January 8, 2023 Announcements

We're glad we can worship together today! We hope that you experience the love of God and of this congregation as we worship, celebrate, and serve with one another



CAMPUS CLEAN-UP
Saturday, Jan. 21
Details coming!

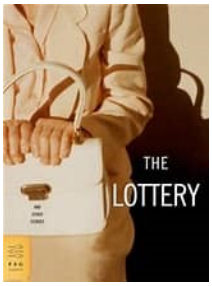


Epiphany Sunday with Communion TODAY!

9:00 a.m. NewSong and 11:00 a.m. traditional worship services

Receive your special "star" with a word on it to inspire you throughout the year ahead. Be like the wise ones long ago who followed the special star that led them to Jesus. Those who are not able to receive their star in-person may call the church office (941) 955-8119 to have a star mailed to them.

New Adult Education Elective Led by Dr. John Parks Begins



A new six-week adult class led by John Parks on Sundays at **10:00 a.m. in room 203 begins today.** Various timeless themes in literature will be considered. An article or excerpt from a book will be provided each week to read in advance. Today's reading, taken from *The Lottery*, and future readings, are available in class, at the office, or through a link in Friday's *News@First* e-newsletter. Come for a stimulating discussion!

Important SURE Meetings Tomorrow—Monday, January 9

SURE members welcome you to attend tomorrow's **first 2023 meetings to be held regarding Restorative Practices and Mental Health.**

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES: Monday, January 9, 1:00 p.m.

- At the SURE office, 1031 South Euclid
- Led by Nancy Taylor of First Congregational United Church of Christ

MENTAL HEALTH: Monday, January 9, 5:00 p.m.

- At the SURE office, 1031 South Euclid
- Led by Dr. Margaret McGladrey of St. Andrews United Church of Christ.

(The SURE office is located on the campus of First Congregational Church.)



Supplies Needed for February Trip to Cuba Partnership

FPC has been planning a trip to Cuba for Partnership Relationships with the Presbyterian Church in Cuba. This country struggles with a lack of normal supplies, electricity, and day-to-day means for earning money.



Items that support the Matanzas Presbytery churches and programs:
Fever reducers and pain relievers: aspirin, ibuprofen, acetaminophen
Anti-diarrhea medications; Anti-nausea pills
Antihistamines, allergy medications: Benadryl, Claritin
Antibiotic creams and ointments; cough syrup, drops, lozenges
Cetaphil (sensitive skin care), oral antiseptics Antacids (such as Tums tablets)
Vitamins, iron supplements; Band-aids, bandages

Power outage supplies:
Rechargeable lights—such as solar-charging Luci lights or hand-crank power lights (available on Amazon or other online sites)

Taking Down the Greens—Today at 12:15 p.m.

Helping hands are needed today to take down the lovely greens we have enjoyed this season. Join us!

New Beginnings, and Happy New Year from Our Preschool

The New Year brings hope, reflection, and goals. When a few of the preschool children were asked what their goal was for this new year they replied, "to run faster and win every race," "to go super-fast (on his bike)," and "learn to ride my new bike *without* training wheels." When Mrs. Carter, First Presbyterian Preschool Director, was asked the same question, she replied, "to continue to teach friendship and kindness to our students, and to support our staff with the most current play-based curriculum training to grow our mission. We are looking forward to serving the families of Sarasota and Manatee counties for another 75 years." Here's to an awesome start to 2023!

From the Invest in Children Steering Committee



THANK YOU for sharing such an abundance of love for the Brentwood Elementary School children and their families! Because of your generosity, we were able to increase the grocery store gift cards to $200 for each family. All of the gifts through the Blessing Tree project will bring joy and support to these families in such difficult times. The Invest in Children Steering Committee sends heartfelt **thanks** and wishes for a Happy New Year!

Our Condolences

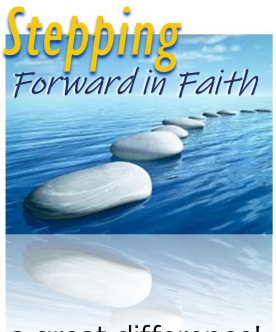
Our dear brother, Jim Barnett, died Monday, December 26. Please keep Jim's wife, Elaine, and their family in your prayers. A memorial service will be Sunday, February 19, 2:00 p.m. Notes of condolence may be sent to Elaine Barnett, 1904 31st Avenue W, Bradenton, FL 34205-8911.

Our dear sister, Jane Bartruff, died Friday, December 30. Please remember Jane's family in prayer. Memorial service details will be announced at a later date. Notes of condolence may be sent to Jane's son, Gregg Bartruff, 4616 Meadow Lake Dr, Apex, NC 27502-9373.

Our dear brother, Ted Beattie, died Friday, January 6. Please keep Ted's wife, Jill, and their family in your prayers. A memorial service date is to be determined. Notes of condolence may be sent to Jill Beattie, 165 Sugar Mill Dr, Osprey, FL 34229-9073.

Stop the Bleed Training

Stop the Bleed trains bystanders to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. Our Health and Wholeness Ministry will be hosting *Stop the Bleed* trainers from Blake Hospital **Tuesday, January 17, 6:00-7:30 p.m. and Friday, January 20, 12:00 -1:30 p.m.** Sign up for a Bleeding Control Class by contacting Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, 4tracks@comcast.net, (941) 320-3828 **by Monday, January 9.**



Stewardship Update

Thank you to those who have stepped forward in faith with your 2023 pledge. **If you have not made your pledge, it's not too late! All pledges are needed—** you can return your pledge card to the church office or pledge online through the church website: www.FirstPresSarasota.org and select member login.

FPC Sarasota Giving Options

Offering baskets will be available near the entrance. Your gifts make a great difference!

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: Text FPC2050 to 73256 to donate via text. Standard rates may apply.

Mail In: All mail, including contribution checks, securely arrives at our church.

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!