



## December 11, 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

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

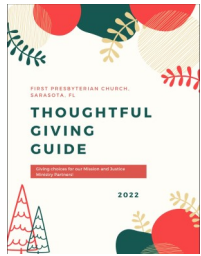


Our children and youth are happily planning for our Family Christmas Eve Service. This service will have all the elements of the Nativity service that our church family has cherished for years, coupled with bright stars, traditional Christmas music, and participation by the children and youth of our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

If your family is interested in taking part, please meet in the Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. today! 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. The booklet is available as you exit the services. You may also print it using the link in *News@First*.

#### **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.



**Advent booklets are available as you enter or exit worship services.** They can also be printed at home with the link in the *News at First*.



#### **Blood Drive TODAY, 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.**

Walk-ins welcome. Free T-shirts for donors.

#### **Presbyterian Women**

PW Bible study meets Wednesday, December 14, at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. Anna Bedford is leading the fourth lesson in the *Horizons* Bible Study, "Celebrating Sabbath." This lesson from Exodus 16 is titled *Sabbath and Surrender*. The "manna" story, with its emphasis on only gathering as much as we need and not gathering on the Sabbath, is a call to trust God to provide for our needs. It is a call to surrender our unhealthy striving for more wealth, more stuff, and more success. It is a call to recognize when it is time to say, "Enough." The study guide is not necessary to join, and all women are invited! Contact Elaine Barnett at [ewbarnet@me.com](mailto:ewbarnet@me.com) for the Zoom link.



## Save the Date

**Sunday, Dec. 25 - Christmas Day:** One service at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall  
(in person and live-streamed)

**Sunday, Jan. 1 - First Sunday of Christmas:** One service at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

**Sunday, Jan. 8 - Epiphany Sunday:** 9:00 a.m. NewSong and 11:00 a.m. traditional worship services



## Invest in Children



**THANK YOU** for bringing your gift cards for Brentwood Elementary School families in need! **Today is the last day** to return these cards which will make such a difference in the lives of these families.

Thank you, too, for responding to the invitation to join the families at the **Celebration Dinner on Sunday, December 18, 4:00-6:00 p.m.** There will be fun activities for the children and a delicious dinner and Christmas program for all. You may sign up at the Blessing Trees if you would like to attend, or call the church office **by Wednesday, December 14.**

Please pray for the families, the Invest in Children steering committee and their helpers who are preparing for this event. What a blessing the culmination of this project will be—to the families and all those who have supported this unique effort. Thank you!

## Preschool Happenings



Our preschool students, teachers and parents care for the preschool's vegetable, herb, and butterfly garden. Recently, they harvested tomatoes, peppers, and germinated beans to grow at home with their families. The students are also caring for butterfly plants to fuel their spring butterfly project of watching their caterpillar friends nibble their way through the caterpillar lifespan and change into butterflies which are then released.

The preschool garden parents are collecting compost materials for the school's compost bin. If you enjoy coffee, please save your coffee grounds; or vegetable or fruit scraps. We'll gladly take those off your hands! Compost scraps need to be free from meat, dairy, fat, and nut products. Please place coffee grounds and fruit or veggie scraps in a Ziploc bag. If you have an interest in helping our preschool parents in the garden, or you have compost donations, please contact the preschool office at (941) 366-2000, or email [preschool@firstpressarasota.org](mailto:preschool@firstpressarasota.org).

Our preschool children are inviting all the church family to the **Christmas Performances Thursday, December 15 and Friday, December 16** from 11:40 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Excitement is growing to celebrate **our preschool's 75th anniversary in February 2023.**

## Cuba Trip Update

In a few weeks (**February 8-14**), thirteen First Presbyterian Church members will head to Cuba to visit our partner church, Juan G. Hall in Cárdenas, and visit the seminary in Matanzas. Cuba is in the grip of dire shortages of food and medicine, and power outages occur daily. COVID has greatly worsened the situation.



The travel team asks for your abundant prayers for their trip and the situation in Cuba. More details will be coming. Thank you for supporting the partnership!



## ***Sarasota Music Club – Free Concert This Friday!***



The Sarasota Music Club will be presenting its December program in the **Fellowship Hall this Friday, December 16, at 10:30 a.m.** **Andrew Kapsar**, an outstanding baritone, will be performing “A Classical Holiday Morning” concert of music sure to please everyone at this festive time of the year.



Andrew is a voice major at FSU and the recipient of the 2022 Florida Federation of Music Club’s Collegiate Competition. The Sarasota Music Club’s concerts are free and open to the public so we hope you’ll join us on Friday for a morning of uplifting music by a young, rising star in the music world.

## **Salt Shakers**

One wonderful way for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to get to know each other better is to break bread together. Groups of 6-8 people (couples or singles) meet once a month from February through April or May.

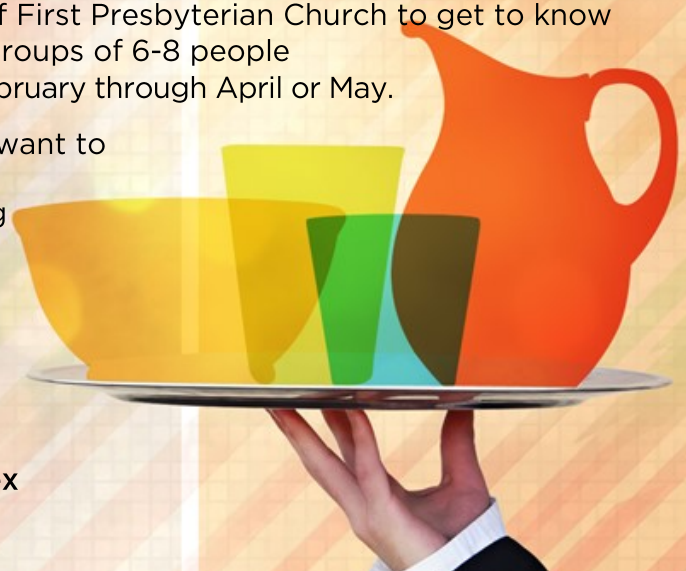
Each **Salt Shaker** group decides whether they want to have a potluck at a member’s home, dine at a restaurant, have a picnic, or brunch or something else, groups are encouraged to be creative!

**Sign up through the end of January.**

### *Questions?*

Diane Bittner: (941) 755-2268 or  
Marcia Schaper: (941) 922-5245

**Pick up a registration form today in the narthex  
or in the foyer of the Fellowship Hall.**



## ***The Rev. Dr. Timothy Boggess to Preach on ‘Day 1’® Radio Program (Article published by ‘Day 1’)***

**The Rev. Dr. Timothy T. Boggess**, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Sarasota, FL, is the **featured preacher December 25, Christmas Day, on “Day 1”** with host Peter Wallace, the nationally broadcast ecumenical radio program also **accessible online at Day1.org.**

His sermon “In the Dark” is drawn from the beloved nativity story found in Luke 2:1-20. “It’s been 34 months and we’re still in the dark about when this pandemic will finally be over. Over these past few years, we have lost many whom we loved,” says Boggess. “Which is why we need to hear the message of Christmas now more than ever.”

Before coming to Sarasota, he was pastor of Northwest Presbyterian Church in Atlanta for 13 years, having earlier served churches in Madison and Cartersville, Ga., and Perry, Ok. Boggess is a graduate of Whitworth College in Spokane, Wash., and earned an M. Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and a D. Min. from McCormick Theological Seminary.

The program includes interviews with Boggess conducted by Wallace, who is also executive producer. “Day 1” has been broadcast every week for 77 years, formerly as “The Protestant Hour.” Featuring outstanding preachers from the mainline denominations, “Day 1” is currently distributed to 200 radio stations across America and overseas. The program is produced by the Alliance for Christian Media, based in Atlanta, Ga. “Day 1”® is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office by the Alliance for Christian Media, Inc. For more information, check the program’s website, <http://day1.org>.

## Consider a Year-End Gift to Support First Presbyterian Church

You are invited 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 this decision with the session for the 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 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 link to the Covenant Society pledge form is in *News@First*.

## 2023 Offering Envelopes Available Now

This Sunday, December 11, and Sunday, December 18, there is a table set up for you to pick up your 2023 offering envelopes. **To save on mailing costs, please 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.

## 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.

## If You're in the Hospital . . .

Be sure to notify the hospital that you are a member of First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota, and would like visits from your pastoral care team.

## FPC Sarasota Giving Options



**Offering baskets** will be available near the entrance. Your gifts make a great difference!

**Online:** If you are interested in giving electronically through our secure e-giving process, please visit [FirstPresSarasota.org](http://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](mailto:info@firstpressarasota.org) to sign up!