November 7, 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.

Communion - Sunday, December 5

Since we observed All Saints' Day last Sunday with communion. the Lord's Supper will next be served on December 5, the Second Sunday of Advent.

Updated COVID Mask Policy - Beginning Today

On October 26, 2021, the session decided that, as long as daily new cases of COVID remain under 10 new cases per 100,000 in Sarasota County:

- Masks will be optional for those who are vaccinated.
- Masks will continue to be required for those who are unvaccinated.
- With the exception that the preschool board will have the autonomy to make masking decisions affecting the preschool.

The change is instituted in worship this Sunday, November 7. If daily new cases rise above 10 cases per 100,000, masks will again be required when inside (for both the preschool and other church groups).

Presbyterian Women - Annual Thank Offering Today

The PW Thank Offering is collected in the fall of each year to celebrate the blessings in our lives. The offering funds projects not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. This year's grant recipients include twelve organizations across the country and beyond (see *News@First* for complete list). **The PW Thank Offering will be received in the worship services TODAY.** ***Checks may be made out to Presbyterian Women,*** with "Thank Offering" in the memo line. You may also drop off your check or mail it to the church office.



New Member Class / Luncheon - Next Sunday, November 14, 12:15 p.m.

If you are interested in membership with this vibrant congregation, please contact Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Transitional Pastor (mltorrence@firstpressarasota.org), or call the church office (941) 955-8119 to sign up for this gathering. We look forward to getting better acquainted with you!



New Adult Education In-person Class:
"Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction" – Begins TODAY
10:00 a.m. in Room 223

This class will be taught by **Dr. John Parks,** beginning today, and continues November 14, and 21; 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. This often entails grappling with spiritual and moral issues such as innocence and guilt, loyalty and betrayal, choice and fate, meaning and emptiness, hope and despair. Our exploration will be prompted by reading stories by Edgar Allen Poe, Stephen Crane, Ernest Hemingway, Willa Cather, Katherine Anne Porter, and Raymond Carver. We may find that these stories offer a diagnosis of our condition and a challenge to our beliefs. Stories to be discussed are posted in *News@First* and provided as printed hand-outs in the class and the church office one week prior to discussion.

Collection for Farmworkers - NEXT Sunday, November 14

FPC is an ongoing supporter of Misión Peniel in Immokalee, providing assistance to area farmworkers. See the insert for a list of non-perishable foods and personal care items being collecting to help this community in great need. Financial donations may also be given (instructions on insert). Your gifts make a difference!

Children and Youth News - Pumpkin Carving Party Fun

Participants of all ages had lots of family fun carving pumpkins together last Sunday!







Attention: Middle School and High School Students

We Need Your Help — Receive Volunteer Hours for School: Monday, November 22

Join us to help those less fortunate at All Faiths Food Bank! This counts toward community service hours for school! It is a great opportunity to give back and show how thankful we are for all God's blessings to us. Meet us at All Faiths Food Bank (8171 Blaikie Court 34240) at 8:10 a.m. for coffee and treats before we begin this much-needed work. We will finish at 11:30 a.m. We need a minimum of ten volunteers! Bring a friend or relative to join us! Sign up through *News@First.*

Adult Education Class: "Do Everything for the Glory of God" – Final Class This Wednesday, November 10, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom



This study provides Presbyterian perspectives on Christian beliefs. Email Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com to participate in the November 10 class: "Hope for Presbyterians."



New Adult Education Zoom Class "Advent: The Season of Hope and Expectation" – Begins Tuesday, November 23, 11:30 a.m.

This learning opportunity for adults begins Tuesday, November 23 at 11:30 a.m. and continues each Tuesday through December 28 via Zoom.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Church celebrates Advent. This season gets its name from the Latin term *adventus,* meaning "coming." It is a season when the Church prepares for Christmas Day—the great celebration of God, the Savior, coming to us in Jesus Christ. In this time of waiting and anticipation, we will focus on what Advent brings as Christ comes. 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 23: Advent Hope
November 30: Advent Peace
December 7: Advent Joy
December 14: Advent Love
December 21: Christmas Savior
December 28: Epiphany Light



Thank-You from Presbyterian Women!

A special thank-you goes to everyone who donated supplies and worked on the fidget blankets and breast surgery recovery pillows (pictured at right). Together, we completed 33 pillows and 23 blankets Three blankets will go to church members and the rest will go to Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

Presbyterian Women sponsoring

All Church Seed-packing Event

THIS Tuesday, November 9, 9:30 a.m.



This event supports the ministry of **Hope Seeds International Inc.** Hope Seeds is a charitable Christian ministry that seeks to improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world by providing quality garden seed and agricultural education through Christian missionaries and organizations. Teaching someone how to grow their own food while sharing our faith in God is the core purpose of Hope Seeds. We welcome all who would like to participate in packaging seeds to meet in the Fellowship Hall.



Invest in Children
The Blessing Trees are Coming!



Watch for the Blessing Trees to appear on **November 21!** These are special trees, filled with gold stars that offer opportunities to bless some of the Brentwood Elementary School families who are in need of support this Christmas. In previous years, we have shopped for gifts for the children but last year, because of the pandemic, we presented them with gift cards. With the lingering uncertainty about COVID-19, our Invest in Children Steering Committee has decided to request gift cards again this year.

The gift cards will bless 50 children (students at Brentwood and their siblings) with two $30 gift cards and their parents with at least two $50 grocery gift cards. On the tree, there will be stars requesting gift cards for $25, $30, or $50 or checks of any amount to support this project. Select the star/s of your choice and record your selection on the sign-up sheet nearby. Thank you for your ongoing support for our mission partner, Brentwood Elementary School, especially in these difficult times. The families from this Title1 school will be blessed by your generous support.

Family Promise

Family Promise celebrated the grand opening of **"Francis House"—**a shelter for pregnant and recently delivered homeless mothers. The first year's rent on this two-bedroom, two-bath house was provided by First Presbyterian Church with funds from our *Imagine the Future* campaign. The home was brightly painted and comfortably furnished by volunteers. Francis House, named after Doug Francis, the former Family Promise board chairman, will provide a safe environment for two mothers at a time for up to three months after their baby's birth. Other young children in the family also stay with their mothers. Mothers will receive counseling from Family Promise, and will be assisted in finding long-term stable housing.

Family Promise is so grateful for everyone who has the heart to give and chooses to donate to Family Promise and the families it serves. You may donate to Family Promise through our annual Thoughtful Giving Booklet and anytime on the giving page on the First Presbyterian Church website. Go to https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=91629 and select "Family Promise" from the drop-down menu. Family Promise and its clients are blessed by all you do.



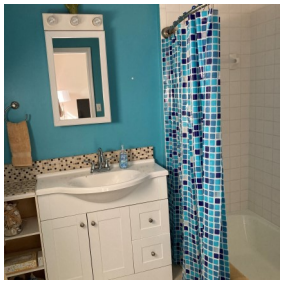
Well-equipped kitchen



1 of 2 bedrooms



Seating area



1 of 2 bathrooms



Pack-n-Play cribs gifted

Memorial Services

Please mark on your calendar memorial services for

- **Cullen Sabin on Thursday, November 11,** 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
- **Betty Silvertooth on Friday, November 12,** 11:30 a.m. at Sarasota National Cemetery
- **Irene Halsted and grandson on Thursday, November 18,** 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
- **Betty Fee on Monday, November 22,** 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

HEALTH and WHOLENESS

Senior Friendship Centers

"Fast Forward" Film Screening: A Proactive Look at Aging - At Senior Friendship Center - Tuesday, November 9, 6:00 p.m.

Sign up for this must-see FREE event! *Fast Forward* is a unique documentary that takes a proactive look at aging. Call (941) 955-1212 to attend.

6:00 p.m. – Welcome / refreshments / visit sponsor tables
6:30 p.m. – Film screening
7:30 p.m. – Discussion of film

Location: Senior Friendship Center, 1888 Brother Greenen Way, Sarasota, FL 34236

SUNCOAST BLOOD CENTERS

First Presbyterian Blood Drive

Mark your calendars! Our next SunCoast Blood Drive is **December 19, 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.** You may use the Quick Pass to begin the blood donation process prior to your donation. Access Quick Pass at scbb.org/donor-quick-passhtml.

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.

Weaving
a new tomorrow

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!

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!