

## 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 worship, our 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 are welcome to 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 January 27, 2019.

### • Our Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Betsy Cairns and family. John Cairns died on Wednesday, December 5. Memorial service arrangements have not yet been determined by the family.

### • 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](http://www.firstpressarasota.org)



### • Presbyterian Women

On **Tuesday, December 11**, join us for Bible study led by Jean Luker in room 203 at 10:30 a.m. Our study continues with lesson four. The study guide is not required to attend; everyone is welcome.

Many thanks to all those who planned and led the Advent Retreat.

### • Good News of Great Joy - Christmas Joy Offering

The PC(USA) offers you the chance to bring Good News of Great Joy to the poor in circumstance or spirit. Your gifts to this special offering will be distributed to retired ministers and missionaries in need and our Presbyterian racial-ethnic colleges. We will be receiving the Joy Offering **next Sunday, December 16**.

### • Christmas Eve Offering - 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Our offering for Christmas Eve is for our church's Good Samaritan Fund. These funds are used for emergency relief to people in our church and community. Each year, the *only* offering for the Good Samaritan Fund is on Christmas Eve.

### • Save the Date

On **Thursday, January 10**, come and enjoy the Majarajah Flamenco Trio at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall, the first OakStreet Stage concert of the year!

### • Floral Dedications

If you would like to provide sanctuary floral arrangement(s) for particular dates in 2019 you can sign up on the flower calendar located in the sanctuary narthex or call Connie Waymer at (941) 924-7847. Please give your contact phone number, the name(s) of the honorees and the occasion of the dedication. The price for a single arrangement is \$35 and two arrangements are \$70.

### • Year-End Giving

We invite you to make a year-end gift to First Presbyterian Church. A gift of appreciated stock will benefit you in two significant ways. You can take a tax deduction for the full amount of the gift, and you will not pay any capital gains tax on the increase in the stock's value. If you are over 70 ½ years of age, your IRA charitable rollover gift will also avoid any capital gains tax on your gift.

You can support the general fund of our church. Or you can make a gift to our Foundation in any of its funds - general, property, mission and ministry (including worship), or scholarships. Please contact Lisa Garcia, our finance manager, at (941) 955-8119 or [Lgarcia@firstpressarasota.org](mailto:Lgarcia@firstpressarasota.org).

### • Text Giving

Are you interested in the convenience of contributing by text message? Text FPC2050 to 73256 to donate via text. Standard rates may apply.



## First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

Announcements  
December 9, 2018

### • Ordination and Installation of Officers

Today the following officers-elect are being ordained and installed in both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services:

ELDERS  
Class of 2021  
Rebecca Clissold  
Buck Fry  
Craig Gesell  
Phillip Khuu  
Annette Landes

DEACONS  
Class of 2021  
Bob Bittner  
Connie Brussee

### • Brentwood Blessing Trees



Thank you for your generous response to the Brentwood blessing tree project. All the stars were taken for gifts for the children and grocery store gift cards for the families! Please place your gifts under one of the trees today. If you still wish to be a part of this amazing project, you may take stars from the trees today for the Brentwood library book fund or to help with the cost of the celebration dinner. Checks for those gifts



must be in the office by Wednesday, December 12. Remember, you are invited to join the Brentwood families for the celebration dinner **next Sunday, December 16** from 4:00-6:00 p.m.; please call the church office **tomorrow** (941-955-8119) with your reservation.

### • Christmas Eve Services - Monday, December 24

Plan now to attend the Family Nativity Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 p.m. or the Communion and Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. Come and bring your family and friends to share in worship together as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child!

### • Giving Envelopes and Membership Directory

Today and next Sunday, December 16, you can pick up your 2019 giving envelopes and a membership directory before or after services. **To save on the cost of mailing, please make every effort to pick up your envelopes.**

## Opportunities for Children and Youth

### • Youth Group

Today we will head out into the community for "Random Acts of Stockings" from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Meet in the fellowship hall.

### • Family Nativity Christmas Eve Service

Monday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m.

The Nativity Service is a great opportunity to involve your family in the heart of the Christmas celebration.

#### Important Dates

Sunday morning rehearsals (forum) at 10:00 a.m.

#### Today and December 16

Sunday afternoon dress rehearsal (sanctuary) on **December 23** at 4:00 p.m.

Family Christmas Eve Nativity Service on **Monday, December 24** at 4:00 p.m. Please arrive by 3:15 p.m.

Adults are invited to help with set design, costuming, and rehearsal during these times.

### • Blood Drive

Help save a life and give the gift of blood! The SunCoast Blood Mobile is at First Presbyterian **today** from 8:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.



### • Many Gifts, One Spirit

Thanks to those of you who have already turned in your 2019 commitment card. **If you have not yet pledged, please submit your pledge card to the church office or place it in the offering at a Sunday service.** Cards are available in the sanctuary and chapel pews and in the foyer of the fellowship hall.

### • Thoughtful Giving 2018

Give more than "stuff" this holiday... give joy to our brothers and sisters in need. Share the spirit of generosity with others! Deadline to turn into office is this Monday, December 10.

Browse through our online catalog (<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/205920/>), use the QR code, or pick up a copy in the fellowship hall foyer or church office.



### • Imagine the Future Capital Campaign Phase Three

We anticipate the renovation of the fellowship hall to begin Monday, January 14.

# Season of Advent

As we wait for the birth of the Messiah - that unfailing light, we will seek a love that drives away the shadows of night. We will follow a star and trust it to show us the way. We will proclaim that God has the power to make us new each day. Below are programs and worship opportunities to prepare for Christmas.

### • Bulbs for Advent

If you reserved a paperwhite bulb, they are available to be picked up today in the church office workroom.

### • Advent Devotionals

During the season of Advent, shape your devotional practices upon waiting and preparation. The spiritual formation ministry team has compiled devotional thoughts from church members which add a meaningful reflection to each day of Advent. You may have received a copy in the mail. If not, you may pick up a copy in the sanctuary narthex, chapel or fellowship hall entryway.

An Illustrated Advent devotional for families is also available. Scan the QR code to access the devotional online or pick up a copy in the church office today. It is full of activities for families of all ages, including coloring sheets and ornaments to add to your tree.



*Following the Star*, a popular Advent devotional series which features Scripture, prayer and meditative thoughts about Christ's coming again into our world, returns to [d365.org](http://d365.org). Visit the website or download the app today.

### • A Celtic Christmas - Thursday, December 13 and Friday, December 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us in the sanctuary for a magical evening of music, movement, visual arts, and poetry. We will enter the Celtic world and explore those thin places where heaven and earth meet. Along with our choir, soloists, and dancers will be acclaimed Celtic musicians. Experience it for yourself and bring guests. Free admission; voluntary donation. A festive reception follows.

### • Cookie Reception

On Thursday, December 13 and Friday, December 14, after *A Celtic Christmas* music presentation, we will be gathering for a festive reception. We would love for you to share your favorite cookies! Bring your cookies on a plate with your name on the bottom and a card with the cookies' name. Cookies may be brought to the kitchen in the fellowship hall before the concert. Please call the church office (941) 955-8119 or Mary Webb (941) 758-6035 by Monday, December 11 to let us know that you will be bringing cookies. Thank you!



### • Fair Trade Kiosk

Find great holiday gifts today at the Fair Trade kiosk located in the fellowship hall. The kiosk will be closed next Sunday, December 16, but will be open on Sunday, December 23.



### • Of a Peacemaking Persuasion

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.* - Galatians 6:9



### • Stewardship Thought

*Each new day is God's gift to you; what you do with it is your gift to God.* - T.D. Jakes

### • Week At a Glance

|                                   |                                      |          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>9-Dec</b>     | Chapel Service                       | 8:15 AM  |
|                                   | Worship Service                      | 9:00 AM  |
|                                   | Mark as an Ancient Novella           | 10:00 AM |
|                                   | Sunday School Pre-K - 12th           | 10:00 AM |
|                                   | Worship Service                      | 11:00 AM |
|                                   | Coffee Fellowship                    | 12:00 PM |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><b>11-Dec</b>   | Youth Group                          | 4:00 PM  |
|                                   | Mixed Level Yoga                     | 9:00 AM  |
|                                   | PW Bible Study                       | 10:30 AM |
|                                   | Staff Meeting                        | 10:30 AM |
| <b>Wednesday</b><br><b>12-Dec</b> | Committee Meetings                   | 5:30 PM  |
|                                   | Mary-Martha Circle                   | 10:00 AM |
|                                   | Sisters Of The Road                  | 10:30 AM |
|                                   | Bible Study                          | 12:00 PM |
|                                   | Handbell Rehearsal                   | 6:00 PM  |
| <b>Thursday</b><br><b>13-Dec</b>  | Choir Rehearsal                      | 7:15 PM  |
|                                   | Mixed Level Yoga                     | 9:00 AM  |
|                                   | New Song Rehearsal                   | 7:00 PM  |
| <b>Friday</b><br><b>14-Dec</b>    | A Celtic Christmas                   | 7:00 PM  |
|                                   | Grief Share - What Do I Live For Now | 10:00 AM |
| <b>Saturday 15-Dec</b>            | A Celtic Christmas                   | 7:00 PM  |
| <b>Sunday</b><br><b>16-Dec</b>    | Prayer Shawl Knitters                | 10:00 AM |
|                                   | Chapel Service                       | 8:15 AM  |
|                                   | Worship Service                      | 9:00 AM  |
|                                   | Mark as an Ancient Novella           | 10:00 AM |
|                                   | Sunday School Pre-K - 12th           | 10:00 AM |
|                                   | Worship Service                      | 11:00 AM |
| Coffee Fellowship                 | 12:00 PM                             |          |