COVID Update: On May 27 the CDC assessed Sarasota County's COVID risk level as "high." In keeping with our current session policy (printed on the back page of this announcement sheet), masks are now required of all worshipers. (Worship leaders may choose to lead without masks, since being maskless makes it easier for those persons to be understood.) Thank you for doing what we can to slow the spread of the virus. When we return to a "medium" or "low" risk assessment in the county, masks again will be optional for those who are fully immunized.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 29, 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.

Rev. Dr. Carlos Emilio Ham - Our Guest Preacher Today



The Rev. Carlos Emilio Ham is President Emeritus of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) and has served as a pastor of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba for more than 35 years. He held several staff positions with the World Council of Churches (WCC) before serving in the role of Programme Executive for Diakonia and Latin America-Caribbean until 2013. In 2015 he was installed as the Rector Professor of Mission and Diakonia at the Matanzas Evangelical Seminary of Theology.

Carlos received his first degree in theological studies at Matanzas (1984), his Doctor of Ministry degree at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Texas (1999), and his PhD, in the area of Theology with the Free University of Amsterdam (2015).

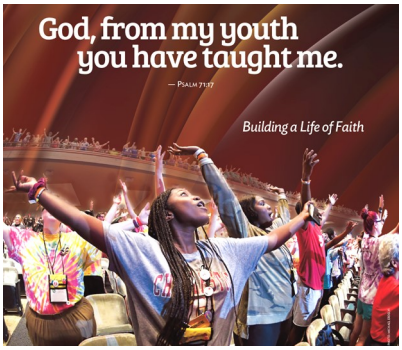
Be sure to give Carlos a warm FPC welcome!



Pentecost Sunday – June 5

On Pentecost Sunday, at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, we will

- welcome **Rev. Craig Miller,** our new bridge pastor, on his first Sunday at FPC,
- share in **communion** with individually sealed cups,
- receive the **Pentecost Offering,** which supports children at risk; ministries with children and youth, including the Youth Triennium; and the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program,
- come to the **Meet-and-Greet in the Fellowship Hall** between services (10:00-10:45 a.m.) to meet Craig Miller and his wife, Donna,
- and please **wear RED—*and your name tag!***



Pentecost Offering - June 5

The Pentecost Offering received on Sunday, June 5, benefits children at risk (10 percent), as well as the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program (25 percent), and the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (25 percent). The remaining 40 percent allows congregations to give to local ministries that benefit vulnerable children, youth and young adults. Our gifts to the Pentecost Offering connect us with children, youth and young adults and offers them opportunities to build futures of hope, and lives of vibrant faith.

Reverend Craig Miller to Serve as Bridge Pastor



The session is delighted that **the Rev. Craig Miller** has agreed to serve as a short-term bridge pastor/head of staff beginning June 1. We anticipate that he will serve until our new pastor is called.

Craig obtained a Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1980 and recently retired from full-time ministry after serving churches in Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and Florida. He is a member of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay and served Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Tampa for twelve years. The Millers live in Sun City Center and attend Peace Presbyterian Church in Bradenton. We are grateful to have Craig and his wife, Donna, joining us for the homestretch of the Pastor Nominating Committee's search.

PW Triennial Gathering

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Synod of South Atlantic (SOSA) Epworth **PW Triennial Gathering is Friday, October 21, through Sunday, October 23.** Located in St. Simons Island, GA, Epworth by the Sea is a beautiful and peaceful retreat center. The gathering theme is "Plug In and Recharge."



There will be some exciting speakers, plenary leaders, and a special Saturday night guest, along with time for shopping, learning, worship and fellowship.

Reusable Grocery Bags Needed for Weekly Food Pantry

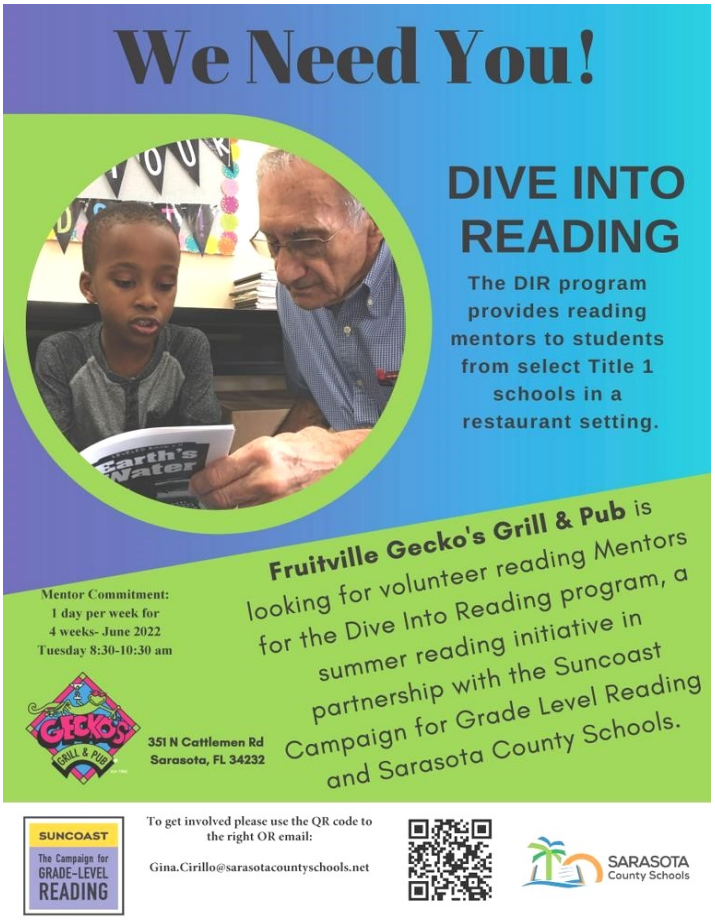
We are grateful to our faithful team of volunteers that distributes food for All Faiths Food Bank to our community neighbors each Thursday on our campus. One year ago an average of 35 family units received food; currently, an average of 80 individuals or families are served.

You can support this ministry by contributing sturdy reusable grocery bags with handle straps. Please drop your donations off at the church office.

Invest in Children



YOU ARE NEEDED! A unique opportunity has come from the Sarasota School District for volunteer reading mentors for elementary students in Title 1 schools during the *Summer Dive into Reading* program. Our Invest in Children Initiative urges members of our congregation to consider investing in children like **our own Bob Bittner** does. (pictured below). Read all the details on the flyer!



Pavilion Construction has Begun

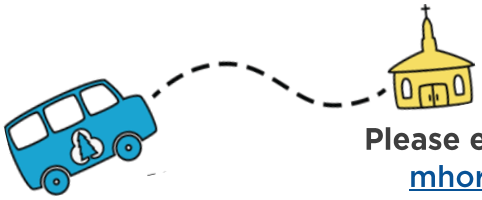




The remaining supports from the old pavilion between the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall have been removed and staging is in place to build the new roof. The wood from the original pergola did not hold up well in our harsh Florida conditions.

This adaptation will create a wonderful versatile outdoor covered space. We have lacked an area on our campus that offers protection from the hot sun. The new pavilion will give us a shaded place that will be used year 'round for gatherings, receptions, and other events. It may even be a space for a class or a concert—the possibilities are endless.

This building project was funded with $25,000 from a Linnie Dalbeck grant, with the remainder from the J. Barr Trust designated account. Construction is scheduled to last four to six weeks. You will continue to be updated on the progress.



FPC's Traveling Day Camp

Monday - Friday • JUNE 13-17, 2022

Please email Molly Horner, Children and Youth Coordinator
mhorner@firstpressarasota.org, with any questions

First Presbyterian Church is excited to partner with **Cedarkirk's Traveling Day Camp** as they bring their camp program to FPC. You can check out Cedarkirk's website at **https://cedarkirk.org.**

These camps range from age Pre-K to 5th grade with volunteer opportunities for middle and high school youth. There are full-day camps, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. ($100), half-day camps (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon ($50), and other options for consideration. You can quickly access online links for registration, payment, volunteer sign-up or making a donation to the program:

https://firstpressarasota.org/grow/children/daycamp/

Adult Education Zoom Class: "Only By God's Grace" Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m., continuing May 31 – June 21



As Christians, our worship, theology and way of life all emerge in response to the grace of God. The Church proclaims the grace of God; and as members of the body of Christ, we endeavor to share God's grace with others: by word and deed, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In this class we are exploring what it means to live out the grace of God and perceive God's amazing grace around us. This class is led by **Elaine Barnett** via Zoom on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Elaine (ewbarnet@me.com) to participate. Lesson titles are:

May 31 - Reformed Understanding of Grace
June 7 - Gracious Lives of Others
June 14 - Practicing God's Grace
June 21 - God's Amazing Grace

HEALTH and WHOLENESS

Session COVID Policy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a tool which assesses COVID-19 risk on a county-by-county basis. According to the CDC, "Levels . . . are determined by looking at hospital beds being used, hospital admissions, and the total number of new COVID-19 cases in an area." They then assign a low, medium, or high risk.

At its April 26 meeting, the session decided to adopt the CDC's community-level risk assessment tool as our guide for masking requirements on the FPC campus.

- **If Sarasota County's risk is determined to be "high," masks will be required of everyone who is indoors on campus, unless that person is alone in a room.** (An exception will be granted to the preschool, which determines its own policy regarding masking.) **Communal meals/receptions will not be held indoors when Sarasota County's risk level is considered "high."**
- If the risk level for the county is considered "low" or "medium," masks will be optional for all who are fully vaccinated. (**As of May 27, Sarasota County is rated "high."**)

Regardless of assessed risk-level, it is the session's desire to create a mask-friendly environment, in which anyone who chooses to wear a mask, even when it is not required, will feel supported in that decision.

Here's the CDC website:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html

Thank you for the flexibility and concern for your neighbors that you have demonstrated since the earliest days of the pandemic. You continue to be an inspirational community!

SUNCOAST BLOOD CENTERS

As we donate blood, Sunday, June 12, please remember the 49 persons who lost their lives during a mass shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando June 12, 2016.

Please contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, to reserve your space for June 12, 4tracks@comcast.net, (941) 320-3828.

FPC Sarasota Giving Options

Offering baskets will be available as you exit. 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 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!