



March 6, 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.*



Next Sunday, March 13

Next Sunday is the first day of **Daylight Saving Time**. Be sure to set your clocks forward one hour Saturday evening!

Please join us on March 13, as we welcome the **Rev. Dr. Susan DeWyngaert** back to the pulpit! Susan served as the senior pastor here from 1997 to 2011. She recently retired from Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, Maryland. We are delighted to have Susan lead us in worship again.



Look to the Cross: A Lenten Study - Begins THIS Tuesday! Six-Week Adult Education Class Offered via Zoom



Lent is a time to focus on the cross as a central symbol of Christianity. Biblical and theological perspectives will be explored to understand why and how Jesus' death is so crucial to our faith. This class will be led by **Elaine Barnett via Zoom and held Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. beginning March 8. Register using the link in News@First.** The lesson title for March 8 is "The Crux of the Matter."

"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals" Six-Week Adult Education Class Offered via Zoom Continues Wednesday, March 9, through April 3

The class is on **Wednesdays, at 12:00 noon by Zoom**. The Zoom link is in *News@First*, our Friday electronic newsletter. This class, taught by **Doug DeCelle**, retired minister, and **Hal Serrie**, anthropologist, presents the biblical evidence that God's intention is to bring all living things to a joyous, harmonious existence. For details visit Doug DeCelle's website: <https://www.douglasdecelle.net/every-living-creature-gods-design-for-animals/>



Presbyterian Women



Registration for the annual PW Peace River Presbytery spring retreat is due this week on Wednesday, March 9. It meets for one day only on **Monday, March 28** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on the beautiful campus of DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center in Ellenton. There are mini workshops, a service project, information about the next *Horizons* Bible study, worship, music, lunch and fellowship with ladies from all over the Presbytery. There is room to social distance. Use the link to the flyer and registration form in *News@First* for more information or pick them up from the church office. Send your completed registration to Barbara Borderieux (address is on the form) by Wednesday and enclose the \$30 registration/lunch fee. Scholarship money is available upon request for anyone that attends. Simply notify Flossie Paul or Pamela Lamb and they will make arrangements for you to be reimbursed.

Upcoming FPC Sarasota Blood Drives

Sundays, March 20 and June 12; 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.



Lenten Devotions for Children and Families

Dig in . . .



Today, most churches read Psalm 91. Verse 14 says “He is bound to me in love.” (We are bound to God in love.) Bound means the same as fastened. We are fastened together with God not with rope or glue, but with something stronger: love. We are forever connected to God by love—God’s love for us and our love for God.

Question . . .

Many of the psalms are linked to King David. David is called “a man after God’s own heart.” How might people describe you? How would you like people to describe you? During Lent, are you moving closer to God’s heart?



And . . .

One of the most beloved psalms is Psalm 23. Look it up. Do you have it memorized? Can you memorize it by the end of Lent?

Sunday School during the Season of Lent

We are shifting our approach to Sunday school for the season of Lent. Instead of dividing into separate age groups, we will be meeting all together (preschool to high school—our youth will help the little ones, but we’ll also be sure they get some time on their own). With the leadership of all of our wonderful Sunday school teachers, we will sing, play, create, study, and reflect on the scripture for each week. We hope you can join us this Sunday to “dig in” to the Lent season with your church family and become closer to God through fellowship.

The complete Lenten devotional guide is available through *News@First* for your family to use at home. Printed copies are also on hand as you leave the service.



Electronic copies of the **annual report** are accessible on our website (stewardship tab) and in the *News@First*. Printed copies are available as you enter or exit the service, and in the church office during the week.

Last Sunday, February 27, following our Celebration Service and Annual Congregational Meeting, our youth helped host the potluck brunch. Thank you to all who generously gave to the **youth fundraiser**. Your gifts totaled \$1,647! They will be gratefully used to help fund summer youth trips, conferences, and mission trips.



Invest in Children



Great news! Volunteers are now welcome to return to Brentwood Elementary School! It’s an exciting opportunity in an excellent Title 1 school where volunteers rave about the students, teachers, and administrators. If you are interested in exploring the possibilities available there, please contact **Jinny and Ron Miller** at (941) 371-2750, ext. 554 or email jinnyron@gmail.com. They will be happy to answer your questions! You can make a difference in the life of a child by sharing your love in this very special setting!



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) seeking support for humanitarian response to UKRAINE



-ACT / DKH / Frank Schultze

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) launched an appeal Tuesday for funds to help support the Church's humanitarian response to the war started last week when Russia attacked Ukraine. **According to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR)**, the situation is on pace to become Europe's largest refugee crisis this century with more than 660,000 having already fled Ukraine to neighboring countries. All neighboring countries are keeping their borders open to Ukrainian refugees, the UNHCR says.

On Tuesday, March 1, 2022, leaders in **Presbyterian World Mission** and **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** met to discuss the situation and how the church can respond to the growing refugee crisis, as well as the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The conversation focused on the unfolding situation within Ukraine and in bordering countries who are receiving refugees and carrying emergency supplies over the border into Ukraine as the situation there deteriorates. Mission co-workers shared information received from partners in the Central European region. PDA's Office for Refugees and Asylum is coordinating internally and with these partners in the area and ACT Alliance to determine where funds can be directed for the greatest impact.

"The present crisis in Ukraine demonstrates how important it is that our Church maintains strong relationships across the ecumenical, interfaith and humanitarian landscape *before* an emergency erupts," PDA Director the **Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus** says. "Through trusted partners in and beyond the Reformed Church family we share across the region, we are able to demonstrate solidarity with refugees and displaced persons through immediate gifts to the communities leading relief work and receiving refugees." "As the impact of this invasion continues, our advocacy work in the **Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations** and in the **Office of Public Witness** will strengthen humanitarian relief efforts," Kraus said. "If, as some fear, the ripple effects of this invasion expand to a broader geo-political platform, our Church's broader response will draw on the full range of our relationships, policies and practice, including work of the **Presbyterian Peacemaking Program**, which has co-led travel study seminars in Ukraine to study the very trends and impacts of cultures of militarism and violence which have led to the **current crisis**."

Ellen Smith, World Mission's regional liaison for eastern Europe, said she is hearing desperate situations with refugees who have few places to go. Some are living in metro stations amid the growing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Smith added that the situation is "unifying Ukraine in ways we have never seen. . . . I fear for their safety but am in awe of their courage."

Susan Krehbiel, Associate for Refugees & Asylum, says churches in Ukraine and Central Europe are part of the response to the humanitarian crisis and she believes PDA will provide both financial and technical help. "We are grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations asking how they can help," she says. "In the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are already providing assistance with basic items for survival," While some refugees may find their way to the United States, Krehbiel and others say they expect most refugees will settle in neighboring countries with hopes of returning home. Krehbiel said, "As we pray for an end to this violence, we ask the U.S. government and our European allies to make a commitment to the Ukrainian people for a peaceful solution. We don't know how long it will take, but we know that they will need help with the rebuilding of their country so that those who are fleeing now may one day return home safely."



To support the response by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, make your check out to First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, with "Ukraine" in the memo. You can also give online via our church website or by texting giving. Please select "Psby.Dis.Asst." fund and "Ukraine" in the optional memo.



Palm/Passion Sunday Service

April 10, One 10am service

- Potluck brunch to follow
- Easter Egg Hunt outside, 11:15am

Maundy Thursday Service

April 14, 7pm

- Communion & Tenebrae

Easter

Sunday, April 17, 9am & 11am

Let's Take a Look at the FREE Church Life App

Church Life is an app available to church members with iPhones or Androids. You can search for members, and view phone and address information, photos, and family members. You can send a text, email, or call with a simple tap on the phone number. Also, it is a quick way to give online.

Ready to go? Here are two simple steps:

- 1) **Download ACS Church Life** from your App Store using either iPhone or Android (Blackberry and other mobile devices can enter www.churchlife.mobi from any mobile browser).
- 2) **Log in.** Use the same username/email and password you use for your member login on our website. (If you do not have log-in information, call Lisa Garcia at the number below.)

* You can bring your phone into the church office and **Lisa Garcia**, Finance Manager, would be happy to help you navigate getting Church Life on your phone. Please call (941) 955-8119 to set up a time.

Current COVID Guidelines On-Campus

Due to continued high COVID rates in our area, masks are required for worship and while in any buildings on campus (regardless of vaccination status). Though rates continue to be high, we are grateful to see them declining steadily. Our prayers continue for all who are ill or suffering hardship because of the pandemic.

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!