August 14, 2022 Announcements

We're glad we can worship together today!
We hope that you experience the love of God
and of this congregation as we worship,
celebrate, and serve with one another.



A Visit from our Mission Partner
Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance (IFHA)

- TODAY at 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. services

Alan Penick, the treasurer of IFHA, is our guest mission speaker for a Moment for Discipleship in **both services today.** Alan is also offering a **Q & A session between services during fellowship hour**.

The town of Immokalee, home to many agricultural workers and their families, was devastated when Hurricane Irma hit Southwest Florida in 2017. The storm also exposed the urgent need for safe and affordable housing for these hardworking people. Already a serious issue before the hurricane, the significant destruction of housing stock left farmworkers and their families with even more expensive and yet substandard, unsafe and overcrowded housing. In many cases, rents tripled and even quadrupled due to unconscionable rent-gouging. Today, COVID has shown just how dangerous the housing situation is in Immokalee. With extreme overcrowding, the virus spread through the population at an alarming rate, creating one of the nation's worst hotspots for cases per capita.

Alan will share with us a short 3-minute video in each service and briefly update us on how IFHA is helping improve the housing situation for these farming families. **For those who would like to talk personally with Alan about IFHA, he will be available between services in the Fellowship Hall. You may also visit their website at:** https://immokaleefairhousing.org/ for more information.

Invest in Children



Thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for investing in the children of Brentwood Elementary School (BES)! We estimate that over $1500 of supplies were delivered to the school! On the day the teachers returned to BES, they were able to select items from you to help their students. Many thanks to those who made this mission outreach of love happen!



On that day, our church also gifted the teachers with a delicious "Welcome Back" breakfast buffet to start their first day of the 2022-2023 school year. It was an awesome event, filled with happiness and anticipation. Thanks go to all who made this special breakfast possible!

Now that the school year has begun, remember to be mindful of **ALL** the students who are returning to school. Drive safely, especially in school zones, and pray for all the students, teachers and staff who will spend this school year together! May the '22-'23 school year be blessed with love, learning, and joy!

Rally Day

Sunday, August 21

10:00 a.m.
in the Fellowship Hall

Follow Me
Biblical Practices for Faithful Living

Join your church family to preview the new Sunday school curriculum and offer feedback for this year's calendar. More details coming!

Francis House News Flash! It's A Girl!

On Wednesday, August 3, a healthy, 5-pound, 12-ounce baby girl was born to the mother living in Francis House. She is the daughter of the newest mother to move into Francis House (only a few weeks before her birth) and has a four-year-old sister. **The family will live at Francis House for about three months, giving the family safety, comfort, and assistance toward their eventual independence.** The pantry is stocked, a good supply of baby items is on hand, and a healthy/ hot meal is scheduled to be delivered weekly. We are thankful for God's ever-present love and the blessings bestowed!

Join the FPC Mission Trip to Our Partner Church in Cárdenas, Cuba February 9 – 15, 2023



Interested individuals and families may now sign up for the trip to Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cárdenas, Cuba, in the province of Matanzas. Some members of our congregation visited in two previous trips, and **Pastor Alison Infante Zamora** spoke here in 2017.

On this trip we plan to meet and continue to develop our personal relationships with members of Juan G. Hall and to learn about their culture, trials, and achievements while sharing our own. A detailed itinerary is on a link in *News@First* and in August *Cross Connections*. We anticipate the cost of this trip to be about $1,500 (US dollars). Financial assistance from the **Mission and Justice Committee** will be available.

For specific information about the area and what it's like, contact **Sue Hargis Spigel,** hargisspigel@yahoo.com or (941) 735-8786, or **Graham Hart,** 2grahamhart@gmail.com, for information about their experiences in Cuba. For details about the Cuba Partnership go to https://www.cubapartnersnetwork.info/. To get a feel for Juan G. Hall go to their Facebook page: **https://www.facebook.com/Iglesia-Presbiteriana-Reformada-Juan-G-Hall-en-C%C3%A1rdenas-1096173980413073/?ref=br_rs**

Talk to any on the planning group **(Dave Householder, Rachel Martin, Jay Swick, Sue Hargis Spigel, Karen Olson, and Graham Hart)** to learn more. We will need both "senders" and "goers" to make the trip possible. To sign up, send a note to Dphouse47@gmail.com with what you would like to do.

Choir Resumes Next Sunday



We will be happy to welcome our chancel choir members back from their summer break. The choir adds so much to our worship experience. Be sure to express your gratitude to those who share their gift of music in our worship services.

If you are interested in being a part of the choir, which includes Wednesday night rehearsals, please contact **Steven Phillips,** Director of Music and Congregational Care. To learn more, email: sphillips@firstpressarasota.com

---

Invest in Children—Volunteers Needed



Our ***Invest in Children*** initiative is looking for volunteers to reach out in mission to the children of ***Brentwood Elementary School.*** YOU can be one of those volunteers who serve at least one hour a week in a variety of ways such as . . .

- Reading buddy
- Small group assistant
- Art room and art projects helper
- Science Lab supporter
- Computer supporter (helping students log in and stay focused)
- Clerical helper (filing, cutting, copying etc.)
- Lunch buddy
- Media center helper
- One-on-one mentor, . . . and more!

Share your interest or questions with **Jinny and Ron Miller** by calling them at (941) 371-2750 (ext. 554) or email jinnyron@gmail.com.

The children need YOU!

FPC'S Weekly All Faiths Food Distribution



With gratitude to All Faiths Food Bank for a generous $3,000 Capacity Expansion Grant, we have expanded our food offering and **are now averaging over 100 families per week!**

Thanks for the generous donation of time from our FPC volunteers who help make it possible for us to continue to running our drive-through pantry. More volunteers are needed. Please consider **joining us on Thursday mornings to volunteer.** We start packing food at 8:30 a.m. and serve from 10:00-11:30 a.m.

UPcoming EVENTS

HEALTH and WHOLENESS

NEXT FPC Blood Drive: Sunday, September 18

Anyone who donates twice from June through September will receive a $20 Amazon gift card! Please contact **Cheryl Track,** Faith Community Nurse to register, (941) 320-3828, 4tracks@comcast.net

Donate Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids

Look for the Lions Club box located in church office to donate eyeglasses and hearing aids you no longer use. The box will remain in the church office. Contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse for more information, (941) 320-3828, 4tracks@comcast.net

Mental Health First Aid Refresher Class

If you took the Mental Health First Aid class April 2019 at First Presbyterian and would like to renew your certification, First Presbyterian will be hosting the class **Friday, September 30, 9:00a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** There will be no charge if you would like to attend the class without certification. $30 for certification. Tracy Daniels, BayCare Behavioral Health Educator, will be the instructor. Please contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse to **register by Monday, September 19, (**941) 320--3828, 4tracks@comcast.net

---



Fellowship Hour – Sundays Between Services

Are you looking for good conversation between the Sunday worship services? **The Membership and Fellowship Committee** invites all to **come and enjoy fellowship and refreshments every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.** Enjoy hot and cold drinks along with baked goods, fruit, crackers, and cheese. This is a good time to **reconnect with people you haven't seen for a long time and to meet new people.**

If you would like to help the team on occasion with setup, cleanup, or bringing snacks, speak to anyone you see setting up or clearing up, or contact **Joanne Simons,** SimonsJC1@gmail.com or **Sue Hargis Spigel,** hargisspigel@yahoo.com.

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!