February 27, 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.



Celebration Sunday Today!
One Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary
Open-air POTLUCK BRUNCH at 11:00 a.m.

Today the **annual meeting of the congregation** takes place in conjunction with our worship. Music is led by **Dixieland jazz instruments, choir, and guest singer Syreeta Banks.**

Following joy-filled worship, we will fill our plates in the Fellowship Hall and **eat in the open air.** You are welcome even if you did not bring a dish. There will be plenty for all!



Youth Fundraiser: Our youth are helping to host the brunch. During the meal you will have an opportunity to make a donation to help fund summer youth trips, conferences, and mission trips. Just look for the youth display! (Checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church, with "youth trips" in the memo line.)



Copies of the annual report are accessible online and in *News@First.* Printed copies are available in-person today and in the church office during the week.

Ash Wednesday Worship in the Sanctuary March 2, 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday worship has been called "the most honest service of the year," for it brings us face to face with the vulnerability of human life, and invites us to self-examination in the light of God's love.

You are invited to a brief service of worship at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday March 2, as we begin this year's journey through the season of Lent. Come reflect, pray, and be blessed by the beauty of voices lifted in song and the exquisite sound of Isaac Mingus on the cello.

Margaret will offer ashes to those who wish to receive them.

If you prefer to worship remotely, the service will be simulcast.

May God bless you as you open your heart to the one who will never stop seeking you.

Hope Seeds - Seed-Packing Event: NEXT Thursday, March 3
10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

The seed-packing event in November for Hope Seeds International resulted in 2,500 packets of tomato seeds ready to benefit 250 families! It was such a success and a fun time that we're doing it again. **Hope Seeds International** 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 people as possible grow food for themselves to help end 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.



"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals" Six-Week Adult Education Class Offered via Zoom Continues Wednesday, March 2, 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 preserve all living things, bringing them to perfection and a joyous, harmonious existence. We are considering the nature and destiny of the whole created world.

For details visit Doug DeCelle's website:

https://www.douglasdecelle.net/every-living-creature-gods-design-for-animals/

Look to the Cross: A Lenten Study

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.***

Lesson titles are:

Mar 8 - The Crux of the Matter
Mar 15 - The Cross as Necessary?
Mar 22 - Accessing the Presence of God
Mar 29 - Picturing the Atonement
Apr 5 - The Cross in the Tradition of the Reformers
Apr 12 - The Invitation to Live into the Way of the Cross

Presbyterian Women

The annual PW Peace River Presbytery spring retreat has changed to 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. Access the informational flyer and registration form through the link in *News@First* or pick them up from the church office. **Send your completed registration** to Barbara Borderieux (address is on the registration form) **before March 9** 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.

If you want to join the effort to support the Mam women of Guatemala in providing nutrition to their malnourished children, Mary Webb is happy to accept a donation of any amount. A special drink mix called incaparina is making a difference in the lives of these children. Please **include "incaparina" in the memo line of your check made out to Presbyterian Women** and send or deliver it before Tuesday, March 1.

The Francis House Steering Committee has begun a weekend hot meal delivery plan. Our First Presbyterian Church family has already delivered a healthy hot meal to the family currently staying in Francis House. To support this mission with a cooked meal, contact **Pam Mathes.** Cell phone (518) 495-3776; Email: pjmathes@hotmail.com

You can support Francis House by donating items from the list in *News@First*, most of which are found on Family Promise's Amazon Wish List. Look for a collection box in the narthex or go to: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1GU9NWA2IBW9C/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_1?_encoding=UTF8&type=wishlist (link in *News@First).* These items include necessities for babies, new moms, and the house.

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!

Highlighting Our Cuba Partnership



Alison Infante Zamora, the pastor of our partner church, Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cardenas, Cuba, was just elected the moderator of the Synod of the **Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba (IPRC).** This is the equivalent of one of our pastors or ruling elders being elected moderator of the General Assembly of the PC(USA). Alison is young, energetic, passionate about his faith, a great communicator, an emerging church leader, a wonderful husband and dad, and a 2005 graduate of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Matanzas.

FPC established a sister/partner church relationship with Juan G. Hall in 2017 and has supported the congregation since Alison was with us in 2017. Alison and members of Juan G. Hall are committed to deepening our partnership, pray for us on a regular basis, and have invited us to come visit us soon.

Members of FPC who have gone to visit with them, before the pandemic hit, have experienced people of such deep faith, resilience, and hope, and they have come back to FPC with a smile, a deeper faith, new understandings of the Cuban people, and hope. **If you are interested in joining in the partnership relationship with Juan G. Hall or visiting Alison and his congregation in the next year,** contact Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Graham Hart, Sue Hargis Spigel, Jay Swick, Jean Martin, or David Householder.

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



Church Life is an app that is 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 or call with a simple tap on the phone number. You can even send an email. 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.

** 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.*



Sanctuary Flowers

The sanctuary flowers today are offered to the glory of God and in appreciation for the **concert by Musica Sacra of *Brahms' German Requiem,* to be presented Monday, February 28,** at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.

Upcoming FPC Sarasota Blood Drives

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

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!