



CROSS CONNECTIONS

July
2021

Announcing Our Fall Worship Schedule

by Steven Phillips, Director of Music and Congregational Care

On **Sunday, August 15**, we will resume our pre-pandemic worship schedule of a 9:00 a.m. NewSong service in the Fellowship Hall, and an 11:00 a.m. traditional service in the sanctuary. The educational hour will take place at 10:00 a.m., as it has done in the past. The session's decision to adopt this plan came after careful consideration of various viewpoints and options. The elders also weighed heavily the input received through the recent congregational survey about matters of worship style and schedule. I appreciate the opportunity to communicate with you about our future together, and also to reflect on our experiences of worship for the past fifteen months.

When the COVID-19 crisis forced us to close public gatherings, we had to rethink worship. Like all churches, we were called to respond in a mysterious new situation with the limited information available to us. We had new challenges on all fronts, and I'm grateful for the dedication of our tech team, who combined a steep learning curve with a deep desire to serve our spiritual family. We all had to learn new skills and quickly resource ourselves as producers of pre-recorded services. There were times when we felt overwhelmed by the many questions about how to proceed, how best to minister, how to function without any of the normal patterns of the past.

One of the biggest uncertainties was the question of worship style. It was clear that we couldn't produce two different style services each week with the financial and human resources we had. So we made a BIG ask of you. We asked you to enter with us into the weekly adventure of an eclectic style service. I know this was not easy for those who have strong feelings about musical style. And I'm grateful that so many in our community offered patience, encouragement, and understanding in a difficult season.

Fast forward to today, as vaccines have become widely available and our in-person congregation is slowly rebuilding. Our staff, Worship and Music Committee, and session pondered the possibility of offering just one blended-style service indefinitely. However, the results of our recent survey indicate that, while there is some support for a blended service, the desire to return to a two-style worship model is strong. This was helpful information. All voices and views were, and are, important in this ongoing discussion of worship style, and we are grateful for the care and candor of all those who participated in the survey.

As we move back into a contemporary/traditional service schedule, there are important questions for us to consider:

- What have we learned from worshipping together in one eclectic-style service?
- How do we grow our oneness in the Spirit, amid our differences?
- Granting that we will return to two different styles of worship each week, are there seasons and occasions when it will be good for us to all come back together?

There are no quick and obvious answers. But our strength and love are nurtured in our responses to open-ended questions like these. May God's blessing rest upon this beautiful spiritual family as we treasure both our deep unity and our glorious diversity in the spirit of Christ!



Welcome Molly Horner New Children and Youth Coordinator



We are pleased to introduce Molly Horner as our new Children and Youth Coordinator!

Molly grew up in Sarasota, as an active member of Siesta Key Chapel. She brings a wealth of experience to this position, including seven years of children and youth ministry leadership. She has served (both as a volunteer and as a director) at Siesta Key Chapel and Gulf Gate Church. Her experience includes coordinating Sunday school classes and providing opportunities for children and youth to lead in worship and service projects. Molly also has a love for outreach to youth in the community. One of her ministry goals is to make the Bible “come alive” for children and youth.

The Children and Youth Coordinator is a part-time position, expected to complement the work of our Associate Pastor, when that position can be filled. Molly will work closely with Lydia Chapdelain, who will continue in her position as the Children and Youth Leader. The two will work as a team, along with the Education and Formation Committee, to provide quality programming for our children, youth, and their families. Lydia comments, “I am beyond thrilled to collaborate with Molly. Her experience, coupled with her enthusiasm for children and youth, will give us a fresh perspective on our programs.”

Molly began her work with us on June 14. She anticipates being in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays (as well as leading activities on Sundays). Molly is looking forward to getting to know our church family. She shares, “I’m excited to be a part of First Presbyterian Church and to pour into the lives of the children and youth, to teach and show them the love of Jesus Christ.” Ask her about her love of the outdoors, her favorite restaurants, and her three-month old niece!

Join us in welcoming Molly and her husband, Nathan! Children, youth and their parents are invited to come to the fellowship hall at 5:30 p.m. **on Sunday, June 27, to share pizza and conversation with Molly before the whole community gathers for Florida Studio Theatre’s 7:00 p.m. family-friendly performance of *On the Road Again: A Family Musical Roadtrip*, which will be held on the church lawn. It should be a great night; come join the fun.**

Carol and Kay

Carol Papa and Kay Steinman
Personnel Co-moderators

Invest in Children

BACK TO SCHOOL



Collection of School Supplies
for Brentwood Students



JULY 11 - AUGUST 1

Drop off your donations in the designated boxes in the narthex on Sunday
or in the church office Monday - Friday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

MOST NEEDED SUPPLIES

Backpacks — Pencils — Composition Pads — Pencil Cases
Colored Pencils — Dry-erase or Washable Markers — Post-its — Tissues

*Cash donations welcome or checks made out to First Presbyterian Church,
"School Supplies" on memo line*



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



Social Justice Corner

by Dorothy Murphy
SURE Team Leader


Meeting with State Attorney Brodsky

In our Fellowship Hall on June 14, Bishop Kenneth Ellis of Koinonia Life Impact Church opened the meeting with prayer. For this negotiating meeting, each SURE congregation was invited to have one clergy member and one lay person attend. Bishop Ellis reminded all of us that God's work is not easy.

Various viewpoints were presented in this one and a half hour meeting. In order to discuss issues which were raised, Dorothy Murphy called for a caucus. After the caucus, Rev. Wayne Farrell of St. Boniface Church reviewed what was discussed.

The following are points for further discussion between State Attorney Brodsky and SURE:

1. Fees for Adult Civil Citation will be between \$100 to \$200. The largest disagreement SURE has is with these fees. We continue to be concerned about families who make less than \$40,000 a year who struggle to pay that kind of fee. We would consider a sliding scale where those making \$40,000 or less would pay \$50 and those who make above \$40,000 could pay significantly more and perhaps make up the difference in revenue.
2. SURE can appeal to community agencies for financial support of the program.
3. Driving on a suspended license could be merged into a Sarasota Traffic Diversion program.
4. The State Attorney has agreed to give SURE monthly updates with copies of any draft documents.
5. The State Attorney believes that the Adult Civil Citation program can realistically be up and running by November 8.
6. The State Attorney agrees it is feasible to run a pilot Adult Civil Citation program with only Sarasota County before introducing the program to the other two counties in his jurisdiction.

A special  to Margaret LaMotte Torrence and Operations Manager Rachel Martin for their assistance and to network members Don and Ann Opdycke for room set up. Gib Mitchell, First Congregational Church of Christ, was the note-taker.

SURE congregations will be kept abreast concerning the monthly updates State Attorney provides SURE.

We invite each of you to:

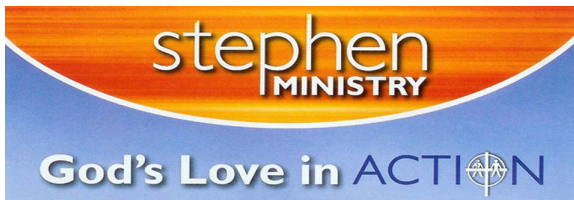
Give yourself a time of silence. Reflect how God is calling you to be a peacemaker this day. "Holy One, our teacher and friend, teach us all how to live in and work for peace, that we may truly be children of God." Amen

Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist,
St. Mark's Presbyterian Church,
Tucson, AZ

• Caritas at Herrig Center Seeking FPC Volunteers

Volunteers are requested to interview clients needing emergency financial assistance with utility bills, prescription medicine, work boots, SCAT tickets, food and clothing. **FPC operates with two to three volunteers on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** CDC guidelines will be followed and all will be masked. For more information, contact: Brian Bowen at (941) 360-6717 or email: bbowen38@verizon.net

**Caritas is a coalition of five churches in downtown Sarasota. Its primary purpose is to provide temporary emergency assistance to those who find themselves in acute financial need.*



***By yourself you're unprotected.
With a friend you can face the
worst.***

***Can you round up a third?
A three-stranded rope isn't
easily snapped.***

(Ecclesiastes 4:12 The Message)



The wisdom literature of scripture often states the obvious. Possibly this is because we easily fail to remember timeless advice especially in times of crisis. The passage in Ecclesiastes points out that it is hard to face overwhelming difficulties by ourselves. With the help of a faithful friend, it can become so much easier, and together with Christ's spirit it can be similar to the strength of a three-stranded rope. Being with you during a time of loss, tragedy, and terrible diagnosis is what Stephen Ministers are ready to provide. They are trained to offer confidential care for you during what can be life's most difficult and overwhelming times. They can be God's wonderful presence and added strength in the face of adversity.

If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry. Please call the church office (941-955-8119) to speak with Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Transitional Pastor; Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse; or Steven Phillips, Director of Music Ministries and Congregational Care.

• *Pat Higgins Retires*

by Janet Olszewsky

When I rode with Pat Higgins to Orlando for Stephen Ministry Leader Training six years ago, she and I were already friends, but we had no idea how Stephen Ministry would deepen that friendship. Through the training, and then the planning, recruiting, and five years of Stephen Ministry, Pat and I have become sisters in Christ.

Pat's wisdom, steady leadership, quiet reliance on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and encouragement of others have all resulted in the success of Stephen Ministry here but also in an enrichment of our lives. Now she feels led

in a different direction for her time and talents. That is surely our loss, but her impact on our lives will continue. Our friendships will remain strong. We wish her Godspeed in whatever lies ahead. Well done, good and faithful servant. Thank-you, Pat.



• *Presbyterian Women*

• All women of the church are invited to attend the annual summer luncheon for a time of fellowship and reconnection at Der Dutchman Family Restaurant, 3713 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota on **Tuesday, July 13**. Please plan to arrive by 11:30 a.m. Reservations are not required. Questions? Contact Pamela Lamb at bmalp54@gmail.com.

• The Women's Conference "Word Wise: Encountering the Word That Draws Us In and Sends Us Out" is a retreat opportunity for all women, both young and young-at-heart, at Montreat Conference Center this summer. It runs **Friday evening, August 13 through Sunday morning, August 15**. Presbyterian Women will reimburse the cost of registration, hotel and meals while at the conference for any church member who wishes to attend. For more information, including leadership, workshops and schedule, visit montreat.org/events/wc2021. Contact Pamela Lamb at bmalp54@gmail.com if you have questions or to request an application for reimbursement.

• *First Presbyterian, Sarasota, Hosts DBSA Support Group*

FPC is hosting the Depression Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA Tampa Bay Inc.) beginning **Monday, June 28**, 7:00-8:30 p.m., in room 203. This free weekly peer-led support group invites individuals to share personal experiences, feelings and coping strategies about depression, anxiety, PTSD, OCD and other mood disorders. Family and loved ones may attend for support or to learn more about the disorders. Call (727) 410-1569 to register. (<https://dbsatampabay.org>)

• ***It's Not Too Late to Participate!***

The Mission Study Team needs you! Please join a one-session small group meeting to share your thoughts. What does First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota mean to you? How do we hope to be the Body of Christ here and now? What qualities are we praying for in our next pastor? The Mission Study Team has planned a series of small group meetings over the coming weeks to discuss these questions. Your voice will be important as God leads us to a new pastor.

Some of these meetings will be via Zoom; others will be face-to-face gatherings in the Fellowship Hall. Each meeting will last approximately 60 to 90 minutes. Listed below are the remaining dates in July, times, and locations. Please sign up for a convenient time to participate through the link in *News@First* or by calling the church office during the week (941) 955-8119. Join your voice with others in the congregation as we imagine First Presbyterian's future.

ZOOM Meetings

Tuesday, July 6	1:00 PM
Tuesday, July 6	5:30 PM
Saturday, July 10	11:00 AM
Saturday, July 10	2:00 PM
Monday, July 12	1:00 PM
Monday, July 12	5:30 PM

In-Person Meetings, Fellowship Hall

Saturday, July 10	2:00 PM
Sunday, July 11	11:30 AM

We thank you for your input and your prayers as we go forward.

The Mission Study Team
Elaine Barnett, Chair
Ed Clissold
Michael Fingerle
Frank Frey
Janet Olshewsky
Joanne Simons
Emily Weitekamp
Margaret Torrence, ex officio



• **Preschool News**

by Clare Carter, director

Thank you to our First Presbyterian Church family for supporting us in this uncertain year. We were able to provide our precious children with a safe and wonderful place to learn and grow because of your support! Thank-you from the bottom of our hearts for believing in this important children's ministry.

Congratulations to the First Presbyterian Church Preschool Class of 2021! We love you and we're so proud of you!



HEALTH
and
WHOLENESS

NAMI Family Support Group hosted by FPC Sarasota beginning **July 15**, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Forum every third Thursday of the month, for adults with loved ones with mental health conditions. Visit NAMISarasotaManatee.org or email info@namisarasotamanatee.org

SunCoast Blood Mobile will be at FPC Sarasota **Sunday, August 29**; more details to follow.

American Heart CPR course will be taught by LifeTech Instructional Services will be at FPC Sarasota **Wednesday, September 22**, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; more information coming soon.



• **Discussing Opioids with Your Doctor**

*submitted by Cheryl Track
Faith Community Nurse*

Opioid pain relievers are the most fatally misused legal drug sitting in the medicine cabinet. Some opioids come from the poppy plant, while others are synthetic derivatives. Common prescription opioids include Codeine, Vicodin, Demerol, Methadone, Morphine and Oxycodone.

Research indicates people who take opioid painkillers can quickly develop a dependence on this class of drug, yet 70% of doctors prescribe opioids longer than the CDC recommends, according to a National Council survey.

64% of opioid users have at least one addiction risk factor, such as alcoholism or depression. 33% of painkiller users are not even aware they are taking opioids.

If you are prescribed an opioid, use this reference sheet to start a conversation with your doctor to take control of your healthcare.

12 Questions

TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE TAKING OPIOIDS

There are appropriate medical uses for prescription opioids—but, these medications also pose serious risks. To keep yourself and your family safe, it's important to have a detailed conversation with the doctor before going home with a painkiller prescription. Use these questions as a guide.

- 1 Why are you prescribing this opioid?
- 2 Are you sure this is the right medication (and the right dosage) for this situation?
- 3 How long will this medication be needed for?
- 4 What affects will this medication have? How will it feel?
- 5 Are there any side effects from this medication? If so, how can we reduce or prevent them?
- 6 Opioids are addictive. What can I do to lower the risk for myself and my loved ones?
- 7 If you have a history of addiction, is it still safe to take opioids?
- 8 If addiction runs in your family, is it still safe to take opioids?
- 9 Should we start with a shorter prescription or fewer pills?
- 10 Are there any non-opioid options that we could try first?
- 11 Is it safe to take opioids with other prescription medications?
- 12 If we have pills left over, how do we safely discard them?

Taken from shatterproof.org and stopeverydaykiller.org

• **Birthdays**

2	Kathy Herron Dick Clapp Hal Serrie	19	Alma Fleck Jean Martin Al Zappala Sam Ochi Bill Rice Todd Rippy
3	Jordan Cook Ethan Alsum Kade Dean Harriette Humphreys	20	Danielle Hall Allison Mendenhall
5	Cynde Mutryn	21	Maureen Jones
6	Ellen Millar Peggy Messick Jennifer Estes Allison Estes Zach Martin	22	Andy Anderson Anne Bell
7	Olivia Wright Nancy Rodriguez Janet Churn	25	Patricia Martin Jayden Adumuah Michael Fingerle
8	Muffie Ochi	26	Paula Camastro Mike Groninger Janet Griffiths
9	Kyle Mendenhall Becky Fingerle	28	Todd Williams Mary Webb Mike Swick
10	Lauren Reasoner	30	Elena Bretoi
11	Quigg Warnecke	31	Ginny Good
12	Betsy Marshall Susan Sanderson		
13	Vicki Wacksman Nancy Racine		
15	Katy Sabin Bob Johnson Sam Winship		
16	Jack Young Liam Brelsford		
17	Alan Nelson		

• **Anniversaries**

1	Jack & Susan McDonald
3	Tom & Pat Jirus
5	Ryan & Lydia Chapdelain
6	Tom & Judy Melly Rich & Flossie Paul
7	Thom & Verna Dederer
8	John & Olivia LaMotte
9	Charles & Ann Proctor
10	Jay & Candy Swick
11	Jack & Sue Simpson
13	Don & Ann Opdycke
14	Rod & Vicky Scott Patrick & Heather O'Neill
15	Rich & Irene Dulaney, Jr
16	Ward & Anita Brass
19	Drew & Maryann Stuart
25	Jeff & Ellen Steinwachs
27	Jimi & Paula Camastro William Morgan & Jane Rose Ron & Jackie Wright
29	Dave & Andrea Householder
30	Phil & Jeannette Hohmann



**Blessings from
your church family**

Cross Connections is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Florida, Volume 39 Issue #7. Please submit articles for the next issue by July 15, 2021. Articles submitted are proofed and edited.



Cross Connections

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Return Service Requested



WE NEED YOUR HELP

with food distribution for
FPC's Mission Partnership with All Faiths Food Bank

The need to assist our neighbors with food continues.

If you haven't volunteered before—or it's been a while—please consider lending a hand with our fun and dedicated team of volunteers.

Sign up to help

Thursdays: 9:15-11:30 am

(Distribution: 10:00-11:30 am)

The food distribution is by drive-through with volunteers loading cars as clients circle in the parking lot during the allotted time. Volunteers are needed each Thursday. Task options include sorting and distributing food, setting up, cleaning up, and directing traffic.

For more information or to sign up

Contact Bob Kirkpatrick: rkirkhv@aol.com or (941) 355-0809
or Dave Householder: dphouse47@gmail.com or (724) 462-4235

Be a part of this exciting ministry to our community!