

New Address

We send a fond farewell to **Betty Hastings** who has recently moved to Georgia. She will be missed at FPC Sarasota. Please update your records with her new address and send her a note!

Betty Hastings
920 Clairmont Ave, #222
Decatur, GA 30030-120



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 programs to FPC and other Presbyterian churches in the area. You can check out Cedarkirk's website at **https://cedarkirk.org,** and contact **Molly Horner** with questions.

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/

NEW Adult Education Zoom Class: "Only By God's Grace" Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m., May 17 – June 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 will explore what it means to live out the grace of God and perceive God's amazing grace around us. This class will be led by **Elaine Barnett** via Zoom and held Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. beginning May 17. Please register through the weblink in the *New@First* e-newsletter. Lesson titles are:

May 17 - The Bible Teaches about God's Grace
May 24 - Grace through Christian History
May 31 - Reformed Understanding of Grace
June 7 - Gracious Lives of Others
June 14 - Practicing God's Grace
June 21 - God's Amazing Grace

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Church Office Volunteers Needed

Do you enjoy offering a friendly face to greet people, direct phone calls, and handle basic office tasks such as assembling packets and stuffing envelopes? We have several positions open for weekly half-day volunteers to assist our FPC administrative support staff. To find out more, call Rachel Martin, Operations Manager (941) 955-8119 or email RMartin@firstpressarasota.org. We'd love to have you join our office team!

SUNCOAST BLOOD CENTERS

As we donate blood, Sunday, June 12, please remember the 49 persons who lost their lives during a mass shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando June 12, 2016.

Please contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, to reserve your space, 4tracks@comcast.net, (941) 320-3828.

Welcome to Our New Members



Jason Chen and **Elly Selden** are familiar faces at our 11:00 a.m. service, and regular volunteers on Thursdays at the All Faith's Food Bank food distribution.

Elly grew up in the Philadelphia area. She is a retired nurse, who worked in the crisis unit of a state hospital. Before she married Jason, Elly was widowed for 15 years. Their blended family includes Elly's two adult daughters and their children, and Jason's two adult sons and their children.



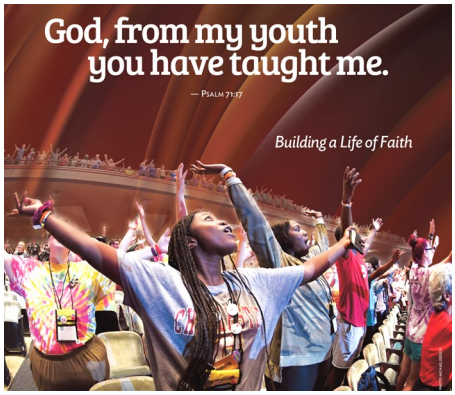
Jason is from Kinmen (also known as Quemoy), off the southeastern coast of mainland China. Before moving to Florida, he lived in Chicago, where he worked for Motorola and for Merck.



A graduate of Rhodes College and the Savannah College of Art and Design, **Charles Watson** taught visual arts and art history in Houston and Atlanta before moving to Florida. As an artist, designer and educator, he brings a wealth of talent to our community. When not in the studio or classroom, he can be found coaching on the soccer field. He and his wife Shelley (who joined in December) are the grateful parents of Oliver (7) and Lachlan (5).

Pentecost Offering - June 5

The Pentecost Offering received on Sunday, June 6 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.



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!