



CROSS CONNECTIONS

April
2018



***July 30 - August 3
Day Camp Is Out of This World***

We can't wait to see you!

Day Camp at First Presbyterian Church is an amazing adventure - unlike any other church camp in town! We partner with Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center to bring in amazing camp counselors to work with our children. Alongside our church volunteers, we strive to provide a nurturing environment for kids to experience a week of camp activities, Bible study and outdoor fun - all right here in Sarasota!

Full-Day Program (9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.) for children who are rising kindergarten through 5th grade. Day Camp cost: \$100.

Half-Day Program (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) for preschoolers who have turned three by April 2018 and are potty trained. Day Camp cost: \$50.

There are volunteer opportunities for youth and adults! Parents who volunteer may use half-day nursery care for children who are not old enough for camp.

Please contact Kelly Fitzgerald with any questions
KFitzgerald@firstpressarasota.org!

• **20th Annual Fellowship Theatre / Dinner Evening**

On Saturday, April 21, the Sarasota Visual Performing Arts Center at Booker High School presents the musical *Hello, Dolly!*

We will meet for an early dinner at El Greco Mediterranean Restaurant on the corner of Main Street/Orange Avenue at 4:45 p.m. Theatre curtain is at 7:00 p.m. Tickets for the show are \$15 adults, \$10 seniors, and \$5 youth/students. For reservations or information, contact Wendy Miller at (941) 379-0464 or towmiller@yahoo.com.

• **Distribution of Funds**

The Foundation stewards the endowment funds of First Presbyterian Church Sarasota. Gifts to the Foundation are invested and maintained for the future ministry of this church because we know that God has a purpose for our congregation beyond our lifetime.

Annually the board, according to the Foundation by-laws, distributes a percentage of the endowment assets to the church to supplement the operating budget. These funds are used to enhance our ministries here at FPC, in our community, and around the world. As the balance in the Foundation grows, so too does the annual distribution. The Board is pleased to let the congregation know that this year's distribution totals just over \$63,000.

If you would like to learn more about the Foundation or become a member of the Covenant Society by making a planned gift as a legacy of your faith, please contact Betsy Marshall or any member of the Foundation Board.

• **Preschool Security**

To comply with the new State of Florida regulations for child care facilities that are used for any business or purpose unrelated to providing child care, **all** individuals who utilize any area that is subject to use by persons outside the program must comply by having a current background screening on file.

What does this mean for you?

To fulfil this requirement, during preschool hours of operation (8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.), anyone volunteering or working on or around the campus must check in at the church office upon arrival and not go through the preschool areas unless accompanied by a screened staff member.

• **Learning and Growing as an Elder**

*by Joanne Simons, co-moderator
congregational nominating committee*

Each year, a new class of elders and deacons is elected by the congregation. It is the start of a joyous commitment in the service of God. This is my second year as an elder. It has been a time of growth, challenges, friendships, joys, and diligent work.

At monthly session meetings, our church's 15 elders meet with the pastors. The meeting opens with a prayer and then, usually, with an exercise, cleverly designed by Pastor Glen, that leads us toward learning about and affirming each other. We spend about 15 minutes of each monthly meeting in small groups talking about our own faith journeys and listening to one another's. Perhaps we'll talk about a personal experience that led us to feel and appreciate God's grace. Perhaps we'll share a concern about which we'll pray. Perhaps we'll answer a seemingly silly question that reveals an unexpected connection with one another. It's a wonderful time of friendship before we delve into the business of the church.

Being an elder gives me purpose and direction and satisfying work that brings me closer to God.

Do you want to learn more about yourself and your special relationship with God? Do you value the spiritual growth of our youth and want to help them on their faith journey? Do you value the mission outreach of our church? Is expanding membership or assuring our church's financial stability important to you? Being an elder has given me the opportunity to grow my faith and an appreciation for all the ways that our members give glory to God.



Our **Church Officer Nominating Committee** is beginning its work. The committee is comprised of Michael Brown and Joanne Simons, co-moderators; Mariah Martin, youth elder; John Matta, deacon representative; and Merle Chorba, Rich Dulaney, Karen Eastmoore, Bob Kirkpatrick, John McLeod, Jinny Miller, Sue Nurczyk, Karen Olson, and Neal Price, at-large members. Please be in prayer for them as they seek God's guidance for elders and deacons to serve Jesus Christ in our church and community in the years ahead.

The nominating committee is in the process of nominating 5 elders and 4 deacons for the class of 2021, and 9 nominating committee members for the class of 2019. Responsibilities will begin in January of 2019. If there is a member of the church you would like to recommend for consideration for one of these positions, please fill out the form and return it to the church office or place it in the offering plate this Sunday, or at the latest by Sunday, April 29.

**2018 Officer Nominating Committee
RECOMMENDATION FORM
CONFIDENTIAL
(Please complete in full)**

Name of member to be considered: _____

I would suggest the possible consideration of this individual for the following position (check one):

Elder Deacon Nominating Committee Member-at-Large

Please be sure that the individual you are recommending is a member of First Presbyterian Church, Sarasota. Remember that significant commitment to the congregation is a prerequisite for being considered for office. There should be a reasonable expectation that this member would be willing to serve.

For the individual you are recommending, please describe their

- Involvement at First Presbyterian, Sarasota (committees, ministry teams, social activities):

- Occupation (paid or volunteer experience):

- Specific qualifications and personal qualities befitting a church officer:

Recommended by: _____

Please fold and place in offering plate or turn in to church office by Sunday, April 29.

• **CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua)**

by Jay Swick



Every year since 2000, First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota has been supporting the work of CEPAD (Council of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua) through the contributions of individuals and through gifts from the mission and justice budget.

Recently, mission and justice committee members visited the Pantasma communities in Nicaragua where FPC has been supporting CEPAD's work. The community leaders identified a great need to improve the education offered there. Working through CEPAD, FPC is partnering with the local municipality and local families to replace a small metal schoolroom used as a preschool. The current structure accommodates fewer than 20 children. By constructing a new school building, 55 children can be served. The excitement among the people in the community is palpable. (Mission and justice members are thrilled about this project, too!) Our gifts will provide opportunities for the children who live in the area now, and, for their children! Above, is a collage of the existing school and the work on the foundation and play area for the new school building.



• **Don't Get Fooled... Avoiding Scams, Fraud, and Identity Theft**

*submitted by Cheryl Track,
RN-BC, Faith Community Nurse*

If you missed this program in March, here are some highlights:

- 1 in 5 individuals in the US is 60+ (almost 1 in 3 in SW Florida).
- 1 in 20 older adults report some type of financial mistreatment.
- Only 1 in 44 elder financial abuse or exploitation cases are reported.
- 9% of financial abuse victims must apply for public benefits after funds are stolen.

Who Does This?

Strangers who are professionals in creating scams are family members who feel they deserve it and caregivers who insert themselves into the lives of older adults. 90% of abusers of all types are family or trusted others.

Watch Out For These Threats:

Traveling contractors who offer reduced cost services "since they are in the neighborhood." Good contractors don't go door-to-door.

Loan/refinancing frauds that solicit you to give money. They are really trying to separate you from it!

Pyramid and get-rich-quick schemes. They will spend your money to help others get money.

Fake cashier checks that look real can be deposited, but then turn out to be fake.

Identity Theft Is Easier Than You Think

Beware of "shoulder-surfers," people who look over your shoulder to get your PIN. Beware of "dumpster divers," people who go through ++trash looking for items with your identification. Don't fall for "phishing," calls or e-mails that appear legitimate and ask you to provide identifying information even though they contacted you. Don't answer questions on Facebook or social media that mimic security questions.

Be Suspicious If You Hear...

"You've won a prize," "You have been selected for a special offer," "You must act now," "You must pay shipping (a fee, "taxes" or any upfront money), "We just need your account number to verify your identity," or "Your grandson is in jail; send funds."

Tips for Avoiding Scams, Fraud and Identity Theft

Develop a script so if someone calls or comes to your door you don't get taken advantage of. Anyone that solicits you is potentially a perpetrator. Stay off "sucker" lists (sweepstakes and/or contests). These lists are sold to others who are phishing; do not respond to these or click on their links. Scammers from out-of-state and other countries have ways of getting local area codes, so don't pick up calls you don't recognize. Charities, even legitimate phone solicitors, take a large percentage of what they collect. Call your charity directly.

More Tips

Keep an eye on your bank and credit card statements monthly. Shred or rip up anything with your name and account numbers on it. Obtain and check your free annual credit report (www.annualcreditreport.com).

Social Security provides access to your account/records online. Log on and set up your own account before someone else does (www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Medicare numbers will be changing in the next two years; this will happen automatically and will not cost you anything. Scammers are already working on ways to charge you for this process, so be aware.

Tax return fraud is rampant in Florida; file your return in a timely manner.

Go to www.donotcall.gov or call 888-382-1222 to register your phone number to stop solicitation calls (doesn't affect political calls and some charities). If you are still solicited call the Federal Trade Commission to file a complaint (888) 225-5322. Call the phone provider if you still receive robocalls; they can block the source.

Sit in on a monthly meeting with SALT (Seniors and Law Enforcement Together) to learn more about scams and fraud going on in your community. It meets the last Wednesday of each month in the beverage room of the Friendship Center at 1888 Brother Geenen Way.

• **Blood Drive**

The SunCoast Bloodmobile will be at First Presbyterian on **Sunday, April 8**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Call the office to reserve your spot on the bus (941) 955-8119.

• **Invest In Children Opportunities**



As we enter our second year of a rewarding partnership with Brentwood Elementary School, we wish to extend heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers who continue to dedicate their time and efforts to touch the lives of countless students at the school, reaching out in sharing God’s love with their warmth, care and enthusiasm:

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

Now, as we look ahead to the end of this school year, assistant principal at Brentwood, Patti Folino, has made us aware of the need for volunteers for their summer school. The summer school sessions run Monday through Thursday, June 4 through July 16 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for kindergarten and 1st grade classes. Volunteers would serve at their availability - an hour (or more) a day (or days) of their choice. Should you be willing to join in this worthwhile endeavor, please contact Jinny and Ron Miller at (941) 924-9494 or email jinnyron@verizon.net.

Invest in Children Steering Committee: Jinny and Ron Miller, Kay Dunn, Mary Elle Hunter, Sandi Soper, Bob Forbes, Drew Stuart

• **Calling All Runners!**

Help support our mission initiative, Invest In Children, with Brentwood Elementary School by joining in the McInWood 5K or 1-mile Fun Run on Saturday, May 12!

• Proceeds go to All Faiths Food Bank, Brentwood Elementary School, and McIntosh Middle School.

- The location of the run is McIntosh Middle School (701 McIntosh Rd, 34232).
- The course will be a mixture of road and wooded trail.
- Cost: 5K - \$20 for adults, \$10 for children (14 and under) with tech-shirt through April 1. After April 1 add \$5 for each age group. Fun Run - \$10 (with cotton shirt). Deadline to receive a T-shirt is April 17.

Information is online at mcinwood5K.com, in the church office, the foyer of the fellowship hall and the narthex of the sanctuary.



• **Stephen Ministers Care For People Facing Tough Times**

We all experience challenges in life – times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as –

- Loss of a loved one
- Hospitalization or disability
- Divorce or separation
- Loneliness or discouragement
- Spiritual crisis
- Unemployment or a job crisis
- Aging
- Birth, adoption, miscarriage, or infertility
- A chronic illness
- Relocation
- Recovery after an accident or disaster
- A terminal illness

God never intended us to go through these experiences alone. That’s why God has brought us together as a congregation - and why we have Stephen Ministry.

If you would like a Stephen Minister to call on you, a loved one, or a friend, please contact Pastors Glen Bell or Kelly Fitzgerald, or Steven Phillips.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other. - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

• **New Member Bios**

submitted by Mary Elle Hunter, membership committee



Ohio residents **Gunther and Linda Lahm** joined First Presbyterian Church in the first group of new members in January. They live in Columbus and have spent the last twelve winters in Sarasota.

When in Ohio they attend the Christ Lutheran Church in Bexley, a suburb of Columbus, and their four children and eight grandchildren also are residents of the city.

Gunther is a semi-retired trial attorney, while Linda retired from a career with JP Morgan Chase Bank. Now, however, she works part-time at the Needlepoint Studio in Sarasota, and What's the Point Needlepoint Shop in Columbus.

Their leisure time activities include teaching stitching for Linda as well as doing needlepoint. Gunther is a dedicated fisherman every chance he gets, and both of them enjoy reading and biking.

Gunther and Linda love the social conscience they have found at First Presbyterian, and the friendly environment, especially expressed by their neighbor, Michael Brown.



Bill and Nancy Racine joined First Presbyterian Church with the group who became new members in January. Spending five winter months in their home in University Park, they are delighted to avoid the grey, cold weather at

their primary residence in Lakeside, Michigan. They, of course, continue to enjoy their summers on the Michigan lakeshore.

Bill attended Southern Methodist University and Northern Illinois University and owned a small manufacturing business in Niles, Michigan for 35 years before retiring in 2010. Now he

is treasurer of a Michigan Land Trust and his retirement interests are flying, golf, and skiing. Nancy who graduated from Christian College in Columbia, Missouri, had a career as an interior decorator, and volunteers as a docent at the University of Notre Dame's art museum. She also is a member of the Junior League and plays golf in her spare time.

The couple, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in June, have three sons and three grandchildren. One son lives in New York, another in Los Angeles, and the third one is a resident of Michigan.

Bill and Nancy were members of First Presbyterian Church in Niles for 20 years where Nancy was an elder. When they moved to Sarasota, they began a search for a new church. First Presbyterian Church was the first one they attended, and that is where their search ended. Their hearts and minds were captured by Glen Bell and Kelly Fitzgerald, and they were drawn to become members.



• **Presbyterian Women**

PW Lite will be on **Tuesday, April 3** at 10:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Diane Coles, an award-winning trainer from Dog World Training Academy, and her canine friend will join us. Diane will tell us how she trains dogs for dog therapy. Come learn about therapy dogs and see one in action.

Save the date: The next PW gathering is **Tuesday, May 1** at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. We will collect the annual birthday offering at that time.

If you have an interest in attending the church-wide Presbyterian Women gathering in Louisville, KY August 2-5, please contact Flossie Paul at (941) 536-0974 or Pamela Lamb at (941) 210-7478. Both Flossie and Pamela are attending. There is also information at www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.

NEXT CHURCH

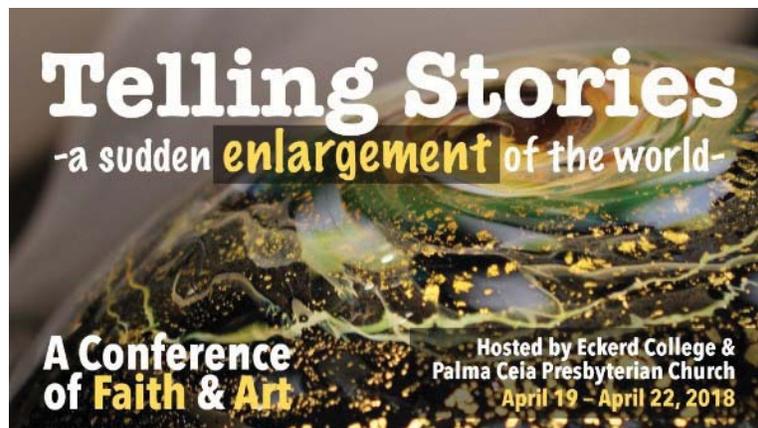
Here are two upcoming events NEXT Church is proudly co-sponsoring.

Pastor Glen Bell will be co-leading the Trent@Montreat conference. This conference is for people in the beginning stages of ministry. It's about honing in on those practical aspects of ministry that you just can't learn in seminary. Do you need help dealing with staff? Do you want to be able to jump into a strategic planning process without reading a million best practices that might not even work for your church? Do you want to focus on youth, young adults, social justice, or education? Come with a focus, leave with a plan – Trent@Montreat is built for you.



With the theme of “Telling Stories” as a guide, this free conference will employ discussions, poetry readings, presentations, visual arts, and theater to examine art’s power to confront current narratives, allow people to tell their own stories, and explore new ways of talking about God, faith, and social responsibility. Two of the presenters include contemporary poet and member of the Gila River Indian Tribe, Natalie Diaz; and *New York Times* best-selling author and Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor. Designed for anyone interested in the imaginative and prophetic intersection of faith and arts, we hope you’ll join us April 19-April 22.

To register for this event go to: www.eventbrite.com/e/telling-stories-a-conference-of-faith-art-tickets-41286659510?mc_cid=d99c37c67f&mc_eid=38f9670a3c



• **Birthdays**

1	Marcia Schaper Sara Jenoure	13	Tommy Cardinal James Brearley Jim Leslie	22	Patti Wrobel Jodilyn Khuu
2	Michelle Young Jane Nicholl Melinda Marsh	14	John Cairns John Edwards Emanuel Rosa	23	John Allen Casey Catlin
3	Mike Kopel Nancy Phillips	15	Nick Steinman Judy Melly Ann Wright	24	Suzie Hatatah
4	Ryan LeBlanc	16	Carol Brightman	25	Sam Keeley, Jr. Kim Williams Kim Thomas-Cain Travis Taaffe Margaret Torrence
5	Barb Andrews Shirley Morey William Klick Sandy Nall	17	Glenn Millar Dean Ward	26	Mia Radcliffe
6	Ron Wright Allyson Cooney	18	Beth Byron-Reasoner	27	Lisa Sabin
7	Naomi Pearson William Michael Duggan Abby Steinwachs John Matta	19	Haleigh Smoot Mick Dean John Edwards	28	Micki Knowles Bev Wright Caroline Davis Guillermo Contreras Jessica Rae Widener Ellis Frandsen
8	Marvin Miller Susie Wills Denny Geer	20	Barbara Atkins Tom Bell Jack Keeley Carmen Pedicini Layton Huber	29	Max Steiner Linda Hart Joan Callan
10	Irene Dulaney Brianne Zulauf Frank Frey Elijah Bressan	21	Nance Guth Anna Bedford David Gulliver	30	Barbara Corbett Stephanie Stewart
11	Carol Papa Jack McDonald	22	Claire Johnson Jason Bell Jeffrey Bell		
12	Patty Dulaney Doris Harff Helen Biggar Kara Steinman		Mariah Martin Jane Barr Isabella Becking Linda Hollen		
13	Pat Maloney Kim West Zoe Raynor		Travis Barnes Roy Yahraus Ethan Schwab		

• **Anniversaries**

2	Dan & Kristen Kelly Patrick & Erin Duggan
4	Tom & Betsy Marshall
9	Lyndon & Sarah Pullman
10	David & Denise Landers
11	Ed & Jean Johnston
12	Matt DeLuca & Kris Abitz
22	Jonathan & Aimee Angel
23	Willie Sutton & Stephanie Stewart
24	Ken & Carol Papa
27	Jeff & Monica Steiner Fred & Kim Becking
28	Andy Reasoner & Beth Byron-Reasoner Daryl & Maggie Alsum
30	Andy & Lindsey Capps



**Blessings from
your church family**

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Cross Connections

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