

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**.

• Our Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with Marta Jimenez-Aquino and family. Her husband, Russ Terry, died on Saturday, December 15. The memorial service will be on Thursday, January 24, at 2:00 p.m.

• The Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the life of Andy Wright by Bev and Chip Wright.

• 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. Call the church office (941) 955-8119 or Mary Webb at (941) 758-6035 to register. Please pay Mary before the deadline. When making your registration, please indicate if you would like to carpool from church.

PW Lite meets at 10:30 a.m. on **Tuesday, January 8** in the forum. Jean Luker and Jean Martin, who visited Cuba in October, will tell us of their experience and share photos. Also during our time together, we will address birthday cards to PW members for the entire year. Donations of stamps are appreciated. **Note the change in date;** because New Year's Day falls on the first Tuesday, PW Lite will meet on the second Tuesday and Bible study will meet on the third Tuesday in January. Anyone who can't attend the January meeting but wishes to donate stamps can leave them in the church office. For more information about any PW activity, call Pamela Lamb at (941) 210-7478 or Flossie Paul at (941) 536-0974.

• 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), 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

Glen Bell and Kelly Fitzgerald will both be on vacation the week after Christmas. In their absences, Steven Phillips, coordinator of congregational care; Cheryl Track, faith community nurse; Floyd Churn and Doug DeCelle, parish associates, will be here for part or all of the week. Please reach out if you have a pastoral need.

• 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 23, 2018



• Christmas Eve Services Tomorrow

Family Nativity Christmas Eve Service at 4:00 p.m. and 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!

• 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.

• Baptism

Tomorrow, December 24, at the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service we will celebrate the baptism of Rio Michael Swick, son of Mark and Kathryn Swick; and Parker Matthew Swick, son of Matthew and Georgia Swick. Grandparents are Candy and Jay Swick.

• Jazz Sunday Service

We will have both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services *in the sanctuary next Sunday, December 30* with special jazz music. The 8:15 a.m. service will be in the chapel. The office will be closed on Monday, January 31 at 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday, January 1.

• 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 by 1:00 p.m. or put them in the mail; they must be postmarked December 31.



First Presbyterian Church

2050 Oak Street Sarasota, FL 34237
(941) 955-8119 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's dress rehearsal (sanctuary) 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.

• Waking Up To Race

Sundays, January 13, 20, 27

10:00 a.m. in Room 223

Participants in the Manasota Interracial Book Club will host three discussion-based classes to share what resources they have found helpful in their own experiences in confronting racism. This is a great introduction to the conversation of race and privilege. No preparation is necessary. Just bring an open mind and a willingness to discern in community.

• OakStreet Stage Event

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!

Majorajah FlamencoTrio is an energy-charged act that combines the talents of three Florida State University alumni. Their sound blends the flavors of Spain, Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean and more.

• 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! Please contact Lisa Garcia, our finance manager, at (941) 955-8119 or Lgarcia@firstpressarasota.org.

• Fellowship Hall Renovations

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.



• Brentwood Blessing Trees



Thank you, First Presbyterian family, for the generous outpouring of gifts you provided for some grateful families at Brentwood Elementary School! At the joyful celebration dinner on Sunday, December 16, 180 gifts were presented to the families along with funds to provide new library books for the refurbished media center at the school. You were, and continue to be, a blessing!

• Joan Scott

Thursday, December 20, was Joan Scott's 102nd birthday - Happy Birthday Joan! We are grateful for her strong witness to Jesus Christ over many years.

• 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.

• SunCoast Blood Drive

A special thank you to all who came out for the December SunCoast Blood Drive! 23 people were screened and 21 units of life-saving blood was collected! The next blood drive will be Sunday, March 31.

• Epiphany Sunday, January 6 - All Services

Are we done with Christmas yet? If we think of Christmas as the understanding that God is with us, then, no - we are never really done with Christmas. The church's celebration of Epiphany marks the time when Christ was made known to the world through the magis' visit to the Christ child. We will celebrate with stars and light and a special appearance of the magi in worship.



• 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 30.



• Of a Peacemaking Persuasion

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live in peace with everyone. - Romans 12:18



• Stewardship Thought

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. - Luke 2:10

• Week At a Glance

Sunday 23-Dec	Chapel Service	8:15 AM
	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	9:30 AM
	Worship Service	11:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	12:00 PM
Monday 24-Dec	Office Closes at 1:00 PM	
	Family Nativity Christmas Eve Service	4:00 PM
	Communion and Candlelight Service	7:00 PM
Tuesday 25-Dec	Merry Christmas - Office Closed	
Wednesday 26-Dec	Office Closed	
Thursday 27-Dec	New Song Rehearsal	7:00 PM
Sunday 30-Dec	Chapel Service	8:15 AM
	Worship Service	9:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	9:30 AM
	Worship Service	11:00 AM
	Coffee Fellowship	12:00 AM
Monday 31-Dec	Office Closes at 1:00 PM	
Tuesday 01-Jan	Happy New Year - Office Closed	