

April 3, 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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is pleased to report that they have moved from the stage of reviewing applications into the next stage of their discernment. They covet your prayers in this vital next chapter of their work. They are working diligently and are committed to taking whatever time will be necessary to find a pastor whose love of God and the world will be a fruitful and life-giving match for this congregation.

Please be in prayer for Carrie Mills, David Landers, Frank Frey, Janet Olshewsky, Kay Steinman, Michael Fingerle, Steve Knopik, and all the candidates who have opened their heart to God's leading.

SURE Nehemiah Rally: This Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m.

Your participation is needed for the **annual SURE Nehemiah Assembly on Tuesday, April 5,** at 6:30 p.m. at First Congregational Church, 1031 S. Euclid Avenue. **Face masks will be required.**

At This Year's Action . . .

- Help SURE influence **State Attorney Ed Brodsky** to create a fair and free adult civil citation program! This program will ensure that those who commit first time, non-serious misdemeanors will get a second chance and NOT be branded for life with an arrest record.
- Meet **SURE's new Executive Director, Dai Thao.**
- Hear about the exciting future we, together, are stepping into at SURE.
- Hear the great work SURE's Criminal Justice Committee has been doing.
- Learn how you can get re-engaged with SURE!

SURE is asking participating congregations to help make the greatest impact by attending in-person. However, if it is not possible for you, the rally will also be available via Zoom (link in *News@First* and below). **Be sure to register in advance for the meeting.** After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Zoom Registration Link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEvduurrD8sGNeTtk80cBCgU0NlXlxHVN2V

Presbyterian Women
Tuesday, April 5 Lunch, 11:30 a.m.

This Tuesday, April 5 at 11:30 a.m. all women of the church are invited to meet for lunch at the **Breakfast House** for a time of fellowship. You need not be an active member of PW to attend. Guests are welcome, too. The restaurant is located at 1817 Fruitville Road in Sarasota. There is ample parking and both inside and outside seating is available. No reservation is needed to attend. The Breakfast House menu featuring soups, sandwiches, salads, and breakfast items can be found on their Facebook page.

April 3 - Lenten Devotions for Children and Families

Dig in . . .



Today, many churches will read the story about Jesus at supper in the home of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. During the supper, Mary put perfumed oil on Jesus' feet. It was expensive oil that cost a whole year's worth of earnings. Mary felt that Jesus was worth more than anything money could buy. He is the greatest treasure.

Question . . .



Read the story of this supper in the Gospel of John, chapter 12, verses 1 to 8. Mary honored Jesus with her gift. How can we honor Jesus? What gift do we have for Jesus? What gifts do we have for ministry and service?

And . . .



Martha's gift to Jesus that evening was supper. She prepared and served the food. Do some research and find out what a typical meal was like at that time. Perhaps you could prepare (or help prepare) a meal for someone.



"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals" Class Continues This Wednesday, April 6, through April 20

The class meets **this Wednesday at 12:00 noon by Zoom.** The Zoom link is in *News@First* This class is taught by **Doug DeCelle,** retired minister, and **Hal Serrie,** anthropologist. Visit Doug DeCelle's website:

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

Look to the Cross: A Lenten Study Continues This Tuesday, April 5 through April 12

This class is led by **Elaine Barnett via Zoom on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. Use the link in *News@First*** to join the class**.** The lesson title for **April 5** is "The Cross in the Tradition of the Reformers."

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE: UPDATE on UKRAINE



PDA is in the emergency response stage, primarily supporting refugees in transit—Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)—in Ukraine in addition to refugees who have crossed borders) with food, hygiene items, potable water, baby supplies, first aid, psychosocial support and more.

For the most up-to-date information, visit www.pcusa.org/PDA/Ukraine

A heartfelt thank-you goes to those who have already contributed. **We sent a check this week for $1,080** from last week's contributions—for **a total of $7,130 to-date. 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 Sunday to Easter at First Presbyterian, Sarasota!

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 10

Join us for a palm parade and **one combined worship service at 10:00 a.m.** (a blend of musical styles with leadership from the NewSong Band and choir), followed by a potluck brunch at 11:00 a.m. (food may be dropped off in the fellowship hall prior to the 10:00 a.m. service). You won't want to miss the egg hunt for the children (to begin shortly after 11:00 a.m.) and photo booth for everyone!

Maundy Thursday, April 14, Communion and Tenebrae*

7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

Through scripture and song, this experiential service invites us to remember the final events of Jesus' life. As candles are extinguished and darkness descends throughout the service (*Tenebrae means darkness), we acknowledge our complicity in Jesus' death, even as we hold fast to the assurance of God's forgiveness. Come and gather at the table and experience again the depth of God's love. Participating in this service will increase the joy you discover on Easter morning.

Good Friday, April 15

On Good Friday, an ecumenical walk of the stations of the cross will begin at 7:30 a.m. in front of the Hollywood 11 Theater, downtown. For those who want to park at the final station at the Church of the Redeemer Episcopal Church, Siesta Trolley will be offering transportation from Redeemer Church beginning at 6:30 a.m. to Hollywood 11. The final station is at the Church of the Redeemer, 222 S. Palm Ave. which should be reached about 8:30 a.m., when all are invited to a Service of Morning Prayer.

Easter, April 17

- 9:00 a.m. contemporary worship in the fellowship hall with leadership by the NewSong band
- 11:00 a.m. traditional worship in the sanctuary with choir, string orchestra, dance, and organ

Before either service, come add flowers (your own, or blooms that will be provided) to the flower cross, as a reminder of the life that is stronger even than death.

2050 Oak Street
Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119
www.firstpressarasota.org

Special Offering - OGHS: Sunday, April 17

In Isaiah 58, God issues a call and a challenge—to love one another more deeply by sharing what we have with those in need. Together, we become the household of God where those seeking shelter, food and renewed hope are welcome.

Received during the season of Lent, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the single, greatest way that Presbyterians come together every year to build God's household and welcome our neighbors in need around the world. We provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

Presbyterian Hunger Program: Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

Self-Development of People: Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

This special offering will be received on Easter, April 17. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Stories of Faith and Difference
April 22, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

On **Friday, April 22** you will have a unique opportunity to come and join our deacons for conversation with members of our congregation who also identify as LGBTQ+. The evening will provide an opportunity for us to hear each other's stories and to grow in our understanding of the myriad ways God's love finds expression. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a basket will be available to receive donations to defray the cost of the food. To allow us to plan appropriately, we would be grateful to know if you hope to attend. Please call the church office at (941) 955-8119. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All interested persons are welcome. Margaret Torrence will moderate the conversation and we will conclude the gathering with a brief time of worship.

Kids Against Hunger
Food Packing Event: Sunday, April 24
to benefit Ukrainian Residents and Refugees
1:00-4:00 p.m. - 50 Volunteers Needed
Coordinated by Carrie Mills and Emily Weitekamp

Meal-packing events have been well supported at FPCS in the past, but we've never attempted to pack this many meals on one day. On **Sunday, April 24,** beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we hope to package 20,000 meals to be transported into Poland and Ukraine.

The sponsoring organization, **Kids Against Hunger,** has worked out a special price of 34¢ /meal. All shipping costs are being donated. Volunteers will package highly nutritious, vitamin-fortified soy-rice casseroles, which require only water and heat for preparation.

This is a great event for people of all ages and all abilities. There are sitting jobs, standing jobs, and tasks that kids can easily perform. The Education and Formation Committee and the Mission and Justice Committee have teamed up to fund this event, but we need you to help pack the meals. Please sign-up through *News@First* or use the link below:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4BAEAC29A1FC1-kids



Friday, April 8, 7:30PM • *First Presbyterian Church*

A genre-bending fusion of Bluegrass and folk meets choral music!

Featuring The Lubben Brothers who specialize in sublime vocals as well as a unique blend of folk instruments including banjo, mandolin, tin whistle, accordion, hammered dulcimer, and fiddle.



Women's Trio joining The Lubben Brothers

key chorale
Sarasota's Symphonic Chorus
Joseph Caulkins, Artistic Director

$5 OFF for First Pres members using code FP5

Purchase your tickets today at:
KeyChorale.org
941.552.8768

Join the thirty members of ***Key Chorale's elite Chamber Singers*** for a fun and nostalgic concert called ***American Roots,*** featuring the sweet vocals and folk instrumentals of the ***West Palm Beach trio, the Lubben Brothers.*** This will be one of the most memorable concerts you hear all season, and it offers a special discount code for First Presbyterian members and friends. Hear bluegrass originals, haunting spirituals, and southern gospel songs that reach back into the American past. This will be Americana at its best!

Get Easy Access to Church Member Information

Church Life is an app that is available to church members with iPhones or Androids. You can search for members, 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. 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.*



Easter Lilies & Hydrangeas

Easter is April 17. If you would like to purchase lilies or hydrangeas for Easter Worship Services, please fill out this form and return it with your check (marked with 'lilies' in the memo) to the church office.

Order deadline: Monday, April 11 (No orders can be accepted after this date)

PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY.

Name of donor: _____

_____

Number of Lilies @ $12 each _____

Number of Hydrangeas (limited quantity) @ $20 each _____

Amount Paid: _____ Check # _____

In memory of :

_____

_____

In honor of:

_____

_____

☐ I will pick up my lilies.

☐ I wish to donate my flowers to homebound.

New Address:

Rev. Dr. Margaret (Marg) Towner has requested that the FPC Sarasota church family be notified that she is moving to another unit in the same complex at The Glenridge on Palmer Ridge on April 6, 2022. Please update your records with her new address:

Dr. Margaret E. Towner
7377 Scotland Way, Unit 6203
Sarasota, FL 34238-8515

HEALTH *and* WHOLENESS

Sunday, April 24, All Ears Mobile Hearing Services will be at First Presbyterian from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. providing **hearing evaluations at no charge.** Appointments are required. Please contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, for questions and to reserve your space, 4tracks@comcast.net, (941) 320-3828.

SUNCOAST BLOOD CENTERS

Our next blood drive at First Presbyterian is Sunday, June 12 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Current COVID Guidelines On-Campus

Due the significant decline in COVID rates in our area, masks are optional for worship and while in any buildings on campus for those who are fully vaccinated.

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!