

## 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. A memorial service is planned here at First Presbyterian Church at 4:00 p.m. tomorrow, December 17, followed by a reception in the fellowship hall.

### • The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God by Linda Hildebrandt giving thanks for her great-grandchildren, James Thomas and Davis Timothy.

### • In Our Prayers

Missionaries: Drs. Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta (Indonesia)  
Cindy Corell (Haiti)

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 annual PW Peace River Presbytery gathering is on **Saturday, February 2** at Cypress Lake Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers. The keynote speaker is Rev. Brenda S. Lindsey Harcourt, an ordained pastor who has been a mission co-worker for over 10 years, teaching leadership development in Ghana and Kenya and has also taught at Presbyterian University of East Africa. The cost of \$12 includes continental breakfast and lunch. Check-in begins at 9:00 a.m. Lunch is served from 12:00-1:30 p.m. The registration deadline is Monday, January 14. Please call the church office (941) 955-8119 or Mary Webb at (941) 758-6035 to register. Please pay Mary before the deadline. Please indicate if you would like to carpool from church when making your registration.

Lydia Circle will be meeting on **Tuesday, December, 18** at 10:30 a.m. at Bay Village for Bible study and lunch.

### • Salt Shakers

Joining Salt Shakers is a wonderful way for members and friends of First Presbyterian Church to get to know each other. Groups of 6-8 people (singles or couples) meet once a month from February through April or May. Each group decides whether they want to have a potluck at a member's home, dine at a restaurant, have a picnic or brunch. Be creative! Sign up forms are in the foyer of the fellowship hall and the narthex of the sanctuary.

### • Dial Hope Donations Doubled

Jay and Candy Swick have generously offered to match contributions up to \$20,000 total during December, 2018. On-line donations can be made on the website ([dialhope.org](http://dialhope.org)), or checks can be mailed to Dial Hope Foundation PO Box 953. Sarasota FL 34236.

### • 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.

### • Pastoral Care

There have been major changes at our local hospitals. When you or a loved one is hospitalized, it is imperative that you contact the church or one of the pastors to inform us directly **and** inform the hospital that you are a member of our congregation and would welcome a visit by one of our pastors. *Hospitals will not contact the church.* We have also discovered that some will no longer even list a patient as our church member on their internal records unless the patient is careful to note their relationship with our congregation. Thank you for your assistance.

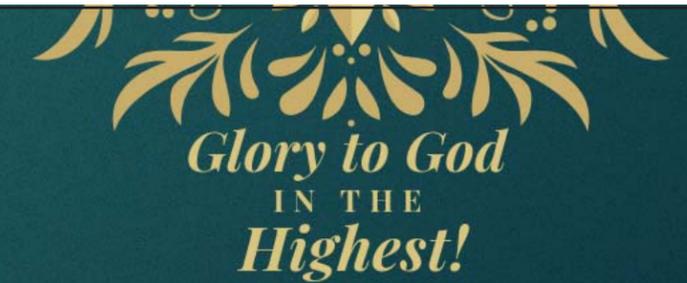
### • Text Giving

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 16, 2018



### • 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!

### • Membership Directory and Giving Envelopes

This is the **last Sunday** to 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.**

### • 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 **today!**

### • Contributions for 2018

The end of 2018 is quickly approaching, and the last day to receive contributions to be credited towards this year is **Monday, December 31**. Please bring your donations to the church office or put them in the mail; they must be postmarked December 31.

### • 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.



#### First Presbyterian Church

2050 Oak Street Sarasota, FL 34237  
(941) 955-8119 [www.firstpressarasota.org](http://www.firstpressarasota.org)

## Opportunities for Children and Youth

### • 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

Today rehearsal (forum) at 10:00 a.m.

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.



### • 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.

### • 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 consider including The Foundation for First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Inc. in your year-end giving! The Foundation brochure enclosed in the bulletin provides more detail. 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.

### • Imagine the Future Capital Campaign

Now that we are all settled into our beautiful new sanctuary space, refurbished offices and updated classrooms - it's time for the fellowship hall! We anticipate the renovations of the space to begin Monday, January 14.

Thanks to all those who have given generously and continue to give to our capital campaign.

# 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.

### • 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. Visit the website or download the app today.

### • Celtic Christmas Concert

We are so grateful to the members of the worship & music and membership committees, volunteers, musicians, choir members, dancers, puppeteers, and cookie bakers who participated in the beautiful Thursday and Friday evening concerts.

### • Brentwood Blessing Trees



Today is the day we will welcome families and staff from Brentwood Elementary School to our church for the blessing tree celebration dinner! They will join with our members to enjoy activities, singing, stories, and a scrumptious dinner. The gifts you provided will be discreetly given to the parents so they can present them to their children on Christmas day. You have provided an example of God's love for these families whose resources are slim. Thank you for your part in the project!

### • Save the Date

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

### • Jazz Sunday Service

We will have both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services *in the sanctuary* on **Sunday, December 30** with special jazz music. The 8:15 a.m. service will be in the chapel. The office will be closed on Tuesday, January 1.



### • Fair Trade Kiosk

The kiosk is closed today, but will be open next Sunday, December 23.



### • Of a Peacemaking Persuasion

*Learn to do right! Seek justice, encourage the oppressed. Defend the cause of the fatherless, plead the case of the widow.* - Isaiah 1:17



### • Stewardship Thought

*The value of a gift is not determined by its amount, but by the spirit in which it is given.* - Anonymous

### • Week At a Glance

<b>Sunday</b> <b>16-Dec</b>	Chapel Service	8:15 AM
	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	10:00 AM
	Mark as an Ancient Novella	10:00 AM
	Sunday School Pre-K - 12th	10:00 AM
	Worship Service	11:00 AM
<b>Tuesday</b> <b>18-Dec</b>	Coffee Fellowship	12:00 PM
	Mixed Level Yoga	9:00 AM
	Interracial Book Club - Group C	10:30 AM
	Lydia Circle	10:30 AM
	Staff Meeting	10:30 AM
<b>Wednesday</b> <b>19-Dec</b>	Session	5:30 PM
	Sisters Of The Road	10:30 AM
	Bible Study	12:00 PM
	Handbell Rehearsal	6:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b> <b>20-Dec</b>	Choir Rehearsal	7:15 PM
	Mixed Level Yoga	9:00 AM
	Deacons' Meeting	5:30 PM
<b>Sunday</b> <b>23-Dec</b>	New Song Rehearsal	7:00 PM
	Chapel Service	8:15 AM
	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	10:00 AM
	Worship Service	11:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	10:00 AM
<b>Monday</b> <b>24-Dec</b>	Family Christmas Eve Rehearsal	4:00 PM
	Family Nativity Christmas Eve Service	4:00 PM
<b>Tuesday 25-Dec</b>	Communion and Candlelight Service	7:00 PM
<b>Tuesday 25-Dec</b>		Merry Christmas - Office Closed
<b>Wednesday 26-Dec</b>		Office Closed