January 16, 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.

Message from the Pastor Nominating Committee

We have begun! We wrote our Mission Information Form (MIF) in October. Our session approved it in November and presbytery approved it in December. After Christmas, our MIF was posted on the PC(USA) denomination's website so any pastor looking for a new church opportunity can learn about us. Pastors wanting to relocate fill out a Personal Information Form (PIF) telling their training and experience, their leadership styles, and their personal statements of faith. They submit them to the PC(USA) website where they are sorted and then sent to churches looking for pastors.

We have already received the first batch of PIFs and have received training in how to read and evaluate them. As they sound promising, we will contact the applicants to ask for additional information. We will receive another batch of PIFs in about three weeks, and so on until we find the pastor God has planned for our church. All of us on the PNC will read all of the PIFs and compare our impressions. When one or more candidates begin to stand out above the rest, we will contact them with further questions and conversation. As you can see, this is just the beginning of a lengthy process that will last several months. We plan to meet weekly.

What can you do? Please pray for us as we meet on Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Pray for our next pastor, that he or she will be receptive to God's call. And if you know any pastors outside our Peace River Presbytery that might be good candidates, please give us their names and encourage them to apply. They will know how to do it.

In joyful service,

Frank Frey, moderator
Steve Knopik, secretary
Michael Fingerle
David Landers
Carrie Mills
Janet Olshewsky
Kay Steinman

Giving Thanks for Lydia!

Please join us in the courtyard on **Sunday, January 30,** from 10:15 to 10:30 a.m., between services, as we share individually packaged treats and give thanks for Lydia Chapdelain's ministry among us. Lydia is stepping back from an official staff role as our Children and Youth Leader, but will continue to be an active member and parent in our community. We want to celebrate the heroic work she has done in the last couple of years.

Please come and share your thanks in person. We also will have a basket available to receive any notes you may want to share with her. If you are not able to be with us on the 30th, notes may be sent to Lydia via the church office.

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

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. To sign up or for more information, contact Dave Householder at dphouse47@gmail.com; call or text (724) 462-4235.



The Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo Will Be Our Guest Preacher
Sunday, February 6



Neddy is a Venezuelan-American, an ecotheologian and PCUSA pastor who has taught in seminaries in Guatemala, Bolivia, Peru, México and the United States. She explains ecotheology this way: "Ecotheology is reflecting on our faith from a belief in God as Creator. It seeks to find faith-based solutions to the environmental challenges of our time, lifting up Creation care as an act of faith."

Neddy has a Doctor of Ministry in "Greening the Church." In 1998, she co-founded the Angelic Organics Learning Center, a farm-based nonprofit organization, where people connect with food, farming and caring for the earth. Neddy teaches eco-theology at seminaries in the U.S. and Latin-America.

Neddy will be preaching in both the 9:00 a.m. NewSong worship service and the 11:00 a.m. traditional service. Between services, from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall Neddy will be available for a question-and-answer time. We look forward to hearing from this vibrant and engaging leader in the church!

Mark Your Calendar: Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday, February 13

Souper Bowl of Caring begin in 1990 with the simple prayer by a Presbyterian seminary intern, with a desire to inspire others on Super Bowl Sunday to donate to those "who are without a bowl of soup to eat." Since then, youth groups have been harnessing the energy of people coming together for football, food, and fun to raise funds to help feed those in need. Now people of all ages tackle hunger by supporting local hunger relief through this ministry.

Our youth will be stationed with soup pots at the door after both services on **Sunday, February 13,** to receive your gifts of money to help alleviate hunger in our area. Checks may be made to First Presbyterian Church with "Souper Bowl" in the memo line.

Including Your Photo in the Online Church Directory

On Sundays, February 13 and 20, the Membership and Fellowship Committee will be on hand to take individual and family pictures for the online church directory. The photo shoot will be in the courtyard from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. No appointment is needed—just show up when you are able during these times. You also have the option of sending a favorite photo of yourself to the church office to be added to the online directory: Email: info@firstpressarasota.org

Family Promise - Francis House

The stage is set for opening Francis House; household goods, baby things, and food are gathered, thanks to your generosity. Because this initiative is a new concept to Family Promise, there are guidelines to be followed for mothers and their children to reside at Francis House. They must be highly motivated moms who, through a temporary setback, find their families experiencing homelessness. Families can remain at Francis House up to 90 days. The right fit for this program is someone wanting to return to financial independence and provide a safe and secure home for her family.

Thank you for your generous support through the holiday season. As 2022 begins, we ask you to join in supporting this mission work to bring safety, comfort, and hope to new mothers and their children. Requests for needed goods and assistance will be detailed in future FPC Sarasota publications. Visit the Family Promise website to learn more: https://www.familypromisesarasota.org

Pam Mathes: pjmathes@hotmail.com | Joanne Simons: simonsjc1@gmail.com

Invest in Children
Thanks for Adopting Brentwood Classes

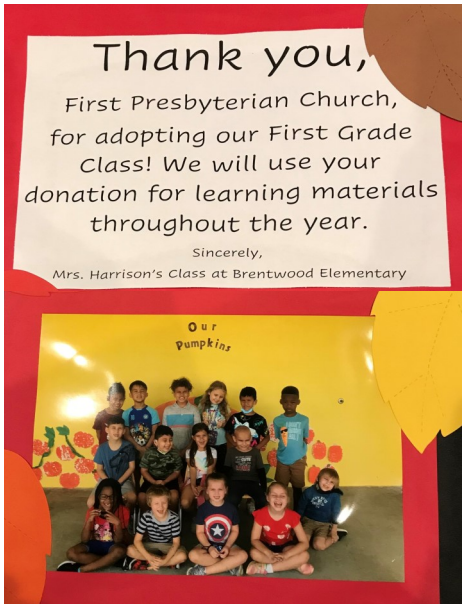


In this school year, First Presbyterian Church has adopted eleven classes, helping to support the teachers and students in their daily learning activities. Below and at right are the latest thank-you "notes" from two of the classes.

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



Sarasota Music Club Concert Hosted at FPC - Friday, January 21

You are cordially invited to a morning of music presented by the Sarasota Music Club on **Friday, January 21,** in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. Performing will be a jazz combo: Michael Treni, trombone; Al Dominguez, piano; and Cameron Kayne, string bass.

It's a free concert and promises to be very entertaining!



"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals" Adult Education Class Postponed

The launch of Doug DeCelle and Hal Serrie's class, has been postponed due to high COVID transmission rates. Stay tuned for updates. They now anticipate beginning the class on February 13.

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 ministry. Susan's daughters, Sarah and Rachel, are assembling a keepsake book for her. Please send your notes of gratitude, favorite memory, or photograph by January 30 to **Sarah Bumgarner. Email: sarahkdbum@gmail.com, or mailing address: Sarah Bumgarner, 693 Counsel Drive NE, Marietta, GA 30068.**

Pastoral Care

When you or a loved one is hospitalized, it is important that you contact the church or one of the pastors to inform us directly **and** inform the hospital that you are a member of our congregation and would welcome a visit by one of our pastors. ***Hospitals will not contact the church.*** We have also discovered that some will no longer even list a patient as our church member on their internal records unless the patient is careful to note their relationship with our congregation. Thank you for your assistance.

We're Here for You!

The FPC care team, Stephen Ministers, deacons, elders and church staff continue to be available for you. Please feel free to reach out to Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse (941) 320-3828 or call the church office (941) 955-8119 if we can be of support to you.

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!