

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.

• 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.**

• Our Condolences

We extend our deepest sympathies to family and friends of Kay Tscheringer. Kay died on Tuesday, February 6.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Betsy Bivin. Betsy died Sunday, February 18.

• The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Vicky Urban in memory of her father, Harry D. Urban.

• 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.



• Presbyterian Women

The next PW Gathering and luncheon is **Tuesday, March 6** at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Jane Barr, an elder, will be speaking. Did you know that Jane is also an author, and a leadership and communications coach? Jane will be sharing with us wisdom from her recent book *Wise Woman Leadership: Your Key to Leading with Ease, Grace and Integrity*. Please bring your favorite salad to share. Drinks, dessert and bread will be provided. You may also pay \$10 in cash or check at the door to purchase a salad. Please make checks payable to Presbyterian Women FPC. You can make a reservation by calling Mary Webb at (941) 758-6035 or the church office at (941) 955-8119 by noon on Monday, March 5. Please mention whether you will bring a salad or pay at the door.

At PW Lite on February 6, Cindie Moore gave us an update on the Mam women of Guatemala, letting us know there is still a need for safe cooking stoves. The cost of a stove is \$160 with each woman paying \$40 and the remainder paid for by donations. If you want to contribute to this worthy project, please make your check out to Presbyterian Women FPC and designate it for Guatemalan cook stoves. Give your donation to Mary Webb or leave it in her mailbox at the church office by Monday, March 6. Any amount helps. The names of contributors will be placed in a drawing and one lucky person will receive a beautiful, handmade Mam apron.

The Peace River PW spring retreat is **Monday and Tuesday, March 12 and 13** at DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center, Ellenton, FL. Participants may stay overnight or attend one or both days as a commuter. The theme of the retreat is *God's Guiding Hands*. Each church is asked to provide a gift basket for the auction. The theme of our basket is "hands." Items for the basket or cash donations may be delivered to the church office no later than Friday, March 9. Some examples for the basket are new hand towels, hand lotion and nail polish.

• Don't Get Fooled...

The Health and Wholeness Ministry presents "Don't Get Fooled... Avoid Scams, Fraud and Identity Theft" presented by Kathleen Houseweart, Executive Director of Lutheran Services. The program will be held **Thursday, March 8**, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to the church office by Monday, March 5 (941) 955-8119.

• GriefShare Topic This Week: Grief and Your Relationships

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. Feel free to 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.



First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

Announcements
February 25, 2018

• The Annual Congregational Meeting - Today!

Our annual meeting is at 12:00 noon today 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 we will review and approve changes in the pastors' terms of call.

• Musica Sacra Presents Rutter's "Requiem" Co-Sponsored by FPC

Don't miss this concert **tomorrow** at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. The Rutter Requiem infuses traditional parts of the requiem with added psalms and biblical verses. Musica Sacra's presentation will feature our former interim music director, Neil A. Page, as organist.

A limited number of discount tickets are available for \$20 in the church office for FPC members and friends. Tickets at the door will be \$25.



• Tomorrow Evening - SURE Rally

As FPC SURE supporters, we are the "salt and light" helping to lead the causes that strive to make a difference in our community. To make equitable change, the 19 congregations of SURE pray, meet and work together. With elected officials we present our proposals. We seek forgiveness for children who have made childish mistakes (civil citation); strive to make the dreams of families seeking affordable housing a reality; and appeal for school staff training and understanding which will cut down the number of out-of-school suspensions of children within our district.

Tomorrow evening at 6:00 p.m., February 26, the 19 congregations of SURE will come together at Trinity Christian Fellowship Center (1925 Northgate) to rally in preparation for the March 19 SURE Nehemiah Assembly. Please join us to hear how we are progressing in our mission. The church bus is available. To reserve a seat on the bus, call the office (941) 955-8119.

Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. - Hebrews 10:24



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

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 26**, at 10:30 a.m. in the hospitality suite.

• Season of Lent Journey of Love

The season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday and concludes on midnight on Easter morning. It is a time of repentance, that is, of recognizing our sin and making changes to become more what God created us to be. This repentance is undertaken as preparation for Easter. The season lasts for forty days before Easter, not counting Sundays.

Use this time to find new ways to engage with God. Lent is time to encourage yourself to stretch your spiritual wings, to try new ways of praying, and to serve others in Jesus' name.

• 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 p.m. 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 28 - Your Spirituality: A Key to Aging Well by Dr. Rod Rhoades and is based on his new book *Aging Well: Staying Younger, Smarter, and Fit*.

March 14 - Lenten Hymn Sing

• International Guitar Night Co-Sponsored by FPC

On **Sunday, March 11**, at 7:00 p.m. FPC and Fogartyville Community Center present jazz legend Lulo Reinhardt with renowned harp guitarist Stephen Bennett; Marek Pasieczny, Poland's innovative classical composer/performer; and award-winning American guitarist Michael Chapdelaine.

A limited number of discount tickets are available for \$20 in the church office for FPC members and friends. Tickets are available at Forgartyville.org for \$30 and at the door for \$35.



• Academy of Christian Discipleship

Beyond the Bird Bath - A Journey into Franciscan Spirituality with Rev. Floyd Churn in room 225 continues 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.

• New Member Class

Are you considering membership in this dynamic congregation? If so, come and explore what it means to be a member of FPC in the next new member class **Sunday, March 11**, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in room 225. We will worship from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and then enjoy lunch together. Please call the church office to RSVP (941) 955-8119.

• With Gratitude

There are many to thank for assisting at the Presbytery meeting we hosted last Thursday, February 22. We are grateful for all the planning, setting up, helping, and feeding!

• New Book Club Opportunity

Do you care about race relations in our community, but don't know what to do or who to reach out to? How about enrolling in a brand-new inter-racial book club!

This idea was germinated as Dr. Paul Roberts concluded his Faith Focus Weekend Saturday morning presentation with a reading list about race relations. Several in the audience responded to the idea. Now Janet Olshewsky and Dr. Vicki Wacksman are organizing an inter-racial book club, hoping many of you will participate. An organizational meeting will be held at FPC **Sunday, March 11**, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Please contact Janet at janetolshewsky@verizon.net or (941) 351-6912, or Vicki at wacksman@aol.com or (941) 355-5580.

• 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!



• Of a Peacemaking Persuasion

A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger. - Proverbs 15:1



• Stewardship Thought

Being defeated is often only a temporary condition. Giving up is what makes it permanent. - Marilyn vos Savant

• Week At a Glance

Sunday 25-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
	Sunday School Pre-K - 12th	10:00 AM
	Worship Service	11:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	12:00 PM
	Congregational Meeting	12:00 PM
Monday 26-Feb	Real Parenting	10:30 AM
	SURE Rally	6:00 PM
	Musica Sacra	7:00 PM
Tuesday 27-Feb	Mixed Level Yoga	9:00 AM
	Staff Meeting	10:30 AM
	Session	5:30 PM
	Al-Anon	6:00 PM
Wednesday 28-Feb	Sisters of the Road	10:30 AM
	Bible Study	12:00 PM
	Wednesdays at First	5:30 PM
	Handbell Rehearsal	6:00 PM
	Choir Practice	7:00 PM
Thursday 1-Mar	Mixed Level Yoga	9:00 AM
	Vinyasa Yoga Class	5:30 PM
	New Song Rehearsal	7:00 PM
Friday 2-Mar	GriefShare	10:30 AM
Sunday 4-Mar	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
	Sunday School Pre-K - 12th	10:00 AM
Worship Service	11:00 AM	
Coffee Fellowship	12:00 PM	

- **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).

The treasure sale will be 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

- **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) you can learn more about local foster care and how you can help.

- **Invest in Children**



Save your Box Tops for Education! Support our partnership with Brentwood Elementary School by placing them in the special containers at the church. Questions? Call Jinny and Ron Miller (941) 924-9494.

- **Floral Dedications**

If you would like to sign up for particular dates in 2018, you can sign up on the flower calendar located in the sanctuary narthex or call Connie Waymer at (941) 924-7847. Please give a contact phone number, the name(s) of the honorees and the occasion of the dedication. The price for a single arrangement is \$35 and for two arrangements it is \$70.

- **Save the Date: FPC Day Camp**
Monday, July 30 - Friday, August 3

The day camp program for campers who have completed grades K-5 runs for a full day. Morning check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. and campers can be picked up anytime between 4:15-5:30 p.m. Day camp costs \$100. Campers will need to bring their own lunch.

The half-day program for preschoolers (They must be 3 by April 2018 and potty-trained.) will start at 8:30 a.m. and run to noon (no lunch). Half-day camp costs \$50.

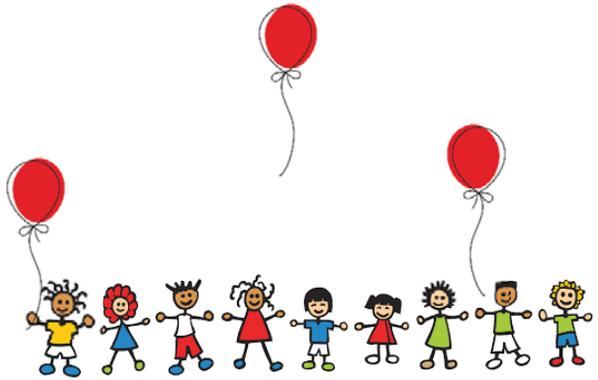
Parents who volunteer may use half-day nursery care for children who are not old enough for camp. Middle and high school youth are welcome to volunteer as co-counselors.

Registration begins March 1!

• **Invest in Children**

Happy Anniversary, Brentwood volunteers! It has been a year since the Invest in Children Initiative took wings! Our volunteers have touched the lives of countless children at Brentwood Elementary School as they reached out, sharing God's love with their warmth, caring and enthusiasm. Please share a thank-you, a big hug and your happy anniversary greetings to them:

Bob and Diane Bittner
 Wes Burquest
 George Chorba
 Floyd and Janet Churn
 Bette Lou Cookson
 Bob Forbes
 Jennifer Hall
 Linda Hildebrandt
 Ed and Jean Johnston
 Rachel Martin
 Marvin Miller
 Steven Moore
 Alan Nelson
 Sue Nurczyk
 Jack O'Neill
 Sue Pantling
 Diane Price
 Susan Sanderson
 Drew Stuart
 Sarah Van Nostrand
 Emily Weitekamp



Jackie Wright, plus steering committee members Kay Dunn, Mary Elle Hunter, Jinny and Ron Miller, and Sandi Soper

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