January 9, 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.



Epiphany of the Lord - One service at 10:00 a.m. today

Today we celebrate **Epiphany.** In keeping with our practice, each worshiper is given a star-shaped piece of paper on which is written a single word. The word you receive will become a "star to follow" for the coming year—a particular way for you to watch for God at work in the world and in your life.

Those not present may request that a star be mailed to them by calling the church office (941) 955-8119 or emailing Rachel Martin at RMartin@FirstPresSarasota.org.



New Eight-Week Adult Education Class
"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals"
January 16, 23 & 30; February 13 & 20; March 6, 13 & 20
In-person in Room 223 at 10:00 a.m.

Most of us who have had pets intuitively understand that animals are wonderfully noble and have a capacity to love that only can come from God. However, we never hear much in church about animals—why God created them or what God intends for them. The scope of grace is vaster and more creative than we once thought. Bible verses such as Colossians 1:15-20, which speak of God's interest in all things, in fact abound in the Old and New Testament.

Several academic theologians are beginning to think freshly about all living creatures as players in God's plan. This class will draw on their work and set before the participants the biblical evidence that God's intention is to preserve all things, bringing them to perfection and a joyous, harmonious existence. We will consider the nature and destiny of the whole created world.

This class will be taught by **Doug DeCelle,** retired minister, and **Hal Serrie,** anthropologist.
For more details about this unique class, visit Doug DeCelle's website:

https://www.douglasdecelle.net/every-living-creature-gods-design-for-animals/

Presbyterian Women - Annual Gathering

Saturday, February 5, 2022, is the Peace River Presbytery PW Annual Gathering at Covenant Presbyterian Church, Ft. Myers, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The Gathering will include a worship service with special music and communion, the business meeting, and a biblical fashion show followed by lunch. The cost to register is $15.

Please contact the church office no later than Monday, January 10 to register and drop off your registration fee for Mary Webb. Please make checks out to Presbyterian Women and put "annual gathering" in the memo line. Mary will then submit the one required registration form with the names of our attendees. Scholarship funds to cover the cost of registration are available for anyone who attends and requests it. Contact Flossie Paul at (941) 779-6055 or Pamela Lamb at (941) 210-7478 if you wish to carpool or have any questions.

Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Sponsored by the Mission and Justice Committee

NEXT TRIP: Wednesday, January 26
Work at Beth-El: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

You are invited to 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—a lot of help is needed. To sign up or for more information, contact Dave Householder at dphouse47@gmail.com; call or text (724) 462-4235. Let us know of your interest in carpooling. Come and make a difference!

Message of Gratitude from Family Promise Director

Thank you, dear congregation, for your support of Family Promise over the past year. First Presbyterian Church members again provided Christmas gifts to Family Promise children and parents, including a computer and printer to a family of six children, clothing, toys, and gift cards. The Family Promise director sent along this message:

> *Please accept grateful thanks from the bottom of my heart. Each and every one of you are invaluable to our mission of serving families in their most vulnerable times.*
>
> *All of our work is directly connected to you, to your network, to your gifts of time and talent, and to your generosity of spirit.*
>
> *Sending love and peace to all,*
>
> *Tara Maffei*
> *Director, Family Promise of Sarasota-Manatee*

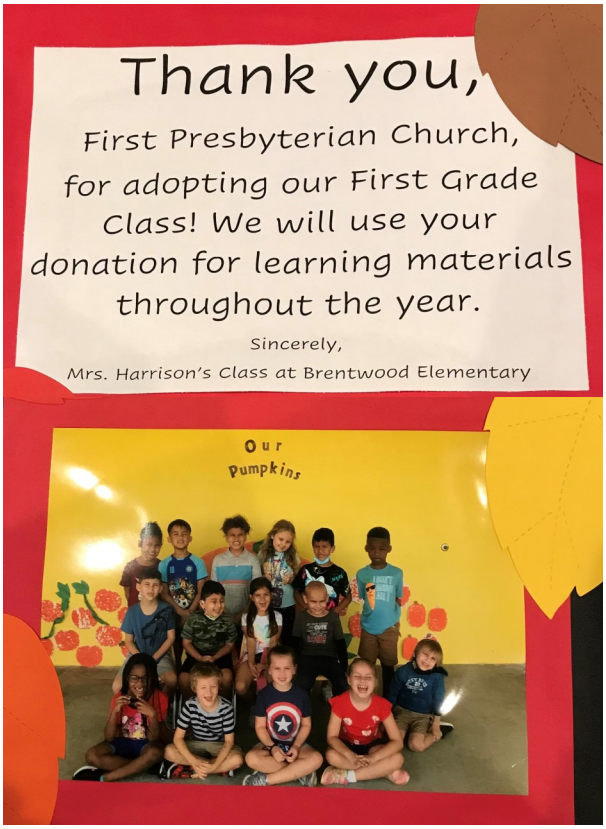
Invest in Children

Thanks for Adopting Brentwood Classes



In this school year, First Presbyterian Church has adopted eleven classes, helping to support the teachers and students in their daily learning activities. Below and at right are the latest thank-you "notes" from two of the classes.

> *Dear First Presbyterian Church,*
>
> *Thank you so much for adopting the ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) students at Brentwood Elementary. There are many supplies I was able to purchase with your generous $100 donation (headphones, vocabulary games, letter/ sound games, letter tiles, and dry erase boards). Thank you for your continued support of Brentwood!*
>
> *Erin Tuttle*
> *ESOL teacher, Brentwood Elementary School*



Blood Donor "Honor Roll" List

On Sunday, December 19, 23 life-saving units were collected—potentially saving the lives of 69 people. Thank you to all who donated from our church, preschool, and community:

Ernest Arellono	Dave Householder	Rachel Martin	Trisha Sparbel
Tracey Beeker	Patty Largo	Ron Miller	Candy Swick
Bill Conroy	Steve Largo	Jack O'Neill	Jay Swick
Kay Dunn	Prithvish Mallikarjun	Carol Papa	Cheryl Town
Colleen Forristall	Melinda Marsh	Ken Papa	Florence Walker

Mark your calendar for the upcoming FPC Sarasota blood drives:
Sundays, March 20 and June 12; 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

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/



Former FPCS Pastor, Rev. Susan DeWyngaert, Retiring

Our former pastor (1997-2011), **Rev. Susan DeWyngaert,** will be retiring after 39 years of ordained ministry. She has served four congregations including First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota. Throughout her years she has touched many lives.

As a celebration of Susan's life and ministry, Susan's daughters, Sarah DeWyngaert Bumgarner and Rachel DeWyngaert Workman, are putting together a book of notes and photographs from people who were impacted by her life. Please write a note to Susan to be included. It can include a favorite or cherished memory, a photograph, a note of gratitude or admiration. Everything will be assembled into a scrapbook and given to Susan upon her retirement. Remember to sign your name!

Please send your items by **January 30, 2022.** You may email a copy to Sarah Bumgarner at: sarahkdbum@gmail.com, or mail a printed or handwritten version to Sarah at **693 Counsel Drive NE, Marietta, GA 30068.** Please include a photo if you can! If you are interested in sending a video format, please email Sarah in advance to make arrangements.

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!

We Three Kings of Orient Are

