

Welcome

We hope worship today will engage your mind, stir your soul, and touch your heart, preparing us to faithfully serve God in the world.

A special welcome goes to all worship guests — we are honored by your presence. We invite you to participate fully in the worship, program, and common life of our congregation, and hope you will feel at home among us. Please visit the hospitality booth to receive a special gift. If you have any questions about our church, please speak with a pastor or elder.

After the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services, join us for coffee in the fellowship hall.

Ushers are available for assistance this morning. **Large-print bulletins** are on-hand — just ask an usher. For worshippers who struggle with their hearing, we have a hearing loop installed in the floor of the sanctuary. To receive the loop signal manually, activate your T-coil or the telephone setting on your hearing aid or cochlear implant. If you are unsure, please consult your audiologist. If you don't wear hearing aids, but need assistance, please ask an usher for a loop receiver.

Please know, if you need to step out of the sanctuary for any reason, you can watch the service on *livestream* in the hospitality suite. Also if you can't make it to church, you can watch the 11:00 a.m. service *live* on our website - or later during the week at your convenience.

• Children Are Welcome

We believe that worship is the response of the whole people of God, and that includes children! Families may sit together throughout the worship service. If you are interested, child care for newborns up to five years old is provided by a trained, caring staff each week in the nursery behind the sanctuary.

Parents, ask an usher for a **worship bag** for your children so they can engage in creative activities while remaining in worship with you.

• Thinking of Membership?

Are you excited by the ministry of First Presbyterian Church? Would you like to know more about this vibrant congregation and the Presbyterian Church? The next new member class is **Sunday, March 11.**

• The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Jeremy Johnson in memory of his precious wife, Kathleen McCourt Johnson.

• In Our Prayers

Missionaries: Drs. Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesia)
Rev. Renee and Justin Sundberg (Nicaragua)

A complete list of members and friends who are in our prayers is available in the fellowship hall foyer and in the church office.



First Presbyterian Church
2050 Oak Street Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119 www.firstpressarasota.org

• Academy of Christian Discipleship

Beyond the Bird Bath - A Journey into Franciscan Spirituality with Rev. Floyd Churn in room 225 beginning next Sunday, February 18 through March 25 - This course will focus on the origin and development of the faith and practice inspired by St. Francis of Assisi and others, especially as these spiritual themes and perspectives are interpreted for today by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan friar, author, and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation.

Spiritual Issues in Modern Fiction with Dr. John Parks in room 203 continues through Sunday, March 4 - Explore an engaging list of contemporary literature. The weekly readings will provide the grist for discussion of the intersection of faith and decisions of our daily lives.

Grace and Grief with Dr. Vic Ford, parish associate, in room 223 continues through March 25 - Learn about living with loss and how to help others navigate multiple layers of grief throughout a lifetime.

• Welcome New Members

Have you met some of the nineteen new members who were recognized at worship on Sunday, January 28? Please look for their brief biographies in an upcoming issue of the *Cross Connections*, our church newsletter, and offer them a very warm welcome to our congregation!

• Wednesday Nights at First

Claim one night for dinner with your church family. Gather any time after 5:00 p.m. for games, homework help, or conversation. Dinner will be served buffet-style at 5:45 pm. Fun activities for all will round out our meal together. Small groups for children, youth, and adults run from 6:30-7:15 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children.

February 14 - Ash Wednesday	March 28
February 28	April 11
March 14	April 25

• GriefShare Topic This Week: The Journey of Grief - Part 1

GriefShare is for those who are grieving the loss of a spouse, child, family member or friend. This program meets on **Fridays at 10:00 a.m.** in room 203 and is open to the community, so please invite anyone you know who may be in need of support. You are welcome to begin attending at any session, so don't be discouraged if you can't attend all 13 weeks. You will find encouragement and hope whenever you begin. The cost of the workbook is \$20. Please call the church office, (941) 955-8119, to reserve your space and workbook. For more information, contact Cheryl Track, faith community nurse (941) 320-3828.

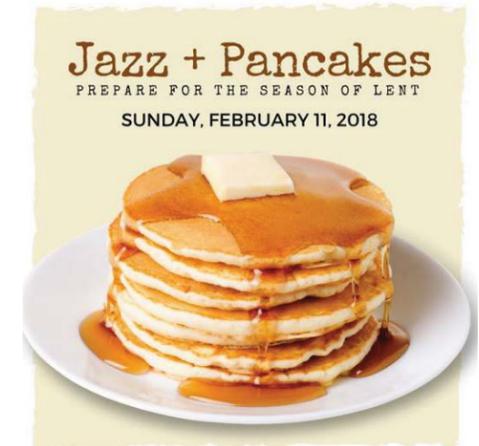
• Join the Conversation - Opioid Crisis

On **Sunday, February 25**, at 2:00 p.m. at St. Martha's Catholic School, Zazarino Center (4380 Fruitville Road) you are invited by the Sarasota Ministerial Association for a conversation about the "Opioid Crisis...Is Your Family at Risk?"



First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

Announcements
February 11, 2018



• Prepare for the Season of Lent

Instead of Mardi Gras, we're celebrating with *Jazz + Pancakes today!* Pancakes, eggs, bacon and other goodies are being served by the youth, children and their families at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Donations will be collected for our summer mission trips and adventures!

• Ash Wednesday, February 14

On this day, we begin the spiritual journey of Lent that will span forty days, from Ash Wednesday until Easter. Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.

Lent reminds us of the presence of the divine during life's seasons of solemnity, struggle, and shadow. With ashes on our foreheads and the words of mortality whispered in our ears, we enter the season of Lent.

Bring a crock-pot of your favorite dish to share at a potluck supper together before the service at **5:45 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. Bread and beverages will be provided. The Ash Wednesday service will follow at **6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.** Child care will be available for ages 5 and under.

• Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you so much for your donations for the "Souper Bowl of Caring." The youth received \$ 2,125.84 last week. The "Souper Bowl" is a grassroots effort to collect donations to feed the hungry. The money raised this year will enable us to host a meal-packing event at First Presbyterian Church on **Sunday, April 22.** Look for more information in the coming weeks.

Opportunities for Children and Youth

• FPC Youth Are Hitting the Road!

Summer Trip Registration

Reserve your spot for our summer trips today so we can make plans. Parents - please register to help lead these trips as well! To register, email Kelly Fitzgerald at KFitzgerald@firstpressarasota.org

July 18-22 Middle School Montreat - Maryville College, Maryville TN

July 14-21 High School Montreat - Montreat, NC

July 22-27 Raleigh Youth Mission (Middle and High) - Raleigh, NC

• Real Parenting

The welcome is wide for all parents to join in an open conversation about the joys and struggles of raising children and finding grace and encouragement in our honesty! We will gather on **Monday, February 12**, at 10:30 a.m. in the hospitality suite.

• Don't Miss These Upcoming Concerts

Co-Sponsored by FPC:

Musica Sacra of Sarasota presents *Requiem* by John Rutter, with orchestra

Monday, February 26 - 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary

International Guitar Night featuring four acclaimed finger-style

artists: Lulo Reinhardt, Calum Graham, Marek Pasieczney, and Michael Chapdelaine

Sunday, March 11 - 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall

Presented with Fogartyville Community Center

A limited number of discount tickets will be available in the church office for FPC members and friends.

Music Sacra \$20 | International Guitar Night \$20

• Misión Peniel Open House

Please join Misión Peniel **today** from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. as they celebrate their new location and our partnership (208 Boston Avenue, Immokalee). Come and see what God has been doing through our support!

- Meet the coordinating team and staff
- Tour the mission and community
- Learn about their vision for 2018 and beyond
- Experience the culture of the farmworker community.

• Ordination and Installation

Bill Conroy is being ordained and installed as a deacon **next Sunday, February 18** in both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services.

Please surround him with your affirmation and prayers!

• The Annual Congregational Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held **Sunday, February 25**, at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary. We will receive reports of the session, deacons, and other organizations of the church. We will also transact any business of the church corporation, and the church foundation, and review and approve changes in the pastors' terms of call.

• Are You A Seasonal Resident?

This Invitation Is Just For You!

If you're an FPC seasonal resident, only here for a few months each year, please accept this invitation to a luncheon on **Sunday, February 18**. Come make new friends with the other "snowbirds" in our congregation and enjoy a special organ presentation by Mary Mozelle.

Mark your calendars for **next Sunday, February 18** after the 11:00 a.m. service in our fellowship hall courtyard (weather permitting). Reservations are required. If you plan to attend, call the church office (941) 955-8119 no later than Wednesday, February 14.

• Presbytery Meeting at First Presbyterian

On **Thursday, February 22**, we will be hosting the regional presbytery meeting. We will welcome individuals from congregations from Bradenton to Naples. If you would like to volunteer, contact Rachel Martin (941) 955-8119. Please plan to come and enjoy worship and a special musical presentation, with a combined choir directed by Steven Phillips, at 12:45 p.m.



• Save the Dates!

Join us for the **SURE Rally, Monday, February 26**, at 6:00 pm, at Trinity Christian Fellowship Center (1925 Northgate Blvd). First Presbyterian members and friends are actively engaged as one of SURE's 19 Sarasota congregations making a difference in our community regarding civil citation (rather than arrest for minor children), affordable housing, and restorative justice (out-of-school suspensions). Please be there as we rally towards producing another successful Nehemiah Assembly.

Nehemiah Assembly: Our goal is for 100 of us First Presbyterian members and friends to be in attendance to hear the outcomes from our elected officials regarding the commitments they made at the 2017 Nehemiah Assembly. Be a part of 1,000 clapping in response to hoped-for affirmative replies from the officials. (We respond with silence to declined replies.) **Please join us on Monday, March 19, at 6:30 pm, at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium.** Together, we can change our community.

The church bus is available for both events. Please call the office to reserve a seat on the bus (941) 955-8119.

• Mark Your Calendars - Spring Training!

Come and enjoy fellowship and fun with our FPC baseball enthusiasts on **Saturday, March 10**, at 1:00 p.m. at Ed Smith Stadium with the *Baltimore Orioles vs. Pittsburgh Pirates*. The cost of the tickets is \$20. To sign up and/or find out more details, see Sandi Soper or Van Baker in the fellowship hall courtyard after the 9:00 or 11:00 a.m. service, **today**, or call (941) 544-7315.

• With Gratitude

There are many to thank for the Faith Focus Weekend/Pastoral Development Seminar. We are grateful for your planning, hosting, helping, feeding, transporting, listening, reflecting and praying!

• Blood Pressure Screening

Next Sunday, February 18, in between services, come to the sanctuary plaza for a blood pressure screening and information provided by your health and wholeness ministry.



• Of a Peacemaking Persuasion

So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

- 2 Corinthians 4:18



• Stewardship Thought

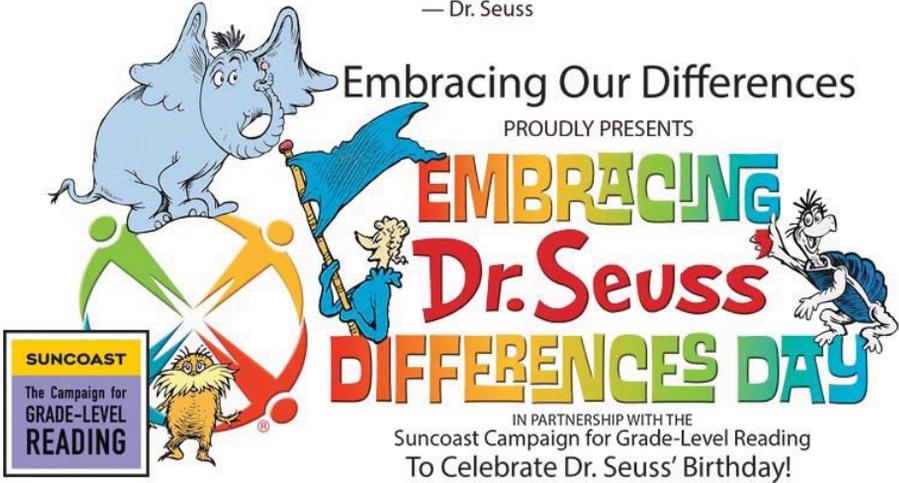
Love shows itself in many ways.

• Week At a Glance

Sunday 11-Feb	Chapel Service	8:15 AM
	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	9:30 AM
	Coffee + Conversations	10:00 AM
	Grief and Grace	10:00 AM
	Modern Fiction	10:00 AM
	Sunday School Pre-K - 12th	10:00 AM
	Worship Service	11:00 AM
Monday 12-Feb	Coffee Fellowship	12:00 AM
	Real Parenting	10:30 AM
Tuesday 13-Feb	Mixed Level Yoga	9:00 AM
	PW Bible Study	10:30 AM
	Staff Meeting	10:30 AM
	Deborah Circle	11:30 AM
	Committee Meetings	5:30 PM
Wednesday 14-Feb	Sisters of the Road	10:30 AM
	Ash Wednesday - Supper & Service	5:30 PM
Thursday 15-Feb	Mixed Level Yoga	9:00 AM
	Vinyasa Yoga Class	5:30 PM
	New Song Rehearsal	7:00 PM
Friday 16-Feb	GriefShare	10:30 AM
Sunday 18-Feb	Chapel Service	8:15 AM
	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	9:30 AM
	Beyond the Bird Bath	10:00 AM
	Grief and Grace	10:00 AM
	Modern Fiction	10:00 AM
	Blood Pressure Screening	10:00 AM
	Sunday School Pre-K - 12th	10:00 AM
	Worship Service	11:00 AM
Coffee Fellowship	12:00 AM	

• *Embracing Dr. Seuss' Differences Day*

"You're never too old, too wacky, too wild, to pick up a book and read to a child."
— Dr. Seuss



You can "Invest in Children" by reading a Dr. Seuss book to a class of children on *Embracing Dr. Seuss' Differences Day*, **Friday, March 2!** On that day the Embracing Our Differences organization will be partnering with Sarasota and Manatee County elementary schools, including Brentwood Elementary School, to celebrate the birthday of Dr. Seuss!

Embracing Our Differences is a not-for-profit organization that uses the power of art and education to expand consciousness and open the heart to celebrate the diversity of the human family.

Please "Invest in Children" by becoming a part of *Embracing Dr. Seuss' Differences Day* by volunteering an hour of your time to read and teach a child the value of diversity and respect for others. Go to embracingourdifferences.org to volunteer. The deadline to sign up to volunteer is Tuesday, February 13.



• *Presbyterian Women*

Presbyterian Women are delivering more than 30 shoe boxes of needed supplies for children at Misión Peniel today. Thank you to everyone who generously donated to this project.

Please join us for Bible study led by Jean Luker on **Tuesday, February 13**, in room 203 at 10:30 a.m. We are continuing our study entitled *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ* in Hebrews. Everyone is invited; the study guide is not a requirement to attend. Deborah Circle will meet in the parlor immediately following.



Family Promise® Sarasota

Family Promise needs our help to support homeless children and their families on their path to independence!

In the past ten years, Family Promise has successfully served over 110 families (that is 342 individuals, of which 203 were children). While they do not deal in large volumes, they have huge and lasting effects on these children and their families. Thank you for helping us serve them and put them on the road to sustainability.

Family Promise of Sarasota has temporarily suspended the services they provide to families. There continues to be a strong need for assistance for homeless children and their families in Sarasota County, but the number of active volunteers and board members has dwindled, and they need to rebuild.

Given the energy and enthusiasm shared within the community, they are confident that the program can be rebuilt — all the components are in place. Just as running a host week takes many people, each doing his or her special job, so will bringing this ministry back to Sarasota.

As a concerned stakeholder of this ministry, Family Promise is asking you to join them for a meeting on **Thursday, February 15** at 7:00 p.m. in Temple Beth Shalom's Social Hall (1050 S. Tuttle Ave) to discuss the future of Family Promise in our community.

We are asking all who have a vital interest in helping homeless children and their families in Sarasota County to join Family Promise on February 15. Please consider bringing a friend who might be willing to get involved.

If you have questions, please call Tom Cioffi of the national Family Promise organization at (770) 846-9898.

• **Treasure Sale** **Saturday, March 17**



We are collecting goodies for our **Treasure Sale** to help support our children and youth summer adventures! We are looking for gently-used resale items (no clothes, please).

You can bring your donations to church and place them in the basket in the fellowship hall entrance or the sanctuary narthex. If you would like to arrange a pick-up, email Kelly Fitzgerald (kfitzgerald@firstpressarasota.org).

• **Foster Care and Adoption Awareness Meeting**

In the Sarasota-Bradenton area there are over 1,200 children in foster care. On **Tuesday, March 6**, at 7:00 p.m. at South Shore Community Church (1899 S. Tuttle) learn more about local foster care and how you can help.