

March 13, 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.

This Sunday!



Today we welcome the **Rev. Dr. Susan DeWyngaert** back to the pulpit! Susan served as the senior pastor / head of staff here for 14 years from 1997 to 2011. She recently retired from Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, Maryland, where she served for eleven years. She also served the Venice Presbyterian Church in Venice, FL as associate pastor, moderator of Peace River Presbytery, and chair of Council.

Susan and her husband, Tawes, are the parents of two grown daughters, Rachel and Sarah Kate, who were confirmed at FPC. As a family they will always be grateful for the love and nurture of FPC, particularly in the children's and youth ministries of the church. Tawes and Susan are thrilled to be the grandparents of Louisa (4), Liddy (2), Teddy (18 months), and Becca (6 months).

Look to the Cross: A Lenten Study
Adult Education Class Offered via Zoom
Continues This Tuesday, March 15 through April 12

Lent is a time to focus on the cross as a central symbol of Christianity. Biblical and theological perspectives are being explored to understand why and how Jesus' death is so crucial to our faith. This class is led by **Elaine Barnett via Zoom and held Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. Use the link in *News@First*** to join the class**.** The lesson title for **March 15** is "The Cross as Necessary?"

"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals"
Adult Education Class Offered via Zoom
Continues This Wednesday, March 16, 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 - April 5 lunch

On 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.

Upcoming FPC Sarasota Blood Drive

The SunCoast Blood Mobile will be at First Presbyterian **NEXT Sunday, March 20, 8:30 a.m.- 1:15 p.m.** Please contact **Cheryl Track,** Faith Community Nurse, to reserve your space: 4tracks@comcast.net; (941) 320-3828. You may use the Quick Pass below to begin the blood donation process on the day of your donation.

SUNCOAST BLOOD CENTERS

Access Quick Pass at https://suncoastblood.org/donate/quickpass/

March 13 - Lenten Devotions for Children and Families



Dig in . . .

Some church services include a prayer that begins "O God, whose glory is always to have mercy, be gracious to all…"

The prayer suggests that grace and mercy are naturally part of God, but have you ever thought about the difference between grace and mercy?

Question . . .



When someone is unkind to you but you are not unkind in return, you have shown them mercy.

When someone is unkind to you, and you are *kind* in return, you have offered grace.

How can you show mercy and grace this week? How about during Lent? When we show mercy and grace to others, we make it easier for them to trust God's love and ours.



And . . .

We believe that it is God who calls us to worship. God's love comes first. Our love is a response. You will notice at the beginning of most of our services that there is a "Call to Worship," usually a short passage of scripture, reminding us of God's love. Notice the Call to Worship each Sunday at church.

Sunday School during the Season of Lent

For Sunday school during the season of Lent, we are meeting all together—preschool to high school. Our youth will help the little ones, but they will also get some time on their own. With the leadership of all of our 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.

Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity
SURE

SURE Rally - THIS Monday, March 14 - 6:00 p.m.

Please join us in person as we prepare for the Nehemiah Assembly on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. Your presence is important! (Masks recommended.)

Bethlehem Bible Church
1680 18th Street, Sarasota

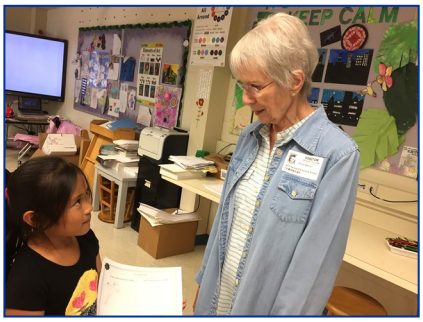
This is what the Lord requires of us: To do justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. - Micah 6:8

CHORAL ARTISTS OF SARASOTA

"She Is the Music" Concert
Presented by Chorale Artists at FPC Sarasota
Sunday, March 20, 2:30 p.m.

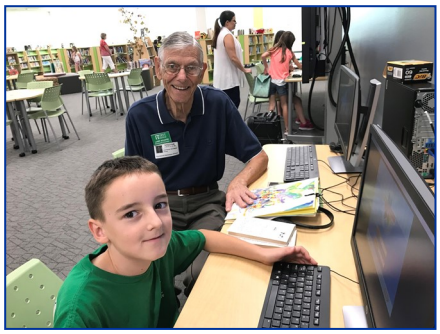
Female composers throughout history take the stage front and center. Celebrate Women's History Month with this unique program devoted solely to works by female composers. Mozart, Mendelssohn, Schumann, Hildegard von Bingen and many others are featured in this program with **Thea Lobo,** mezzo-soprano and **Francisca Mendosa,** violin. Purchase tickets online: ChoralArtistsSarasota.org (adults $35; students $5)

Invest in Children



Now that volunteers are able to return to Brentwood Elementary School, you may wonder how YOU can help! There are many ways.

You can volunteer in a classroom, sort books in the media center, prepare crafts/lessons, file or copy helpful material, assist in the office doing clerical work, help in the computer lab, or even be a one-on-one mentor. You can choose the day (or days), the hour (or hours) you can be there, and the tasks you'd prefer. In return you'll be welcomed by an amazing staff and precious children.



To learn more, contact **Jinny and Ron Miller** at (941) 371-2750, ext. 554 or email jinnyron@gmail.com. They would be happy to hear from you. The students and teachers at Brentwood are waiting for YOU!

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

UPDATE on humanitarian response to UKRAINE



We are grateful for the outpouring of prayers and calls from congregations and individuals asking how they can help. As the violence continues, the number of people being displaced internally and fleeing to neighboring countries increases by the day. And in the midst of the chaos, there are sibling churches and ecumenical partners who are **already providing assistance with basic items for survival.**

Our first priority as PDA is to provide funding to these partners on the ground. While the scale of this crisis is new, receiving refugees from Ukraine and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe is not—which means we have trusted, established partners with the knowledge and expertise to carry out this important work. PDA anticipates that **our response will include both financial and technical assistance** as the network of faith communities providing humanitarian assistance grows in the months ahead.

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.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to those who have already contributed. We sent a check for **$1,325** this week from last week's contributions.

Be on guard for emails that *appear* to be from a friend or relative, asking for money or gift cards. It may have a subject like: "Asking for a favor" It is most likely a scam—from someone trying to financially take advantage of you. Please do not reply to their message; just delete it without clicking on any links or replying. You could call your friend, letting them know that you have received a suspicious email appearing to be from them.





Our Condolences

Lamar Matthews, a member of this congregation since 1991, died March 4, 2022. His memorial service will be held in our sanctuary on Saturday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m., with a reception to follow at the Field Club.

Notes may be sent to

Jan Matthews
4014 Red Rock Lane
Sarasota, FL 34231-3543

Janet Clark, a member of this congregation since 1997, died March 5, 2022. Her memorial service will be held at Sunnyside Village at a later date. Notes may be sent to Janet's sister, Ellen Millar:

Ellen Millar
5220 Manz Place #142
Sarasota, FL 34232-2682

Thank you for keeping their families in your prayers.

Current COVID Guidelines On-Campus

Due the significant decline in COVID rates in our area, masks are now 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!