August 27, 2023 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.

Summer Sermon Series – by Rev. Timothy Boggess

This summer, while many of you find yourselves traveling from one place to the other, we are going to explore some of the Bible's greatest road trips. The title of the series is ***Road Trips: Stories of Faith on the Move***. Each Sunday, the sermon title will come from the title of a great travel story.



August 27	*Lost in My Own Backyard*	Acts 9:1-22
September 3	*A Voyage Long and Strange*	Acts 18-21, selected

I hope that you will join us either in-person or online. It's going to be a journey to remember!

Called Congregational Meeting - Sunday, September 10, 2023, 12:00 noon

The session is calling a congregational meeting **Sunday September 10,** following the 11:00 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary. The purpose is for the **election of elders and deacons**, and the **church officer nominating committee members**. A booklet of the nominees' biographies will be available at worship services or online. All church members who are able are asked to be present to ensure a quorum. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please be in prayer for all of our church leaders.

Join us for Rally Day this Sunday, August 27 at 10: 00 a.m. to STEP INTO THE BOAT! Meet your teachers, see your classroom, and kick off the 2023-2024 Sunday school year.
All families planning to participate in Sunday school this year must complete the appropriate form(s) for each child. See links in New@First or use the QR code.

Child form (Prek to 5th) Youth form (6th to 12th)

Inquirers' Class

If you are interested in learning more about this dynamic congregation, we'd love to get better acquainted with you! Our next inquirers' class will be on **Sunday, September 17**, from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Instruction typically includes information concerning the beliefs, history, worship, and practices of the Presbyterian Church. We will meet together in class (room 225) from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m., worship together from 11:00 a.m.– 12:00 noon, and then have a lite lunch and continue our discussion from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Please RSVP to the church office: (941) 955-8119 to make lunch reservations (noting any dietary restrictions). We hope to see YOU there! New members will be welcomed by the congregation on Sunday, September 24, in both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Fall Salt Shakers Last day to sign up is TODAY, August 27.

Joining Salt Shakers is a wonderful way for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to get to know each other. Groups of 6-8 people (singles or couples) meet once a month from September through November/December. Each group decides whether they want to have a potluck at a member's home, dine at a restaurant or have a picnic or brunch. Sign up forms are in the foyer of Fellowship Hall and the narthex of the Sanctuary. Questions? Call Diane Bittner (941) 755-2268 or Marcia Schaper (941) 922-5245.

Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Sponsored by the Mission and Justice Committee for the last Wednesday of the month 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. ***This Wednesday, August 30,*** be a part of the group from FPC that gathers at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma to sort food and related activities. This mission partner distributes food to help 600-900 folks each week. To sign up or for more information contact Barbara Chase (941) 210-2497.

Now Is A Great Time…

To add your voice to our Chancel Choir! This welcoming group will give you spiritual encouragement, artistic growth, and a place to serve. And *Celtic Christmas* music starts soon. No audition is required, although some rudimentary music reading skills are needed. Give us a try this Wednesday from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. in the Forum. Call Steven at (850) 567-3197 if you need that last little nudge to get you in the door!

Gifts Are Being Received in Support of A Celtic Christmas

This major outreach will draw hundreds of people to our church campus. This year our choir teams up with the Lubben Brothers Band, The Tallahassee Irish Step Dancers, Musica Sacra, and bagpiper Kevin Weigand. Your support will help us celebrate the season and serve our community! Thanks to an anonymous donor, donations will be matched up to $3,000!

Ways to give, make checks payable to FPC, with Celtic Christmas in the memo line or go to www.firstpressarasota.org, select give online, select Friends Of Music Ministry with Celtic Christmas in the memo line.

New Adult Education Class

Follow Me: Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. via ZOOM
September 12- October 17

The beloved Gospel of John has deep and rich theological meanings. It focuses on who Jesus is as the Messiah and what it means to believe in him. John's understandings of Jesus are expressed in important metaphors that point toward Jesus in ways that are rich and meaningful. This study explores major themes in John's Gospel relating to the person of Jesus: Tabernacle, Giver of Living Water, Bread of Life, Good Shepherd, Resurrection and Life, and Passover Offering. These are significant images that move us to a deeper faith and to new visions of what it means, in very practical ways, to believe in Jesus today. This class will be led by **Elaine Barnett**, a member of FPC, an Elder and Certified Christian Educator. Register by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com. See more information in *News@First.*

Kayaking Day, Saturday, September 9



Kayak day is coming! Meet your church family on **Saturday, September 9**, at 8:40 a.m. on the bay side of Turtle Beach (8918 Midnight Pass Road), Siesta Key. Bring your own kayak or rent from our preferred vendor, Ultimate Kayak SRQ at (941) 720-8807, and ask for the discount rate for FPC. Call Pete **by Thursday, September 7**, to reserve: a single kayak for $35 or a double kayak for $40 for three hours. Pay them by credit card or cash.

We'll paddle in the bay down to peaceful Midnight Pass Beach to swim in the Gulf, if you like. Bring sunscreen, hat, clothes that can get wet, and water. Afterward, we'll have lunch at Turtle Beach Grill. If you don't want to kayak, meet us at Turtle Beach Grill around 12:30 p.m. For more information and to let us know that you are planning to join us, call or text Sue Hargis Spigel at (941) 735-8786 or Wendy Miller (941) 321-8488.



Fellowship Fun Please join us for the 10:00 a.m. fellowship hour. We serve coffee, tea, lemonade, and ice water and a selection of fruit, cheese and crackers, bagged chips, and baked goodies, some of them home-baked. Enjoy the opportunity to converse with people from the church service you normally don't attend. We have a vibrant congregation; here is a chance to talk and find out what other people are doing and thinking.

If you would like to receive our Friday E-Newsletter, News @ First, please call the church office, (941) 955-8119 or email, info@firstpressarasota.org.