# August 6, 2023 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.*




## *Summer Sermon Series* – by Rev. Timothy Boggess

This summer, while many of you find yourselves traveling from one place to the other, we are going to explore some of the Bible's greatest road trips. The title of the series is *Road Trips: Stories of Faith on the Move*. Each Sunday, the sermon title will come from the title of a great travel story.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| August 6 | *Undaunted Courage* | Numbers 13-14, selected |
| August 13 | *In a Sunburned Country* | 1 Kings 19:1-16 |
| August 20 | *The Worst Journey in the World* | Jonah, selected |
| August 27 | *Lost in My Own Backyard* | Acts 9:1-22 |
| September 3 | *A Voyage Long and Strange* | Acts 18-20, selected |

I hope that you will join us either in-person or online. It's going to be a journey to remember!

## *Mark Your Calendar:*




August 27 Rally Day NOTE DATE CHANGE Meet new Sunday School teachers and and get ready to kick off a new year of Sunday School classes.

## *Join the 2023-2024 Sunday School Team!*



Are you interested in connecting with the FPC children and youth beyond what you hear during the children's moment? The Education and Formation Committee is searching for congregation members who want to build relationships and share their love for God with our youngest disciples. We need teachers for all three classes: Pre-K-2nd, 3rd-5th, and 6th-12th.
Please contact Emily Weitekamp at emily.weitekamp@gmail.com if you're interested.

## Boys in the Boat

This Summer the Education and Formation Committee invited you to "Follow Me and Step Into the Boat" by **reading, watching** and even **stepping into** a boat for an adventure. Together we read the book or watched the movie *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.
Now its time to STEP INTO:



**Benderson Park Boating Adventure**
**Sunday, August 27 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

Location: Benderson Park on the island. Take the east bridge and follow it down to the left.

Attire: water shoes or old sneakers

Cost: $10 per person Paid by check, memo line: Benderson Boat.
**Must be 6+ to participate.**

Join your church family and STEP INTO a Dragon Boat! Team Building Specialist Don Bickel will lead us in conquering land challenges for team bonding. He uses playful games to build communication and trust to prepare the group for a dragon boat adventure. The real connection happens on the water learning the synergy of paddling a 20 person dragon boat together. Teams learn the commands to paddle as one boat. We will finish with a race to victory, but everyone will be a winner after a day on the water together. Spots are limited so RSVP soon! Questions about what to expect? Contact Emily Weitekamp at emily.weitekamp@gmail.com or our boating guide Don Bickel at dbickel0825@gmail.com

See more information and sign up in *News @ First*

## *Cuba Partnership Update*

By Carol Papa and Sue Hargis Spigel

We continue to be in touch with Pastor Alison, his wife, Sarah, and the congregation of Juan G. Hall Church. Several of you have inquired about Alison's car and the craft store at the church. I'm happy to report that Sarah has been making soaps, creams, and balms with the supplies we brought both in February and May. In fact, while we were there in May, Sarah was busy selling many of the products to residents from the neighborhood who stopped by the store. They were also very happy to receive the many sewing supplies that were needed. Alison said he felt like a little child at Christmas when he received the car parts and tools. All the engine parts have been installed and his car is up and running. The car has also been scheduled to be painted. Now, if he could only get gas for the car. . .

Looking to the future, we hope Alison and Sarah will be able to visit us sometime this fall. We are also beginning to make plans for groups to return to Cuba after the first of the year, and then again in 2025 to help celebrate the 125th anniversary of the church.

Please keep Alison, Sarah, and the whole congregation of Juan G. Hall in your prayers.

## *From the Director of Christian Education Search Committee:*

The educational ministry is critically important to the life of FPC at every age. The committee searching for a Director of Christian Education (DCE) has begun its work with the goal of calling a full-time DCE to lead all our congregation's many educational programs. We are honored to be beginning this search and plan to keep you informed regularly. Please pray for the work of committee members Elaine Barnett, Leah Cotter, Carrie Mills, Joanne Simons, Seth Stottlemyer, and Emily Weitekamp as they seek the person whose education, experience, and sense of call will bless our family of faith.

## *LGBTQ+ Fellowship Group*

This new group meets monthly for encouragement and discussion about spiritual life. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, August 13 at 12:30 p.m. at the home of James Jordan and Steven Phillips 6908 Kimberlyn Circle. Lunch will be served. Call Steven at the church office to let us know you're coming. (941-955-8119)

## *Fall Salt Shakers Coming Soon*



Joining Salt Shakers is a wonderful way for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to get to know each other. Groups of 6-8 people (singles or couples) meet once a month from September through November/December. Each group decides whether they want to have a potluck at a member's home, dine at a restaurant or have a picnic or brunch. Sign up forms are in the foyer of Fellowship Hall and the narthex of the Sanctuary. Questions? Call Diane Bittner (941) 755-2268 or Marcia Schaper (941) 922-5245. Last day to sign up is Sunday, August 27.

## *Financial Update*

| **July** | **Actual** | **Budget** |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts) | $63,440.71 | $60,398.53 |
| Expenditures | 89,402.59 | 78,603.55 |
| **Year-to-date** | | |
| Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts) | 680,100.64 | 616,814.06 |
| Expenditures | $584,583.43 | $584,336.70 |

Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillments, especially during the summer months.

If you would like to receive our Friday E-Newsletter, News @ First, please call the church office, (941) 955-8119 or email, info@firstpressarasota.org.