October 31, 2021 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.



All Saints' Sunday Today - One Service at 10:00 a.m.

Today we observe All Saints' Day with communion. Since the Lord's Supper will be celebrated today, communion will not be served on November 7, our regular first Sunday of the month. We will resume our usual schedule with communion on December 5.

Updated COVID Mask Policy

On October 26, the session decided that, as long as daily new cases of COVID remain under 10 new cases per 100,000 in Sarasota County:

- Masks will be optional for those who are vaccinated.
- Masks will continue to be required for those who are unvaccinated.
- With the exception that the preschool board will have the autonomy to make masking decisions affecting the preschool.

The change will be instituted in worship next week, November 7. If daily new cases rise above 10 cases per 100,000, masks will again be required when inside (for both the preschool and other church groups).



New Member Class / Luncheon - Sunday, November 14, 12:15 p.m.

If you are interested in membership with this vibrant congregation, please contact Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Transitional Pastor (mltorrence@firstpressarasota.org), or call the church office (941) 955-8119 to sign up for this gathering. We look forward to getting better acquainted with you!

Adult Education Class: "Do Everything for the Glory of God"
– Continues This Wednesday, November 3, 1:00 p.m. via Zoom



This study provides Presbyterian perspectives on Christian beliefs. Our Presbyterian heritage is rich, dating back to part of a wider theological movement, called the Reformed tradition. These lessons nurture our Christian faith so we may "do everything for the glory of God." This class via Zoom is taught by **Elaine Barnett** on **Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.** Sign-up by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com.

Nov. 3 - Christian Life for Presbyterians | Nov. 10 - Hope for Presbyterians



New Adult Education In-person Class:
"Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction"
– Begins NEXT SUNDAY, November 7, 10:00 a.m. in Room 223

This in-person class will be taught by **Dr. John Parks** on November 7, 14, 21, and December 5, 12, and 19.

As serious literature, good stories offer what Mathew Arnold called a "criticism of life." Stories invite readers to a reflection upon our condition in the world. This often entails grappling with spiritual and moral issues such as innocence and guilt, loyalty and betrayal, choice and fate, meaning and emptiness, hope and despair. Our exploration will be prompted by reading stories by Edgar Allen Poe, Stephen Crane, Ernest Hemingway, Willa Cather, Katherine Anne Porter, and Raymond Carver. We may find that these stories offer a diagnosis of our condition and a challenge to our beliefs.

Come for stimulating interaction with these timeless themes. Stories to be discussed will be posted on *News@First* and provided as printed hand-outs in the class and the church office one week prior to discussion.



Children and Youth News

Pumpkin Carving Party TODAY!
11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
OUTSIDE in the courtyard by the Fellowship Hall

Have fun carving the pumpkin you have brought, with the supplies provided.



Cedarkirk Fall Fusion: The Weekend of November 12

Molly Horner and Lydia Chapdelain are looking forward to this exciting time of fellowship with our youth. **Please let them know as soon as possible if you would like to join them.** The cabin at Cedarkirk must be booked soon.

Molly: mhorner@firstpressarasota
Lydia: lydiaopal@yahoo.com

Daylight Saving Time Ends Next Sunday, November 7

Be sure to change your clocks back one hour ("fall back!") Saturday night in preparation for the end of Daylight Saving Time for this season.

New Adult Education Zoom Class "Advent: The Season of Hope and Expectation" – Begins Tuesday, November 23, 11:30 a.m.



This learning opportunity for adults begins Tuesday, November 23 at 11:30 a.m. and continues each Tuesday through December 28 via Zoom.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Church celebrates Advent. This season gets its name from the Latin term *adventus,* meaning "coming." It is a season when the Church prepares for Christmas Day—the great celebration of God, the Savior, coming to us in Jesus Christ. In this time of waiting and anticipation, we will focus on what Advent brings as Christ comes. The class will discuss together the rich biblical and theological terms centering on the message we proclaim as we tell the world of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Join with others to engage in the wonder of preparing for Christ's coming. All are welcome! The class will be led by Elaine Barnett, a member of FPC, an elder and a Certified Christian Educator. You can sign up for the class by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com.

November 23: Advent Hope
November 30: Advent Peace
December 7: Advent Joy
December 14: Advent Love
December 21: Christmas Savior
December 28: Epiphany Light



Rise AGAINST HUNGER

We are delighted to announce that those who participated in our September 19, 2021 Rise Against Hunger (RAH) experience packed **a total of 12,096 meals (56 boxes).** They have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from RAH's Houston warehouse. The meals will be received by RAH's in-country partner, Convoy of Hope, in Haiti. Thank you to all who made this possible!

Presbyterian Women

The PW Thank Offering is collected in the fall of each year to celebrate the blessings in our lives. The offering funds projects not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. This year's grant recipients include twelve organizations across the country and beyond (see November *Cross Connections* for complete list). To contribute to this year's Thank Offering, please send your check made out to Presbyterian Women, with "Thank Offering" in the memo line, to the church. You may also drop off your check in the church office.

The PW Thank Offering will be received in the worship services next Sunday, November 7.

The next PW gathering is **THIS Tuesday, November 2, 10:00 a.m.** on Zoom. We will dedicate our annual thank offerings and present a lifetime membership award. You are welcome to linger after the meeting for a time of fellowship. The zoom link is in *News@First.*

Presbyterian Women is sponsoring an **All Church Seed-packing Event** **on Tuesday, November 9 at 9:30 a.m.** to support the ministry of **Hope Seeds International Inc.** Hope Seeds is a charitable Christian ministry that seeks to improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world by providing quality garden seed and agricultural education through Christian missionaries and organizations. Teaching someone how to grow their own food while sharing our faith in God is the core purpose of Hope Seeds. We welcome all who would like to participate in packaging seeds to meet in the Fellowship Hall. We will be masked and practicing social distancing during the event.

Invest in Children - Good News from Brentwood!





Yes, we have received ***good news*** from our mission partner, Brentwood Elementary School! **Volunteers** will soon be able to return to the Brentwood campus! If you are interested in volunteering or just want to learn more about this amazing opportunity to invest some time with the Brentwood students, please contact Jinny and Ron Miller at jinnyron@gmail.com or by phone at (941) 371-2750, extension 554. More information will be available soon, but we can get ready ***now.*** This Title 1 elementary school needs ***you!***

Collection for Farmworkers - Sunday, November 14

Misión Peniel

Our church is an ongoing supporter of Misión Peniel in Immokolee. Misión Peniel provides assistance to area farmworkers. See the flyer insert for a list of non-perishable foods and personal care items being collecting to help this community in great need. Financial donations may also be given (instructions on flyer). Your gifts make a difference!

Family Promise

Family Promise is so grateful for everyone who has the heart to give and chooses to donate to Family Promise and the families it serves. **You may donate to Family Promise through the giving page on the First Presbyterian Church website.**

Go to https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=91629 and select "Family Promise" from the drop-down menu. Family Promise and its clients appreciate all you do.

Memorial Flowers

The lovely flowers in the sanctuary today are given by George and Merle Chorba "in memory of those we have loved and lost, and with gratitude for the family and friends God has given us."

Memorial Services

Please mark on your calendar memorial services for

- **Paul Klick on Saturday, November 6,** 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary
- **Cullen Sabin on Thursday, November 11,** 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
- **Irene Halsted and grandson on Thursday, November 18,** 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
- **Betty Fee on Monday, November 22,** 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

Health and Wellness

Holiday Safety: COVID-19 and Flu Vaccines

The CDC has issued a list of recommendations to help minimize COVID-19 exposure during holiday gatherings. **The best possible way to maximize protection and minimize the spread of COVID-19 is to get vaccinated!** The CDC also recommends you **get your flu shot,** readily available at many locations throughout the community and at your doctor's office. There are several variations of the flu shot available, including a flu nasal spray, the high-dose version for individuals aged 65+, and an egg-free version. You can visit the CDC website for access a COVID-19 and flu vaccine finder.

First Presbyterian Blood Drive

Heartfelt thanks go to the 17 FPC donors who gave blood at our drive last Sunday, October 24. Our 17 units of blood products collected will help save up to 51 lives. A complete list of our donors is in *News@First.*

Mark your calendars! Our next SunCoast Blood Drive is **December 19, 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.** You may use the Quick Pass to begin the blood donation process prior to your donation. Access Quick Pass at scbb.org/donor-quick-passhtml.

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.

Stewardship Pledges

Appreciation goes to those who have already submitted their pledge. If you have not yet completed yours, pledge cards are available through the church website (www.firstpressarasota.org). You may also call the church office to request that a new stewardship packet be mailed to you. Each gift is appreciated!

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!