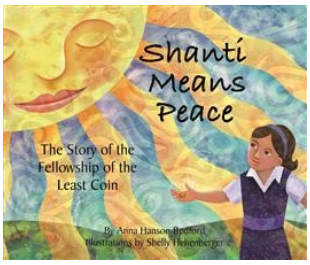
November 28, 2021 Announcements

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.



PW Honorary Life Membership to Anna Hanson Bedford

Today the Presbyterian Women will present this special award in the 11:00 a.m. service to our member, Anna Bedford, who has devoted her life in Christian service. The sanctuary flowers are dedicated to Anna as Honorary Life Member by Presbyterian Women in appreciation for her service and support.

Anna Bedford was born in Ynan, China, to Welsh missionary parents in 1937. The family returned to Wales, escaping the bombing of their home during World War II. In 1959, Anna immigrated to the U.S. and graduated from Wheaton College (IL) with a degree in speech, writing, and literature. She married Jerry Bedford in 1960 and earned a degree in oral interpretation of literature from Northwestern University (IL) in 1961. The couple has two daughters, Olwin and Amani.

Anna and Jerry served the Presbyterian Church in East Africa helping churches establish youth groups and Sunday Schools. Anna served as Communications Director for Heifer International. Her contributions have also included being a school teacher and Christian educator, church school curricula writer, Associate Editor of PW's *Horizons* magazine and Bible studies, and journalist for PW. Anna is the author of *Shanti Means Peace: The Story of the Fellowship of the Least Coin.* This beautiful book introduces the international prayer movement to children of all ages. Anna and Jerry mainly reside in Claremont, CA, and live part-year in Sarasota, FL. Anna enjoys writing, painting, and travel with their family.

Adult Education In-person Class:
"Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction"



No Class Today (for 10:00 a.m. Intergenerational Advent Workshop)
Resumes Next Sunday, December 5, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 223

This class taught by **Dr. John Parks** continues December 5, 12, and 19. As serious literature, good stories offer what Mathew Arnold called a "criticism of life." Stories invite readers to a reflection upon our condition in the world. Our exploration is prompted by reading stories by Edgar Allen Poe, Stephen Crane, Ernest Hemingway, Willa Cather, Katherine Anne Porter, and RaymondCarver. Stories to be discussed are posted in *News@First* and on the church website under the "Grow" tab. They are also provided as printed hand-outs in the class and the church office one week prior to discussion.



Adult Education Zoom Class
"Advent: The Season of Hope and Expectation"
Continues Tuesday, Nov. 30, 11:30 a.m. through Tuesday, Dec. 28

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Church celebrates Advent. It is a season when the Church prepares for Christmas Day—the great celebration of God, the Savior, coming to us in Jesus Christ. The class will discuss together the rich biblical and theological terms centering on the message we proclaim as we tell the world of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Join with others to engage in the wonder of preparing for Christ's coming. All are welcome! The class will be led by Elaine Barnett, a member of FPC, an elder and a Certified Christian Educator. You can sign up for the class by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com.

November 30: Advent Peace
December 7: : Advent Joy
December 14: Advent Love
December 21: Christmas Savior
December 28: Epiphany Light





The four weeks before Christmas—the season of Advent—is a time of waiting and preparation as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. We are excited to begin Advent with a special workshop on **Sunday, November 28, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** This is an intergenerational opportunity for you to connect with your church family. There will be lots of activities for all. Presbyterian Women, the Membership and Fellowship Committee, and the Education and Formation Committee, have teamed up to offer the 2021 Advent Workshop.



One way to teach children about watching and waiting—but not waiting in vain—is with flower bulbs. Tables will be set up in our labyrinth with the supplies you need to pot your own **paperwhite** and watch it grow at home.



Join the fun and fellowship and make some amazing **holiday crafts** —including Advent wreaths for your dining table, front door, or to give as a gift! We will have fresh greens, ribbon, decorations, candles, and frames for your family to create your own beautiful **Advent wreath!** (*If you can donate ribbon, small Christmas ornaments or other decorations you may have, please drop them off at the church office or bring them to the workshop.*) **We hope to see *YOU* there!**

Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

NEXT TRIP: THIS Wednesday, December 1
Work at Beth-El: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

You are invited to be a part of the group from FPC, Sarasota, that gathers at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma to volunteer sorting food or related activities. Due to the holiday schedule, this will be our one day trip for November / December. **We meet at Beth-El at 9:00 a.m. and work until 12:00 noon.** This mission partner distributes food to help 600-900 folks each week. To sign up please contact Dave Householder: dphouse47@gmail.com; call or text (724) 462-4235. Let us know of your interest in carpooling. Come and make a difference!

Presbyterian Women

Your financial support to PW is important. Please send in your pledge this month so that we can make our year-end mission donations and you can take the charitable contribution credit on your tax return. Make your check payable to Presbyterian Women and either mail it to the church office or drop it off while you are on campus. If you have any questions, please contact our PW treasurer, Mary Webb, at (941) 758-6035.

On **Tuesday, December 7, at 11:30 a.m.,** all women of the church are invited to lunch at MADE Restaurant for a time of fellowship. The restaurant is located at 1990 Main St, #112, Sarasota, in Courthouse Centre. Please contact Flossie Paul at (941) 779-6055 by Sunday, December 5 to let her know you are coming so we can guarantee the minimum number required by the restaurant to keep our reservation.

Christmas Poinsettias



As the joyous season of Christmas approaches, our thoughts turn to holiday traditions. Each year we decorate the church with poinsettias for Christmas. Plants may be ordered in memory, or in honor, of loved ones. **To assure quantities, all orders are to be submitted by Wednesday, December 14**. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with "poinsettia" in the memo. Order forms may be turned into the office.

Number of poinsettias at $10 each: _____

Paid by check #: _____

Amount by cash: _____

Name:_____

Home phone:_____

IN MEMORY OF_____

_____

IN HONOR OF _____

_____

Please check one:

___ I will pick up my poinsettia(s) after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.

___ I wish to donate my poinsettia(s) to the homebound.

___ I wish to help deliver to the homebound.

International Fair Trade Holiday Sale at Covenant Mennonite Fellowship

(5420 Ashton Road)

Sat., Dec. 4, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Shop Fair Trade jewelry, Christmas ornaments, toys, folk art, coffee and chocolate, collectibles, wall hangings, kitchen and tableware, and Nativity scenes. All sales benefit artisans in developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. Find unique handcrafted holiday gifts AND support farmers and craftspeople in developing nations. Fair Trade guarantees a living wage to workers.

For more information, contact our member, Jean Martin, who will be serving at the event (phone (941) 544-4474 or email jean.martin4474@gmail.com). She will be most happy to welcome anyone from First Presbyterian!

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee that you elected on October 3 has been working diligently. They received training in their task from Executive Presbyter Melana Scruggs on October 26, and elected a moderator, Frank Frey; and a secretary, Steve Knopik. They organized for the work ahead and are well on their way to meeting their first milestone, having completed the Mission Information Form (MIF) that will advertise and describe this position to interested candidates.

The session was pleased to approve the MIF at its November 16 meeting. That form will now go to the Peace River Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) for consideration at its December 14 meeting. Once the MIF is approved by the Committee on Ministry, it will be posted on our denomination's website and begin to make its way in the world. Please do be praying for our search committee as they engage this work of discernment: Michael Fingerle, Frank Frey, Steve Knopik, David Landers, Carrie Mills, Janet Olshewsky, and Kay Steinman.

FPC Sarasota Blood Drive: Sunday, December 19, 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Contact **Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse,** to sign up: (941) 320-3828; 4tracks@comcast.net. You may use the Quick Pass to begin the blood donation process on the day of your donation.

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

2022 Offering Envelopes

Beginning Sunday, December 5, through Sunday, December 19 there will be a table set-up for you to pick up your 2022 offering envelopes. Please pickup your envelopes so we can avoid the cost of mailing.

If you have received envelopes in the past and you decide you will not need them for 2022 or if you have opted out in the past and would like to have a box for 2022, please contact Lisa Garcia, Finance Manager, by calling the church office (941) 955-8119 or by email at Lgarcia@FirstPresSarasota.org.

Stewardship Pledges

Appreciation goes to those who have already submitted their pledge. If you have not yet completed yours, pledge cards are available through the church website (www.firstpressarasota.org). You may also call the church office to request that a new stewardship packet be mailed to you. Each gift is appreciated!

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!