October 24, 2021 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.

Welcome Rev. Paul Roberts!
For Faith Focus Weekend



Bridging the Gap
Conversations of hope and healing toward racial reconciliation

The Rev. Paul Roberts, Sr., President of Johnson C. Smith Seminary (Atlanta, GA), is with us today as our returning Faith Focus Weekend guest speaker. The weekend theme is "Bridging the Gap: Conversations of Hope and Healing toward Racial Reconciliation." Rev. Roberts' presentation yesterday, "*Now What?! Reflections on Christian Activism,"* in-person and live-streamed included participation from our congregation and community. The Manasota Interracial Book Club also offered an engaging panel discussion by some of their leaders on "Black / White Church Partnerships: A Bridge Across the Racial Divide." The formation of this thriving group was inspired by Rev. Roberts when he was with us in 2018. We are grateful to have him preaching in our services today!

Video/Discussion Series Continues Today
10:20 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall - for adults of all ages!

Join us today in the Fellowship Hall to watch a short video, exploring our world from a perspective of Jesus. The video is followed by informal guided discussion and reflections, led by Michael Fingerle. Class for adults of all ages. **Come and relax, renew friendships, and make new friends!**

Adult Education Class: "Do Everything for the Glory of God"



– Continues This Wednesday, October 27, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

This study provides Presbyterian perspectives on Christian beliefs. Our Presbyterian heritage is rich, dating back to part of a wider theological movement, called the Reformed tradition. These lessons nurture our Christian faith so we may "do everything for the glory of God." This class via Zoom is taught by **Elaine Barnett** on **Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m.** Sign-up by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com.

Oct. 27 - Church and Sacraments for Presbyterians
Nov. 3 - Christian Life for Presbyterians
Nov. 10 - Hope for Presbyterians

New Adult Education In-person Class: "Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction"



- Sundays, Beginning November 7

This in-person Sunday morning class will be taught by **Dr. John Parks** on Sundays at 10:00 a.m., in room 223, November 7, 14, 21, and December 5, 12, and 19.

As serious literature, good stories offer what Mathew Arnold called a "criticism of life." As such, stories invite readers to a reflection upon our condition in the world. This often entails grappling with spiritual and moral issues such as innocence and guilt, loyalty and betrayal, choice and fate, meaning and emptiness, hope and despair. Our exploration will be prompted by reading stories by Edgar Allen Poe, Stephen Crane, Ernest Hemingway, Willa Cather, Katherine Anne Porter, and Raymond Carver. We may find that these stories offer a diagnosis of our condition and a challenge to our beliefs.

Come for stimulating interaction with these timeless themes. Stories to be discussed will be posted on *News@First* and provided as printed hand-outs in the class and the church office one week prior to discussion.

First Presbyterian Blood Drive TODAY - Sunday, October 24

Our SunCoast Blood Drive is **today from 8:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.** Masks are required. You may use the Quick Pass to begin the blood donation process today prior to your donation. Access Quick Pass at scbb.org/donor-quick-passhtml.

Rev. Dr. Margaret Tower's 65th Anniversary of Ordination

Today marks the 65th anniversary of the ordination of the Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner, who was the first woman to be ordained as a minister of the word and sacrament in the Presbyterian Church in the United States. We give thanks to God for Marg's continuing presence and ministry in our midst. Notes may be sent to:

Rev. Dr. Margaret E. Towner
7333 Scotland Way #2120, Sarasota, FL 34238-8542



All Saints' Sunday - One Service Next Sunday, October 31, at 10:00 a.m.

On October 31, we will be observing All Saints' Day with communion. There will be one combined service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. Having celebrated the Lord's Supper on October 31, communion will not be served on November 7, our regular first Sunday of the month. We will resume our usual schedule with communion on Sunday, December 5.

In preparation for the October 31 All Saints' Day service, **all from our church family are invited to email photos of loved ones (members or non-members) who have died November 1, 2020 – present** to Rachel Martin (RMartin@firstpressarasota.org). Please include your name and their name, their date of birth and death (if known), and your relationship to the deceased, We are planning a special slide presentation as a part of the service to commemorate those who have died in the last year.

New Adult Education Zoom Class - "Advent: The Season of Hope and Expectation"



– Begins Tuesday, November 23

This learning opportunity for adults begins Tuesday, November 23 at 11:30 a.m. and continues each Tuesday through December 28 via Zoom. In the time of waiting and anticipation, we will focus on what Advent brings as Christ comes. The class will discuss together the message we proclaim as we tell the world of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Join with others to engage in preparing for Christ's coming. All are welcome! The class will be led by Elaine Barnett, a member of FPC, an elder and a Certified Christian Educator. You can sign up for the class by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com. (More details coming.)

Children and Youth News



Pumpkin Carving Party
Next Sunday, October 31

11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. OUTSIDE in the courtyard by the Fellowship Hall

You bring the pumpkin—supplies will be provided. Please feel free to bring any special supplies to share. If attending the 10:00 a.m. service, you may want to bring a change of clothes!



Cedarkirk Fall Fusion: The Weekend of November 12

Molly Horner and Lydia Chapdelain are looking forward to this exciting time of fellowship with our youth. **Please let them know as soon as possible if you would like to join them.** The cabin at Cedarkirk must be booked this week.
(Molly: mhorner@firstpressarasota or Lydia: lydiaopal@yahoo.com)

Presbyterian Women

The PW Thank Offering is collected in the fall of each year to celebrate the blessings in our lives. The offering funds projects not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. This year's grant recipients include twelve organizations across the country and beyond (see November *Cross Connections* for complete list). To contribute to this year's Thank Offering, please send your check made out to Presbyterian Women, with "Thank Offering" in the memo line, to the church. You may also drop off your check in the church office.

The next PW gathering is **Tuesday, November 2, 10:00 a.m.** on Zoom. We will dedicate our annual thank offerings and present a lifetime membership award. You are welcome to linger after the meeting for a time of fellowship. The zoom link is in *News@First.*

Presbyterian Women is sponsoring an **All Church Seed-packing Event** **on Tuesday, November 9 at 9:30 a.m.** to support the ministry of **Hope Seeds International Inc.** Hope Seeds is a charitable Christian ministry that seeks to improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world by providing quality garden seed and agricultural education through Christian missionaries and organizations. Teaching someone how to grow their own food while sharing our faith in God is the core purpose of Hope Seeds. We welcome all who would like to participate in packaging seeds to meet in the Fellowship Hall. We will be masked and practicing social distancing during the event.



Invest in Children - Good News from Brentwood Elementary School!

Volunteers will soon be able to return to the Brentwood campus! If you are interested in volunteering or just want to learn more about this amazing opportunity to invest some time with the Brentwood students, please contact Jinny and Ron Miller at jinnyron@gmail.com or by phone (941) 371-2750, ext. 554.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Inc.



Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry: Wed., Oct. 27

Sponsored by the Mission and Justice Committee
Work at Beth-El: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

Be a part of the FPC group that gathers at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma to sort food or related activities each month. Beth-El distributes food to 600-900 folks each week. To sign up or for more information, please contact Dave Householder at dphouse47@gmail.com; call or text (724) 462-4235. Let us know of your interest in carpooling.

Family Promise

Francis House is Family Promise's new program to support expectant and newly delivered women. It will provide a safe place for them and their children for up to 12 weeks post-partum. The two-bedroom/two-bath house will open to its first guests in November. Family Promise was able to lease this house using a generous donation from First Presbyterian Church. You are invited to the grand opening:

Thursday, October 28 - Opening Remarks at 11:00 a.m.
1824 Marbeth Street, Sarasota 34231

RSVP by This Monday, October 24 to
TARA.MAFFEI@FAMILYPROMISESARASOTA.ORG

Family Promise is so grateful for everyone who has the heart to give and chooses to donate to Family Promise and the families it serves. **You may donate to Family Promise through the giving page on the First Presbyterian Church website.** Go to https://secure.accessacs.com/access/oglogin.aspx?sn=91629 and select "Family Promise" from the drop-down menu. Family Promise and its clients appreciate all you do.

In Life and In Death We Belong to God

Our sister, **Betty Silvertooth,** died on October 17. She and her late husband, Judge Lynn Silvertooth, were deeply involved in the life of this congregation, as long as their health allowed. She had been a member since 1950.

A service will be held at the National Cemetery, at a date yet to be determined.

Notes of condolence may be sent to their son, Jim:

Jim Silvertooth
3167 Espanola Dr.
Sarasota, FL 34239

Memorial Services

Please mark on your calendar memorial services for

- **David Muir on Saturday, October 30,** 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary, with reception to follow
- **Paul Klick on Saturday, November 6,** 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary
- **Cullen Sabin on Thursday, November 11,** 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary
- **Irene Halsted and grandson on Thursday, November 18,** 2:00 p.m. in the sanctuary

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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.

COVID Mask Policy Update

The session is **no longer requiring masks in outdoor spaces** on the church campus. Masks continue to be required of all persons (over the age of two) while inside, if there is more than one person in a room. We do this out of concern

- For our children, who are not able to receive vaccinations;
- For the most vulnerable members of our community, who may by at risk, even if vaccinated;
- For the larger community, to help slow the spread of the virus.

The session will revisit the policy again at its next stated meeting, October 26, and is deeply grateful for the patience and support this community has demonstrated through these long months. We honor God as we care for each other.

SouthTech Data Dump: This Friday, October 29, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

SouthTech will be hosting an electronics recycling event. All are welcome to drop off old and unwanted devices. For a list of devices accepted, visit qsrecycling.com/services. They cannot accept flatscreen TVs or CRT monitors. The Data Dump will be held at the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, with tents set up in the parking lot at 1945 Fruitville Road, Sarasota 34236.

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!