Weaving
a new tomorrow

October 17, 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.

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.

Stewardship Pledges

We are grateful 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!

Video/Discussion Series Today
10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall—for adults of all ages!

Join us today in the Fellowship Hall to watch a short video, exploring our world from a perspective of Jesus. The video is followed by informal guided discussion and reflections, led by Michael Fingerle. Class for adults of all ages. **Come and relax, renew friendships, and make new friends!**

Coming Soon: New Adult Education Class on Sundays, Beginning November 7

This in-person Sunday morning class will be taught by Dr. John Parks on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. November 7, 14, 21, and December 5, 12, and 19. More details are coming soon!



Adult Education Class: "Do Everything for the Glory of God"
– Continues This Wednesday, October 20, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Presbyterian Christians find their identity as part of a wider theological movement, called the Reformed tradition. Its origins are in the sixteenth-century Protestant Reformation. These reformers sought a reform of the church in accordance with scripture. This study provides some Presbyterian perspectives on Christian beliefs. Our Presbyterian heritage is rich and deep.

These lessons spark interest and nurture our Christian faith so we may "do everything for the glory of God." This class via Zoom is taught by Elaine Barnett on **Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.** Sign-up by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com.

Oct. 20 - Salvation for Presbyterians
Oct. 27 - Church and Sacraments for Presbyterians
Nov. 3 - Christian Life for Presbyterians
Nov. 10 - Hope for Presbyterians



Faith Focus Weekend - Next Saturday & Sunday, October 23 & 24



The Rev. Paul Roberts, Sr., President of Johnson C. Smith Seminary (Atlanta, GA), will be returning to FPC, Sarasota, as the keynote speaker for Faith Focus Weekend. The weekend theme will be: "Bridging the Gap: Conversations of Hope and Healing toward Racial Reconciliation."

A special event on Saturday in the Fellowship Hall for our church and community will include a **panel discussion** led by members of the **Manasota Interracial Book Club,** a thriving group inspired by Rev. Roberts three years ago. **Rev. Roberts will also offer a presentation** exploring avenues everyday people can take to help build a more just and equitable society. The event will be both **in-person** and **live-streamed** (www.firstpressarasota.org). Rev. Roberts will preach in the worship services next Sunday, October 24.



All Saints' Sunday - One Service October 31 at 10:00 a.m.

On October 31, we will be observing All Saints' Day with communion. There will be one combined service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Having celebrated the Lord's Supper on October 31, communion will not be served on November 7, our regular first Sunday of the month. We will resume our usual schedule with communion on Sunday, December 5.

In preparation for the October 31 All Saints' Day service, **all from our church family are invited to email photos of loved ones (members or non-members) who have died November 1, 2020 – present** to Rachel Martin (RMartin@firstpressarasota.org). Please include your name and their name, their date of birth and death (if known), and your relationship to the deceased, We are planning a special slide presentation as a part of the service to commemorate those who have died in the last year.

Children and Youth News



Pumpkin Carving Party
Sunday, October 31, 11:15 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Why make the mess at home?
Join us for this festive fellowship and gooey, goopy gathering!
Join us to decorate and/or carve your pumpkin.

You bring the pumpkin—supplies will be provided. Please feel free to bring any special supplies to share. More details to follow.



Cedarkirk Fall Fusion: The Weekend of November 12

Molly Horner and Lydia Chapdelain are looking forward to this exciting time of fellowship with our youth. **Please let them know as soon as possible if you would like to join them.** The cabin at Cedarkirk must be booked this week! (Molly: mhorner@firstpressarasota or Lydia: lydiaopal@yahoo.com)



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women is sponsoring an **All Church Seed-packing Event on Tuesday, November 9 at 9:30 a.m.** to support 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.

Hope Seeds strives to help as many as possible grow food for themselves to help fill that hunger and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with every shipment of seed and materials. 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 Fellowship Hall. We will be masked and practicing social distancing during the event.



Cowden-Smith Library: Featured Book

The Leaf Detective: How Margaret Lowman Uncovered Secrets in the Rainforest, by Heather Lang, is a picture book biography telling the story of Meg Lowman, a groundbreaking pioneer female scientist called a "real life Lorax" by *National Geographic*, who was determined to investigate the marvelous, undiscovered world of the rainforest treetops. Young and older readers both will be fascinated by her story. Look for this new book on the book cart in the narthex today.

Meg's amazing story is especially important to First Presbyterian members as Meg has been a long-time member of our church. Besides her worldwide ventures and discoveries in the rainforests, at one time she was CEO of Selby Gardens, a professor at New College, and she instigated the building of the tree canopy at Myakka State Park.

Invest in Children - Good News from Brentwood!





Yes, we have received ***good news*** from our mission partner, Brentwood Elementary School! **Volunteers** will soon be able to return to the Brentwood campus! If you are interested in volunteering or just want to learn more about this amazing opportunity to invest some time with the Brentwood students, please contact Jinny and Ron Miller at jinnyron@gmail.com or by phone at Sunnyside Village, (941) 371-2750, extension 554. More information will be available soon, but we can get ready ***now.*** This Title 1 elementary school needs ***you!***

Staying in Touch

Please keep in touch with our members who have recently moved away from Sarasota to family:

Betsy Cairns
8750 Westminster Terrace, #5118
Dallas, TX 75243

Jean Luker
412 Highway 87 N.
Pittsboro, NC 27312-7229

Emmy Schmidt
24441 Calle Sonora, Apt. 124
Laguna Woods, CA 92637-7702

SouthTech Data Dump: Friday, October 29, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



The Data Dump is Back!

SouthTech, FPC's technology provider, will be hosting their next electronics recycling event in cooperation with the Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce. The two companies will be partnering together to collect and recycle unwanted electronics as a free service to the local community. All are welcome to drop off their old and unwanted devices. For a list of devices accepted, visit qsrecycling.com/services. They cannot accept flatscreen TVs or CRT monitors.

The Data Dump will be held at the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, with tents set up in the parking lot at 1945 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34236. Take advantage of this chance to safely recycle your unwanted electronics!

COVID Mask Policy Update

The session is **no longer requiring masks in outdoor spaces** on the church campus. Masks continue to be required of all persons (over the age of two) while inside, if there is more than one person in a room. We do this out of concern

- For our children, who are not able to receive vaccinations;
- For the most vulnerable members of our community, who may by at risk, even if vaccinated;
- For the larger community, to help slow the spread of the virus.

The session will revisit the policy again at its next stated meeting, October 26, and is deeply grateful for the patience and support this community has demonstrated through these long months. We honor God as we care for each other.

In Life and In Death We Belong to God

Our prayers are with the family of Betty Fee. Bette, age 98, died on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. She and her husband, Paul, joined the church in 2005. Paul died ten years ago. Betty, an elder and deacon, was an active member of Presbyterian Women. Cards of condolence may be sent to Betty's daughter, Barbara:

Barbara LeBras
1675 7th Street
Sarasota, FL 342326

Plans for a memorial service are yet to be determined. Thank you for the ways you show love and care to one another.

Memorial Services

Please mark on your calendar memorial services for

- **David Muir on Saturday, October 30,** 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, with reception to follow
- **Paul Klick on Saturday, November 6,** 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary
- **Cullen Sabin on Thursday, November 11,** 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
- **Irene Halsted and grandson on Thursday, November 18,** 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

First Presbyterian Blood Drive - Next Sunday, October 24

Save the date for our next SunCoast Blood Drive **October 24 (8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)** Contact the church office to sign up (941) 955-8119. Masks are required. The Quick Pass allows you to begin the blood donation process at home the day of 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.

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!