December 4, 2022 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.

ADVENT EVENTS



A Celtic Christmas: The World Sings
Musical Presentation - Friday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.

Admission by voluntary donation - suggested $10 and up
You are invited to continue the celebration of ***A Celtic Christmas*** at a **reception** in Fellowship Hall immediately following the performance. You are welcome to bring a plate of cookies or treats to share with others if you are able.

Read the bulletin insert for all the details; invite your friends and family!

Family Christmas Eve Service - Saturday, December 24, 4:00 p.m.



Our children and youth have begun planning for our Family Christmas Eve Service. This service will have all the elements of the Nativity service that our church family has cherished for years, coupled with bright stars, traditional Christmas music, and participation by the children and youth of our congregation and preschool.

If your family is interested in taking part, please meet in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 10:00 a.m. **TODAY!**

In addition to our Christmas Eve Service preparation, your family will have a service opportunity:

- Older youth will be stuffing stockings for the *Brentwood Blessing Tree* event.
- Pre-K and elementary-aged children will be making cards for our homebound congregation members.

If you are unable to attend today, just let us know and we will save a role for you!

Communion and Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

Come and experience the sights and sounds of anticipation for Christ's arrival. Worship together by singing familiar Christmas hymns and carols, sharing communion, and lighting candles together.

Thoughtful Giving Booklets

Each year we look forward to giving financial gifts in honor of our family members and friends to one or more of our mission partners. **TODAY** these booklets are available for you to make use of these giving opportunities. You make pick them up as you exit the services.



Advent Devotional Booklets
Attending to Advent: Poetry, Prose, and Prayer

This daily devotional, which includes submissions from poets you have read in the pages of the *Outlook*, invites readers to pause and reflect on narratives in the Christmas story. Each week, the devotions address a different theme. Daily readings will take us deeper into the scriptural story of the birth of Christ and explore contemporary subjects that include the many ways God's incarnation can be experienced.



Invest in Children



***Help needed! Please take stars from the Blessing Trees today*—especially for the children!** There were 110 stars for the 55 children from families in need. We are grateful for the half that have been taken, but at least 50 are still on the trees! There are also some stars for groceries available. The gift cards you purchase will make a difference for these families as they work to make ends meet. **The gift cards must be returned by next Sunday, December 11.** See the flyer in the bulletin today for more details. If you've already supported the *Blessing Tree* project, thank you! If you haven't, please take a star today. Thank you!

The festive Celebration Dinner for the 19 Brentwood Elementary School families will be held in the Fellowship Hall on ***December 18, 4:00-6:00 p.m.*** **YOU are invited!** There will be fun activities for the children and a delicious dinner and Christmas program for all. Since we want to have enough food to fill all those tummies, we will need reservations. **Please call the church office before December 11 to make your reservations.** We look forward to building relationships with these special families, especially as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child who brought love and hope to the world!



SURE Research Kickoff - Tuesday, December 6, 6:00 p.m.

Where there is injustice, SURE wants to meet it with justice. Our faith teaches us justice and mercy can be around the corner—if we are willing to address and collectively work on the issues.

This Tuesday at **Pine Shores Presbyterian Church,** you and those you invite, are encouraged to participate in SURE's action plan for strategies tackling the two problems agreed upon as most pressing at the Community Problems Assembly meeting earlier in November: **Affordable Housing** and **Mental Health Issues.** SURE also continues to support the teams that have been working on and monitoring **Juvenile and Adult Civil Citations** and **Restorative Practices.**

Presenters

Affordable Housing: David Morgan, Senior Consultant, D L Morgan and Associates
Mental Health Issues: Dr. Margaret McGladrey, University of South Florida

Pine Shores Presbyterian is at 6135 Beechwood Avenue, Sarasota 34231. The campus occupies an entire block with parking on both sides of the sanctuary. From Tamiami Trail, turn west at a traffic light on Upper Beechwood Avenue to park on one side of the church or left after another block onto Ridgewood Street to park on the other side.

Preschool News

How wonderful to be back in our routine of learning through play this week! Play is how children naturally learn, heal, grow, and bond. There is a saying that "a family who plays together, grows together." From the perspective of children, the saying could not be truer.

First Presbyterian Preschool has fun activities on the horizon this Christmas season and in the New Year. As the scenery changes from falling leaves to festive evergreens and opportunities arise to play together, we hope you will play with us. Let's continue to grow together!

Two events just around the corner that our preschool children would like their church family to know about are the **Christmas Performances Thursday, December 15 and Friday, December 16** from 11:40 a.m. - 12:00 noon; and in February, everyone is very excited to begin celebrating our preschool's 75th anniversary. There will be more information coming soon on these special events and additional opportunities to play and grow together.

Consider a Year-End Gift to Support First Presbyterian Church

This Advent season as you prepare for and anticipate the Christ child, we invite you to consider making a year-end gift to First Presbyterian Church. You may make:

A cash donation

A gift of appreciated securities

A direct to charity transfer from your IRA (if you are over 70 ½ and have not given more than $100,000 from your IRA to charities this year)

A gift from your donor-advised fund or private foundation

The gift can be directed in two ways:

To **First Presbyterian Church** to be added to the current operating budget

To **The Foundation for the First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota** to be added to the endowment to ensure/support our missions into the future

Your gift may be specifically directed to scholarships, youth programs, building funds, or to mission and ministries of the church. Or you may leave the best use of the gift to be decided by the session with the assurance that church leadership is devoted to careful stewardship of your funds.

Discuss these opportunities with your tax advisor to see which may be best for you, as these can be used by many as deductions office for income tax purposes.

If this is not the right time for an over-and-above donation, please consider joining the Covenant Society by making a pledge to include the Foundation in your will or estate plan as a legacy of your faith that will impact generations to come. Contact Lisa Garcia at the church office for more information on making a year-end donation. A Covenant Society pledge form is on the next page.

2023 Offering Envelopes - available beginning TODAY

Beginning Sunday, December 4, through Sunday, December 18, there will be a table set up for you to pick up your 2023 offering envelopes. **To save on the cost of mailing, please make every effort to pick up your envelopes.**

Care Notes are short, 5–6-page inspirational booklets aimed at helping people in a wide variety of difficult life situations. In addition to the narthex, parlor, and office hallway, there are booklets for youth and teens in the fellowship hall. The entire collection of over a hundred different booklets are also available in the library. These are for you to keep, but can be returned to the library if no longer needed. During the holiday season please see the selection of ***Care Notes*** that are unique for the season.

Blood Drive Next Sunday - December 11, 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Sign up by calling **Cheryl Track,** Faith Community Nurse at (941) 320-3828 or email 4tracks@comcast.net. Walk-ins welcome. Free T-shirts for donors.

SUNCOAST BLOOD CENTERS

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.

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!

INTENTION TO MAKE A GIFT TO
THE FOUNDATION FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SARASOTA, INC.

This is an expression of my intent to make a gift to The Foundation for First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Inc.

My name is

_____

I intend to make a gift of the following assets with the following value (for example, a gift of $10,000 in cash or real estate worth approximately $100,000)

_____

_____

This gift will be made (check one)

_____ during my lifetime

_____ at my death

If arrangements for this gift will be made in your will the Foundation would like to recognize you as a member of the Covenant Society to acknowledge your intent to ensure the legacy of God's work at First Presbyterian Church.

How would you like your name to read on the Covenant Society member roster?

_____

Please provide us your contact information:

Address: _____

_____

Phone number: _____ HOME CELL (circle one)

Email address: _____

I understand that this is not binding and can be changed by me at any time.

_____ _____

Signature Date