

Love is First

We are delighted that you are joining us for worship today! We are a curious, inclusive, and diverse gathering of imperfect people united by our common hope in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, and service we seek to know and show the transformative love of God found in the pages of scripture and revealed in the person of Jesus. No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

Sunday, January 14, 2024

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out-of-town, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with our pastor after today's worship or share your information with us in the pew pad. We would love to get to know you better!

Prayer Concern? Please let us know how we can be praying for you by filling out the welcome card and placing it in the offering plate or by calling the church office (941) 955-8119.

Children Of All Ages Are Welcome in Worship! At the New Song (9:00 a.m.) service there are coloring sheets on the tables and an activity center in the corner. At the traditional (11:00 a.m.) service, children are invited to take a worship bag hanging in the narthex. Sunday School is from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the children's wing on the second floor. Ask a greeter for directions.

To Aid In Worship In the sanctuary, a T-Coil Hearing Loop is available for people with equipped hearing aids. Headphones to amplify sound are also available at the tech booth in the rear of the sanctuary.

Worship Online Livestreaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services is available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live. Additionally, sermons are archived on YouTube.

Ways To Give There are many ways you can support the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian. During worship, you may place your gift in the offering plate or you can scan this QR code, it will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you can mail a check to the church office. Thank you for your gifts. Questions? Contact finance manager, Lisa Garcia; (941) 955-8119/Lgarcia@firstpressarasota.org.



Cheryl Track's Tenth Anniversary

In March of 2007, Cheryl and Ellen Forbes established a Health and Wholeness Ministry at First Presbyterian. Its purpose was to provide education to the congregation and community that focused on promoting health and wellness. The ministry continued to be refined and developed under Cheryl's guidance. In 2011, a volunteer position called *Parish Nurse* was formalized. In 2014, the position of *Faith Community Nurse* was established. It is through Cheryl's leadership, drive, effort, creativity and personal dedication that we have a very successful wellness program at First Presbyterian Church today. We would like to thank Cheryl for her devotion to the church members and community for the past ten years.

Upcoming Adult Education Classes

Recovering Creation Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Starting TODAY January 14 through February 11 in room 203 led by Rev. Doug DeCelle, additional information is in the *News@First*.

Six Themes in the Bible - God's Word Adult Bible Study Class via Zoom Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. starting through February 13 led by Elaine Barnett, additional information is in *News@First*.

Encountering the Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts Sundays February 18 through March 24, at 10:00 a.m. in room 203. Discussion leaders for this class are R.C. Smith, a retired minister originally from Pennsylvania, and Susan DeWyngaert, also a retired minister who served FPC from 1997-2011. Additional information is in the *News@First*.

If you would like receive our Friday E-Newsletter, email info@FirstPresSarasota.org



Cuba Partnership

The next Cuba Partnership trip is scheduled for **February 22- 27** with a ten-member team Graham Hart, Linda Hart, Ken Papa, Carol Papa, Sue Hargis Spigel, Elaine Moffitt, Dick Clapp, Rick Foltz, Nancy Wellinghoff, and Jay Swick. The primary purpose of the trip is to strengthen the relationship with our sister church, Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cárdenas.



The congregation can support this partnership by praying for both the team and the congregation of Juan G. Hall, and by donating supplies. High priority items include cooking oil, spices, rice, flour, coffee, dried black beans, tuna (foil package pouches), peanut butter, powdered milk, cake and brownie mixes, and snacks (candy, cookies, crackers) for children's activities. Also needed are new and gently used sports shoes, multivitamins, and pain relievers for both children and adults as well as cephalexin (Keflex), amoxicillin, doxycycline, ciprofloxacin. Full and carry-on sized suitcases are also needed. Monetary donations will be accepted for worship audio equipment and for craft and soap making supplies for the artisan's store. For a more detailed list see News@First.

Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Sponsored by the Mission and Justice Committee for the last Wednesday of the month 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. The next trip is **Wednesday, January 31**. Be a part of the group from FPC that gathers at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma to sort food and related activities. This mission partner distributes food to help 600-900 folks each week. To sign up or for more information contact Wendy Miller (941)321-8488 or email towmiller@yahoo.com.

Women's Bible Study

Have you made your New Year's resolutions? Here's one for you. Let's make an effort in the New Year to overcome our prejudices and embrace all and invite them into our faith community. In Lesson 5 of the PW Bible study, Sacred Encounters, we will be studying the passage in Luke when Jesus healed the lepers. Dorothy Murphy will be leading the discussion "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus." Join us via Zoom on **Wednesday, January 17 at 10:00 a.m.** All are invited to join us in this study. The study guide is optional. However, Elaine Barnett can scan you a copy if you would like one. Contact Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com to get the Zoom information.



All Faith Food Bank Donations Needed Boxes for food donations are available at the entrance to worship. Items that are needed are (unopened and not expired) peanut butter, jelly, canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.), canned vegetables and fruit, canned entrees (soups, stews, pasta etc), cereal, shelf-stable milk, dry mixes for cooking or baking, rice and beans. Specialty items for "walkup" neighbors are peanut butter and jelly in small containers, canned meat with pop-up lids, tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage, Spam, sardines, snack packs, crackers, granola bars, protein bars, cookies, shelf-stable drinks, canned or packaged entrees with pop-up lids, canned fruit with pop-up lids. Financial donations can also be made to the church with *All Faiths* in the memo.

Shake It Up With Salt Shakers

If you love food and fellowship, don't forget to sign up for the next Salt Shakers - February through April or May. Groups of six to eight people (singles or couples) get together once a month for potlucks, dining at a restaurant, having a picnic or other creative eating options. Sign up forms are in the foyer of fellowship hall and the narthex of the sanctuary. Please sign up by Sunday, January 28. Questions? Marcia Schaper (941)922-5245



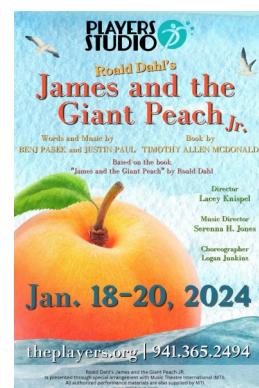
James and the Giant Peach Jr.

January, 18-19 at 6:30 p.m.

January, 20 at 2:00 p.m.

At First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall

Prepare to be enchanted by *James and the Giant Peach*, the extraordinary musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's timeless tale performed by 6 to 11 year-old performers! Follow young James on an unforgettable journey as he stumbles upon a colossal, magical peach and, along with a quirky crew of insect companions, sets out on an epic adventure. Join James in a story of courage, friendship, and boundless imagination, and experience the wonder of *James and the Giant Peach* for a magical theatrical experience. Tickets are available at <http://theplayers.org>



Our own *Alice Mills*, is playing the part of Ladahlord. Ladahlord is a mysterious character who seems to have a hand in the magical things that are happening. Though it may seem a bit off, Ladahlord carefully watches over James.