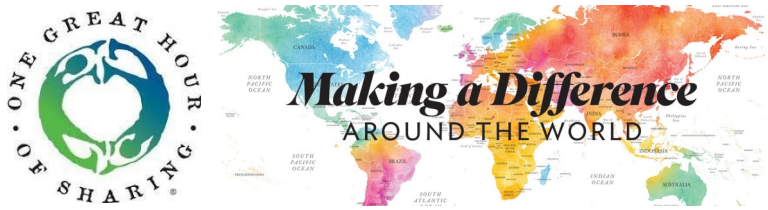
April 17, 2022 Announcements

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.





Special Offering: OGHS TODAY!

In Isaiah 58, God issues a call and a challenge—to love one another more deeply by sharing what we have with those in need. Together, we become the household of God where those seeking shelter, food and renewed hope are welcome.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the single, greatest way that Presbyterians come together every year to build God's household and welcome our neighbors in need around the world. We provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters.

Presbyterian Hunger Program: Takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

Self-Development of People: Invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

This special offering will be received **TODAY—Easter, April 17.** If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



Kids Against Hunger
Food Packing Event: NEXT Sunday, April 24
to benefit Ukrainian Residents and Refugees
1:00-4:00 p.m. - 50 Volunteers Needed
Coordinated by Carrie Mills and Emily Weitekamp

Meal-packing events have been well supported at FPCS in the past, but we've never attempted to pack this many meals on one day. **NEXT Sunday, April 24,** beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, we hope to package 20,000 meals to be transported into Poland and Ukraine.

The sponsoring organization, **Kids Against Hunger,** has worked out a special price of 34¢/meal. All shipping costs are being donated. Volunteers will package highly nutritious, vitamin-fortified soy-rice casseroles, which require only water and heat for preparation.

This is a great event for people of all ages and all abilities. There are sitting jobs, standing jobs, and tasks that kids can easily perform. The Education and Formation Committee and the Mission and Justice Committee have teamed up to fund this event, but we need you to help pack the meals. Please sign-up through *News@First* or use the link below:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E4BAEAC29A1FC1-kids



Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas

Thank you to those who provided the beautiful Easter flowers we enjoy today. For those who indicated, you may pick up your flowers after the 11:00 a.m. worship service. All other flowers will be delivered to our homebound members as an expression of love from our congregation.

April 17 - Easter Devotions for Children and Families

Today, churches sing joyful Easter songs.

Here are two verses from a popular Easter hymn:

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as God's love, Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

Words to this hymn are from Lyra Davidica and Charles Wesley

The word "Alleluia" means "praise the Lord"—a term of great joy! The Lord is risen; God's reign has come; our joy is complete; and we greet the risen Lord with shouts of "Alleluia!" When you are in church today, notice something from each of your five senses.

Sight – What did you see at church today? Anything different? Did you see new friends at church today?

Sound – What did you hear? Loud things AND quiet things? Listen for someone greeting a friend? Perhaps you'll hear an infant.

Smell – What do you smell today? Perfumes? Flowers? Candles?

Taste – Did anyone near you offer a mint? Is there sometimes a snack or brunch after church? On very special days we taste the bread and juice of communion.

Touch – What surfaces did you touch today? Papers? Crayons? Did you help put flowers in the flower cross? Notice things for your five senses each time you're at church.

Presbyterian Women meets for **Bible study on Zoom at 10:00 a.m. this Wednesday, April 20.** We will discuss lesson 8 from the *Horizons* 2021-2022 study guide led by **Merle Chorba.** All are welcome and the study guide is not required to participate. Please contact Elaine Barnett at ewbarnet@me.com for the Zoom link.

The 2022-2023 PW/*Horizons* Bible study guide, *Celebrating the Sabbath,* by Carol M. Bechtel is now available to order. If you would like one ordered for you and are not already on the list, please contact Flossie Paul at way2goflo@gmail.com**.** Copies cost $10; large print costs $15.

Look to the Cross: A Lenten Study
Final Class This Tuesday, April 19

This class, led by **Elaine Barnett via Zoom is on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. Use the link in *News@First*** to take part in the class**.** The lesson title for **April 19** is "The Invitation to Live into the Way of the Cross."



"Every Living Creature: God's Design for Animals"
Final Class This Wednesday, April 20

The class meets **Wednesday, April 20, at 12:00 noon by Zoom (**link is in *News@First);* taught by **Doug DeCelle** and **Hal Serrie.** Doug's website**:**

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

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 description 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 **Sunday, May 8.** Please be in prayer for the committee as they undertake this work of discernment.

Stories of Faith and Difference
Next Friday, April 22, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall



On **Friday, April 22** you will have a unique opportunity to come and join our deacons for conversation with members of our congregation who identify as LGBTQ+. The evening will provide an opportunity for us to hear each other's stories and to grow in our understanding of the myriad ways God's love finds expression. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a basket will be available to receive donations to defray the cost of the food.

To allow us to plan appropriately, we would be grateful to know if you hope to attend. Please call the church office at (941) 955-8119. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All interested persons are welcome. Margaret Torrence will moderate the conversation and we will conclude the gathering with a brief time of worship.

The Data Dump will be held on **Friday, April 22,** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 8100 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202, hosted by our technology service provider.This is a great annual opportunity to safely and securely dispose of your old technology devices.



Accepted Items: LCD monitors, printers, computers, laptops, keyboards, tablets, cables, and phones.
Items Not Accepted: Televisions, batteries, and CRT monitors.

You pull up in your car and the SouthTech team helps you unload. Devices with hard drives are taken apart and the hard drives are destroyed so no one can access your data.You can stick around to watch or record the hard drive destruction, or you can head out as soon as your car is unloaded.

All Ears Mobile Hearing Services
NEXT Sunday, April 24

All Ears will be at First Presbyterian from 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. providing **hearing evaluations at no charge.** Appointments are required. Please contact **Cheryl Track,** Faith Community Nurse, for questions and to reserve your space, 4tracks@comcast.net, (941) 320-3828.

The Ears Mobile is a full service mobile office featuring the latest state-of-the-art technology. The unit is equipped with custom steps and handles for assistance into the mobile office. There are amenities found including: sound booth for hearing testing, comfortable seating for private consultations and most hearing aid services.

Church Office Closed Monday, April 18

Our church office will be closed tomorrow (Monday, April 18) in observance of Easter.

Now Showing: Stage and Screen

Next Sunday, April 24, 6:00 pm - Church of the Palms



From TV favorites to classic westerns, and songs where audiences can hum along from a diverse repertoire, the ringers have selected a few original pieces to show off the amazing music composed specifically for handbells. Website for ticket purchase is in *News@First.*

The 2022 Giving Challenge

From noon on Tuesday, April 26 to noon on Wednesday, April 27

Sponsored by The Community Foundation of Sarasota County, **The Giving Challenge** is an exciting 24-hour online giving event that connects 700+ nonprofit organizations with passionate donors and community members to support diverse causes and create enduring impact in Sarasota, Manatee, Charlotte, and DeSoto counties.

Through The Giving Challenge, you can donate to many of our mission partners, including Family Promise, All Faiths Food Bank, Resurrection House, and S.U.R.E. Anyone with a credit card and access to the internet can donate. You can also visit www.GivingChallenge.org on your mobile device. Donations of $25 or more are accepted and are 100% Tax-deductible.

The Patterson Foundation will provide a 1:1 match for all unique donations, up to $100 per donor, per organization made online with a credit or debit card. There is no limit to the number of nonprofit organizations a donor can give to and still get matched. (Weblink in *News@First.)*

Our next blood drive at First Presbyterian is Sunday, June 12 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Current COVID Guidelines On-Campus

Due the significant decline in COVID rates in our area, masks are optional for worship and while in any buildings on campus for those who are fully vaccinated.

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!