Happening Soon at FPC Sarasota!

MAY 15 - Two services - 9 & 11 AM

MAY 22 - ONE SERVICE - 10 AM
Margaret's last Sunday, communion
Farewell reception to follow
in the Fellowship Hall

MAY 29 - Two services - 9 & 11 AM
Guest preacher: Rev. Carlos Emilio Ham
from Cuba

JUNE 5 - Two services - 9 & 11 AM
Pentecost Sunday, communion
Craig Miller's first Sunday

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 8, 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.





Flower Dedication

"Mother is a verb. It's something you do. Not just who you are." - Cheryl Lacey Donovan

This morning's flowers are given to the glory of God from the Membership and Fellowship Committee, wishing everyone who has mothered in any and every way a very blessed Mother's Day!



Reverend Craig Miller to Serve as Bridge Pastor

The session is delighted to announce that the Rev. Craig Miller has agreed to serve as a short-term bridge pastor/head of staff. We anticipate him serving from the time that Margaret leaves 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. Because they are committed to being part of the FPC community while Craig is serving here, they have found a summer rental on Siesta Key. We are delighted and grateful to have Craig and his wife, Donna, joining us for the homestretch of the Pastor Nominating Committee's search. Craig was not looking for a position but was willing to follow the Spirit's prompting when it came. (He comes highly recommended by all who know him, including Elaine Barnett!)

Craig's official start date will be June 1, 2022, but you may see him and his wife, Donna, in worship before then! Please welcome them and begin to introduce yourselves as opportunities arise.

Saying Goodbye to Margaret LaMotte Torrence



The work of an interim pastor has a beginning and an end, and Margaret's time with us is drawing to a close. **Her last Sunday will be May 22**. We will celebrate her ministry with **one combined service at 10:00 a.m.,** followed by a reception. Margaret has requested that no love offering be taken; she would be delighted for any contributions in her honor to go to the FPC General Fund. Please note "in honor of Margaret" in the memo line.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women understands that scripture asks us to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. One way we do that is with the **Birthday Offering**. Received in the spring each year, it gives us a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in our lives.

This year the Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering observes a century of generous giving totaling almost $37 million to-date. Launched in 1922 to honor the 100th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Birthday offering is an annual tradition for givers and receivers around the world. Each year, the Birthday Offering awards grants to up to five programs. Primarily making possible capital improvement projects, this offering supports domestic and international ministries, focusing on areas such as

agricultural development
childcare
community organization
criminal justice
drug counseling
economic justice
elderly care
employment training
homelessness
literacy
violence
women's concerns

Use the special envelope in your bulletin today for your offering. A collection table is set up just outside the church to receive your donations. Birthday Offerings can also be mailed to or left in the church office. **Checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women with "Birthday Offering" in the memo line.** For more information and a list of organizations receiving grants this year, go to presbyterianwomen.org/birthday.

Update to COVID On-Campus Guidelines



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now 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.

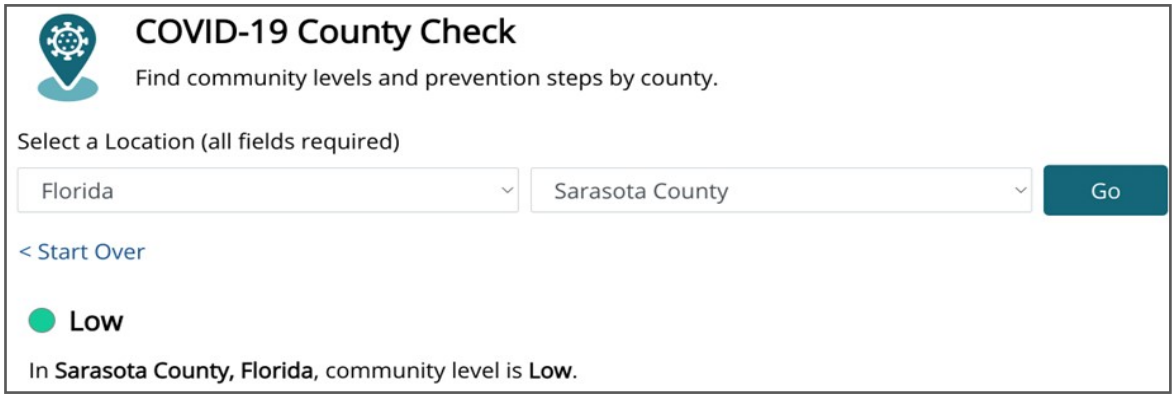
At its April 26 meeting, the session decided to adopt the CDC's community-level risk assessment tool as our guide for masking requirements on the FPC campus.

- 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.

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 will feel supported in that decision.

Here's an example of the kind of screen you might see at

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!

Cedarkirk
A place apart to build up the body of Christ in love.
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

FPC Traveling Day Camp is coming BACK!

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 bring back **FPC Day Camp in partnership with Cedarkirk's Traveling Day Camp!** A few years ago Cedarkirk decided to bring their camp programs on the road to different Presbyterian churches in the area. This is such a fun and amazing way to get the "overnight" camp experience but without spending the night. Please 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. Registration and volunteer information will be coming soon!

Recognition of Graduates

Parents, grandparents, and students, please email **Molly Horner** mhorner@firstpressarasota.org, Children and Youth Coordinator, with the name of your graduate, school graduating from, type of degree obtained, and a brief description of future plans (i.e., entering [name of college] in the fall), **by TOMORROW—Monday, May 9.** We would welcome news of impending graduations from high school, college, technical training programs or graduate schools. There is so much to celebrate!

Sarasota Music Club

Sarasota Music Club presents the Suncoast Music Scholarships 2022 Winners Concert **this Saturday, May 14, at 3:00 p.m.** at First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota in the Fellowship Hall. The Sarasota Music Club has been promoting music education, appreciation, and performance since 1930. Visit https://SarasotaMusicClub for more information.



NEW Adult Education Zoom Class: "Only By God's Grace" Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m., May 17 – 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 will explore what it means to live out the grace of God and perceive God's amazing grace around us. This class will be led by **Elaine Barnett** via Zoom and held Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. beginning May 17. Please register through the weblink in the *New@First* e-newsletter. Lesson titles are:

May 17 - The Bible Teaches about God's Grace
May 24 - Grace through Christian History
May 31 - Reformed Understanding of Grace
June 7 - Gracious Lives of Others
June 14 - Practicing God's Grace
June 21 - God's Amazing Grace

Considering Church Membership?

If you are interested in becoming a member of this congregation, please speak to Margaret or let the church office know of your desire (941) 955-8119. Whether or not you choose an official affiliation, we are delighted that you are here!

Recommendations for Officer Candidates

It is our privilege and responsibility as Presbyterians to elect our own leaders, and the Nominating Committee is organizing for the work of the coming year. They would like to know names of members whom you believe to be gifted for service as elders, deacons, or members of next year's Nominating Committee. Position descriptions and nominating forms are available in the entryway (along with a box for you to submit completed forms). **The due date for submissions is TODAY! Please take a moment to submit your suggestions before you leave,** and please be in prayer for the committee as they undertake this work of discernment.

SURE Social Justice Corner

Thank you to the many of our church family, as well as all the SURE congregations, for being a part of the **Annual SURE Celebration held at our church last Monday evening.** It was exciting to celebrate the accomplishments of SURE and its members this past year!

Next Blood Drive at First Presbyterian: Sunday, June 12 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Our Condolences

Jean Fulton, following the death of her niece's husband, who died in his sleep on April 20 at the age of 47. Jean asks that we remember her niece, Patty, and their three girls in our prayers.

John and Valerie Schaub, following the death of John's brother-in-law, David Leestma, who died April 27, leaving his wife, Cathy, their children and grandchildren.

Darwin and Carolyn Goldsmith, following the death on April 29 of Darwin's sister, Donna Strassburg, in Washington State. Darwin is our new sexton.

May these beloved ones rest in peace and rise in glory.

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!