

# Love is First

We are delighted that you are joining us for worship today! We are a curious, inclusive, and diverse gathering of imperfect people united by our common hope in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, and service we seek to know and show the transformative love of God found in the pages of scripture and revealed in the person of Jesus. No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

**If You Are New Here** Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out-of-town, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with our pastor after today's worship or share your information with us in the pew pad. We would love to get to know you better!

**Prayer Concern?** Please let us know how we can be praying for you by filling out the welcome card and placing it in the offering plate or by calling the church office (941) 955-8119.

**Children Of All Ages Are Welcome in Worship!** At the New Song (9:00 a.m.) service there are coloring sheets on the tables and an activity center in the corner. At the traditional (11:00 a.m.) service, children are invited to take a worship bag hanging in the narthex. Sunday School is from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the children's wing on the second floor. Ask a greeter for directions.

**To Aid In Worship** In the sanctuary, a T-Coil Hearing Loop is available for people with equipped hearing aids. Headphones to amplify sound are also available at the tech booth in the rear of the sanctuary.

**Worship Online** Livestreaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services is available at [www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live](http://www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live). Additionally, sermons are archived on YouTube.

**Ways To Give** There are many ways you can support the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian. During worship, you may place your gift in the offering plate or you can scan this QR code, it will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you can mail a check to the church office. Thank you for your gifts. Questions? Contact finance manager, Lisa Garcia; (941) 955-8119/[Lgarcia@firstpressarasota.org](mailto:Lgarcia@firstpressarasota.org).



## Today We Will Hear the Cuba Partnership Presentation

We welcome Graham Hart and members of the Cuba mission team to lead us in worship as they share "Being church and bearing witness in Cuba and Sarasota." The ten-member team was Graham Hart, Linda Hart, Ken Papa, Carol Papa, Sue Hargis Spigel, Elaine Moffitt, Dick Clapp, Rick Foltz, Jay Swick, and Nancy Wellinghoff.



## 2024 Giving Challenge, April 9 - April 10

First Presbyterian Church is two days away from participating in the 2024 Giving Challenge presented by the Community Foundation of Sarasota with giving strengthened by the Patterson Foundation. Online donations to First Presbyterian Church (First Presbyterian Preschool) of up to \$100 made between April 9 at noon and April 10 at noon will be generously matched by the Patterson Foundation!



Please Be The One to help create a developmental therapies scholarship fund, offer an attachment-based parenting class and an intergenerational yoga class for caregivers of infants to adults, and additional parenting support with your donation.



First Presbyterian Church is a 501 (c) (3) organization and 100% of your donation is tax-deductible. To make a donation, visit the Giving Challenge site (QR Code) or [www.givingchallenge.org](http://www.givingchallenge.org) April 9-10, noon - to noon, and enter "First Presbyterian Church (First Presbyterian Preschool)" in the search field. Click "search" and then click "Donate."



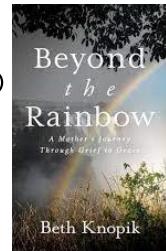
## **SunCoast Blood Drive, TODAY**

From 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. the SunCoast Bloodmobile will be here. Walk-ups are welcome. When you donate with SunCoast Blood Center, you are directly helping patients right here in our community.



## **A Deeper Dive... New Adult Sunday Class with Beth Knopik**

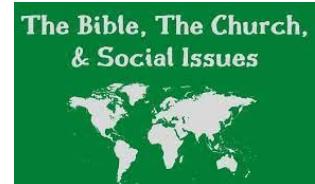
Starting TODAY and continuing every Sunday in April, from 10:05 – 10:50 a.m. (between services) in the chapel, we will explore topics/questions related to Beth Knopik's memoir, *A Grace Disguised, A Mother's Journey Through Grief to Grace*. Beth will lead us through an interactive discussion, delving deeper into each topic. One does not need to read the book to participate.



## **New Adult Class, The Bible, The Church and Social Issues**

Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. via Zoom - April 16 - May 21

While Christianity is a personal religion, it is also an eminently social religion. We are never Christians "on our own." Our faith takes shape and is expressed in the context of the Christian community, the church. The church lives its mission and ministries in the context of social communities, wherever they may be. Christians in the Reformed and Presbyterian traditions have emphasized that the church must engage in issues in society. One of the "Great Ends of the Church" is "The Promotion of Social Righteousness." Society is where God is at work. 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](mailto:ewbarnet@me.com).



## **Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering**

In 1922 Presbyterian Women chose to support the mission of their church by giving one dime for every year of their lives in a special offering called their Birthday Offering. 1922 a dime would equal \$1.85 today. Since then, Presbyterian Women Churchwide have shared over \$37 million for vital mission projects dedicated to improving the lives of women and children.



On April 14 you can celebrate your own birthday by giving to the Birthday Offering. Make check payable to FPC with Birthday in the memo. Your "Birthday" gift will support two mission projects in Missouri and Kentucky. Happy Birthday!

## **Woman's Bible Study**

"Through her faith, leadership, and resources Lydia-and other women like her-helped Christianity grow and thrive." In lesson 8 of the PW Bible study, Sacred Encounters, we will be studying the passage in Acts when Lydia responds to the preaching of Paul. Merle Chorba will be leading the discussion of lesson 8, " Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship". Join us via Zoom on April 17 at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to join us in this study. The study guide is optional. However, Elaine Barnett can scan you a copy if you would like one. Also contact Elaine at [ewbarnet@me.com](mailto:ewbarnet@me.com) to get the Zoom info, if this is your first lesson.



## **FPC Arts Advocates Training Session**

We are taking the next steps with our Arts Advocates program. You are invited to attend a training session on Thursday, April 25 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. During this session Steven Phillips and Rachel Martin will familiarize advocates with our facilities and will outline best practices related to concerts on the FPC campus. Please call the church office at (941)955-8119 to sign up.

## **Open Forum on Faith and Difference - April 19**

Our LGBTQ+ Fellowship Group invites you to attend our fifth Open Forum on Faith and Difference on Friday, April 19 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The theme for the night is "God Must Really Love Diversity," with guest leader Rev. Lillie Brock, pastor of Church of the Trinity Metropolitan Community Church (MCC). The MCC denomination was started in 1978 by Rev. Troy Perry as a safe haven for people of difference in sexuality and/or gender identification. Come hear about Lillie's own journey of faith, and learn how we can move our world forward in love and acceptance.

**Would you like receive our Friday E-Newsletter? Email [info@FirstPresSarasota.org](mailto:info@FirstPresSarasota.org) to be added to our distribution list.**

