January 30, 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.

Reception for Lydia to be Rescheduled

The reception for Lydia Chapdelain originally scheduled for today has been postponed due to illness. Watch for the new date coming soon. If you brought a note for Lydia, you will find a collection basket in the entryway.



The Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo Will Be Our Guest Preacher
Next Sunday, February 6



Neddy is a Venezuelan-American, an ecotheologian and PCUSA pastor who has taught in seminaries in Guatemala, Bolivia, Peru, México and the United States. She explains ecotheology this way: "Ecotheology is reflecting on our faith from a belief in God as Creator. It seeks to find faith-based solutions to the environmental challenges of our time, lifting up Creation care as an act of faith."

Neddy has a Doctor of Ministry in "Greening the Church." In 1998, she co-founded the Angelic Organics Learning Center, a farm-based nonprofit organization, where people connect with food, farming and caring for the earth.

Neddy will be preaching in both the 9:00 a.m. NewSong service and the 11:00 a.m. traditional service. Between services, from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall Neddy will be available for a question-and-answer time. We look forward to hearing from this vibrant and engaging leader in the church!

Mark Your Calendar: Souper Bowl of Caring
Sunday, February 13

Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with the simple prayer by a Presbyterian seminary intern, desiring to inspire others on Super Bowl Sunday to donate to those "who are without a bowl of soup to eat." Since then, youth groups have been harnessing the energy of people coming together for football, food, and fun to raise funds to help feed those in need. Together, we tackle hunger by supporting local hunger relief through this ministry.

Our youth will be stationed with soup pots at the door after both services on **Sunday, February 13,** to receive your gifts of money to help alleviate hunger in our area. Checks may be made to First Presbyterian Church with "Souper Bowl" in the memo line.

Including Your Photo in the Online Church Directory

On Sundays, February 13 and 20, the Membership and Fellowship Committee will be on hand to take individual and family pictures for the online church directory. The photo shoot will be in the courtyard from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. No appointment is needed—just show up when you are able during these times. You also have the option of sending a favorite photo of yourself to the church office to be added to the online directory: Email: info@firstpressarasota.org

Please help us to update the directory. Current photos will be helpful both to our members and to our new pastor!



"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals" Six-Week Adult Education Class Offered via Zoom Wednesdays, February 23 - April 3

The launch of this class was postponed due to high COVID transmission rates. The class will begin on **Wednesday, February 23, at 12:00 noon by Zoom.** The Zoom link is in *News@First!* This class, taught by **Doug DeCelle,** retired minister, and **Hal Serrie,** anthropologist, will present the biblical evidence that God's intention is to preserve all living things, bringing them to perfection and a joyous, harmonious existence. We will consider the nature and destiny of the whole created world. For details about this unique class, visit Doug DeCelle's website:

https://www.douglasdecelle.net/every-living-creature-gods-design-for-animals/

Look to the Cross: A Lenten Study

Lent is a time to focus on the cross as a central symbol of Christianity. Ever since early Christians began to reflect on the death of Jesus Christ, they knew the three hours when Jesus hung on a Roman cross were decisively important to their eternal salvation and their relationship with God. They found the cross had the power to change lives forever, through the forgiveness of sins and the new life that comes through the power of God. Biblical and theological perspectives will be explored to understand why and how Jesus' death is so crucial to our faith. This class will be led by Elaine Barnett via Zoom and held **Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. beginning March 8.** Sign-up by emailing Elaine at: ewbarnet@me.com

Lesson titles are:

Mar 8 - The Crux of the Matter
Mar 15 - The Cross as Necessary?
Mar 22 - Accessing the Presence of God
Mar 29 - Picturing the Atonement
Apr 5 - The Cross in the Tradition of the Reformers
Apr 12 - The Invitation to Live into the Way of the Cross

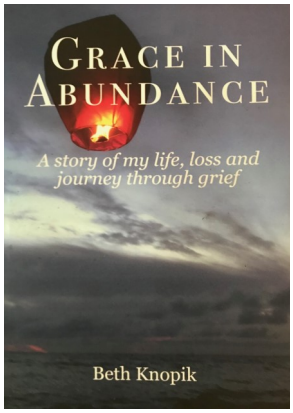
Distribution of Incaparina Drink Mix to the Mam Children



On January 4, Presbyterian Women hosted Cindie Moore from the Association of Mam Christian Women for Development to hear the progress in Guatemala. The Mam are an indigenous group of people living in the mountainous region of Guatemala near Mexico. In the recent past, we assisted the Mam women with funds to purchase cook stoves, cattle sheds, and incaparina, a drink mix for their malnourished children.

Cindie tells us the need is still great to reduce hunger in the children. Each malnourished child is weighed, measured, and given incaparina and then monitored. Mothers are given instruction on nutrition and how to raise egg-laying chickens and grow vegetables. If you would like to help continue our support of the Mam women by providing incaparina, please send or leave your donation for Mary Webb in the church office before the end of February. **Checks should be made out to Presbyterian Women with "incaparina" in the memo line.**

Save March 28 and 29 to attend the Peace River PW Spring Retreat at DaySpring Conference Center in Ellenton. Watch for details in upcoming church emails and bulletins.



Grace in Abundance: Beth Knopik's Memoir

Beth Knopik, a longtime member of FPC, has written a memoir entitled *Grace in Abundance,* which describes Beth's discovery of God's grace during a very dark time.

As many of you know, she lost her 16-year-old daughter to myocarditis in 2012, and she writes of her life, loss and journey through grief. Beth's story includes Dr. Ray Woody, Reverend Clay Thomas, and other FPC members, She has donated two copies to our church library. Powerful with beautiful imagery, *Grace in Abundance* is a must-read for anyone struggling with loss.

Invest in Children - Time to Celebrate



It has been five years since February 2017 when members of First Presbyterian Church were first invited to consider volunteering at **Brentwood Elementary School.** This unique mission partnership has blossomed into a cadre of volunteers (though COVID has disrupted that effort), the adoption of many classes, Christmas blessings for students and their families in need, and a much appreciated "welcome back" brunch for the staff. Thank you for your investment in this ministry!

An amazing steering committee has guided this mission throughout these five years: George Chorba, Kay Dunn, Lorraine Foltz, Alan and Linda Nelson, Sandi Soper, Jinny and Ron Miller, Rachel Martin, and new members Mary and Tony Williams. Be sure to share your "Happy Anniversary" greetings with them as they celebrate five years of ministry with the students and staff of Brentwood Elementary School!

Caritas Announcement



Caritas of Sarasota was established in 1980 as a joint effort of five downtown churches headed by St. Martha's Catholic Church, with First Baptist Church, First United Methodist Church, Church of the Redeemer, and First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota. It is an outreach ministry that provides food and other assistance to Sarasota residents in acute financial need (e.g., utility payments, prescriptions, transportation, and work attire). **The Herrig Caritas Center,** which replaced the original interview facilities, is located at 1645 Fruitville Road, and was dedicated in 2018. **The Caritas Food Pantry** is housed at First Baptist Church on Main Street.

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in new safety operating procedures that necessitate additional volunteers. Our church does not currently have sufficient volunteers to assist clients at the **Herrig Caritas Center.** However, FPC will continue sending financial support to the mission at **Herrig Caritas Center.** We are grateful for our teams of FPC volunteers who will continue to serve by assisting in the **Caritas Food Pantry.** We also thank the many volunteers that served **Caritas of Sarasota** for the past 20 plus years. If you would like to join this team, please contact Dave Householder: dphouse47@gmail.com



Annual Meeting & Celebration: Sunday, February 27, 10:00 a.m.

- One combined service

Ash Wednesday Service: March 2, 6:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming FPC Sarasota blood drives:

Sundays, March 20 and June 12; 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Current COVID Guidelines On-Campus

Due to high COVID transmission rates in our area, the session has determined that masks (worn over the mouth and nose) are required for worship and while in any buildings on campus, regardless of vaccination status.*

Under the guidance of the Worship and Music Committee, every-other pew on one side of the sanctuary has been blocked for those who desire to maintain additional social distance. Exterior doors will be left open, as weather permits, and seats in the Fellowship Hall have been more widely dispersed.

Please contact any member of the session if you have concerns or questions about this policy. In a constantly shifting landscape, it is our hope to provide a safe space for all to worship and serve. The session is so grateful for the patience and loving spirit that this congregation has exhibited through it all.

* The session has granted an exception to this policy by allowing the weekly preschool to determine its own COVID-related policies for preschool spaces.

Pastoral Care

When you or a loved one is hospitalized, it is important that you contact the church or one of the pastors to inform us directly **and** inform the hospital that you are a member of our congregation and would welcome a visit by one of our pastors. ***Hospitals will not contact the church.*** We have also discovered that some will no longer even list a patient as our church member on their internal records unless the patient is careful to note their relationship with our congregation. Thank you for your assistance.

We're Here for You!

The FPC care team, Stephen Ministers, deacons, elders and church staff continue to be available for you. Please feel free to reach out to Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse (941) 320-3828 or call the church office (941) 955-8119 if we can be of support to you.

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!