



CROSS CONNECTIONS

September
2021

Dear friends,

In April your session appointed a team of seven individuals to conduct a self-study of the congregation and to present a report of its findings. Named to that committee were Emily Weitekamp, Joanne Simons, Janet Olshewsky, Frank Frey, Michael Fingerle, Ed Clissold, and Elaine Barnett (with Elaine agreeing to serve as chair). That team has worked diligently for the last four months, meeting almost weekly, conducting small group sessions with interested members and friends of the congregation, researching the history of this congregation, studying the community in which we serve, listening to hopes for the gifts of a new pastor—praying diligently for God’s clear guidance as they compiled their findings and sought to articulate this congregation’s place in the larger purpose of God’s redemptive work in the world.

On August 24, the team presented its 13-page report to the session for its approval. The session gladly offered its approval, thanking team members for the transparency and faithfulness with which they approached their task.

On September 14 the report will be reviewed by Peace River Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry (COM). Their blessing will be the final step needed to clear the path for the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to search for the pastor God is calling to serve next at FPC Sarasota. (The session hopes to call that meeting for October 3, but we will hold those plans lightly until we hear from our Nominating Committee that they are ready for the session to proceed.)

As soon as the report has been reviewed by the COM, we will share electronic copies with you. It also will be available for download from the church’s website. Should you prefer a paper copy, you may request one by calling the church office after September 14.

If you would like to learn more about the Mission Study Team’s report, there will be three opportunities for conversation:

- **by Zoom, 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 18** (limited to 20 persons, for ease of conversation)
- **in-person, 10:10 a.m. Sunday, September 19, in the Fellowship Hall**
- **by Zoom, 1:00 p.m. Thursday, September 23** (limited to 20 persons, for ease of conversation)

Links to sign up for Zoom conversations will be available through *News at First* starting September 1. Should those sessions fill to capacity, we will gladly schedule additional opportunities.

Please join the session in expressing heartfelt gratitude to the Mission Study Team for this labor of love, and please continue to hold all parties in prayer as the Nominating Committee engages in conversation with potential candidates for the Pastor Nominating Committee. May the Holy Spirit keep moving in all of our hearts, preparing the path in front of us.

As we lift the whole suffering world into the light of God’s love, it remains my joy and privilege to share this season with you, and to witness God stirring in this community.

Grace and peace,

• **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Earthquake in Haiti**

PDA is responding to the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck Haiti the morning of August 14, 2021 that has resulted in the loss of thousands of lives. PDA is working closely with Presbyterian World Mission, their traditional partners on the ground and ACT Alliance. PDA is responding to emergency needs such as WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), emergency power generators, shelter, food, first-aid and more. PDA is relying on the generosity of Presbyterians to provide financial and hands-on support to help the whole church stand with the country of Haiti as it responds to this devastating earthquake. We would invite you to participate in disaster relief; please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and put “Earthquake Relief” in the memo line. You can donate online; go to www.firstpressarasota.org, select “Give Online,” enter dollar amount, “Select a fund” will be “Prsby.Dis. Asst,” in memo type “Earthquake Relief.” We will add your gift to the funds to be remitted.

• **Updated Session COVID Policy**

Masks are required of all persons (over the age of two) who are on our campus, including outdoor gatherings. This is in response to the rapidly rising COVID-19 cases in our area and evidence that the Delta variant is more easily transmitted than previous strains (even by fully vaccinated, asymptomatic persons). An exception is granted for fully vaccinated adult groups who are working outside (with no children present). Such groups may decide together whether they intend to mask.

We do this out of concern:

- for our children, who are not able to receive vaccinations;
- for the most vulnerable members of our community, who may be at risk, even if vaccinated;
- for the larger community, to help to slow the spread of the virus.

Your session is committed to remaining flexible to respond to circumstances as they change. Together we will navigate these challenges. We will worship with joy—whether online or in person—and give thanks in all circumstances. If there is any way that the church can be helpful to your household, please don’t hesitate to call the church office. We honor God as we care for each other.

STEWARDSHIP 2022



The gifts God gave were for
building up the body of Christ.

- Ephesians 4:11, 12



• **Be a Life-Saver**

by John Schaub

You never know when CPR will come in handy. Valerie and I took an infant CPR course at Sarasota Memorial hospital when our first grandchildren were on their way. Fortunately, none of our now five grandchildren has ever needed us to use our CPR knowledge.

Last year I was having lunch with a good friend and high school classmate when he passed out during lunch. We got him on the floor of the restaurant and he turned gray. I could not feel a pulse or see any evidence that he was breathing.

Several gathered around and some were giving advice. The restaurant staff called 911. I thought that he looked dead and remembered a couple of things from the CPR class. Use both hands to pump where you think the heart is. Don't worry about pumping too hard and pump fast, to the beat of the Bee Gee's tune *Staying Alive*.

I pumped and the paramedic called and asked me to count as I was pumping. They wanted to make sure it was at a fast pace. The paramedics came soon and after a while put him in the ambulance and took him to SMH.

He survived, and after about a week in the hospital was released and headed home to Dallas. We talk more often now and he doesn't even complain about the ribs I broke.

Without CPR he would not be alive today. CPR is not hard to do and it may save or make a new friend. Please attend the FPC class **Wednesday, September 22**.



• **CPR Class**

Be a life-saver and register for a CPR class taught by Life Tech Instructional on **Wednesday, September 22**, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall. If a healthcare provider card is needed, the cost is \$40; otherwise, it is \$25 for a two-year certification from American Heart Association. Each person will have their own manikin in a socially distanced environment. Please wear a mask. To register or for questions, contact Cheryl Track, (941) 320-3828.

• **College/Continuing Education/ Technical School Scholarships**

Scholarship money is available for the upcoming school year. Interested students and families should go to the website www.firstpressarasota.org, go to "Grow" tab and select "Young Adult" and print application. The application and transcripts must be received by **Thursday, September 30**. Transcripts, including those from the spring 2021 semester, should be included or forwarded as soon as available. Returning applicants need only to update their grades and contact information. All college and technical school students are encouraged to apply.



• **Email: Real or a Scam**

More and more, you might be getting emails that are not real, but a scam. Below are a couple of tips from Tampa Bay Presbytery to help you recognize a scam.

- Please be especially attentive to any email that doesn't look right to you or sound like the person it says it's from. Be sure to use the contact information you already have for that person and do not click on "reply" to respond to the purported sender reaching out to you with an unusual request for help in an email that just doesn't seem right.

- If it looks suspicious or gives you reason to worry about the sender, call them at a number you already have for them even if the email says not to call, or email them by opening a new email and using the email address you already have for them -- no matter what the worrisome email says.

- The key is not to click on any links in an odd email or hit "reply." Don't respond even if the address looks correct; even a correct address can be misleading.

- For more about this persistent scam: check out this Federal Trade Commission link from 2019: Worshipers targeted by gift card scam <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/07/worshipers-targeted-gift-card-scam>



• **Social Justice Corner**

by Dorothy Murphy
SURE Team Leader

Mission and Justice Committee

The Mission and Justice Committee offers tangible opportunities for our congregation to work with local and global mission partners to feed the hungry, help the poor, and advocate for those who have no voice, furthering peace and justice through awareness and action in the name of Christ.

SURE is proud to be one of the Mission and Justice Committee partners along with Family Promise, Caritas, Invest in Children (Brentwood School), Dial Hope, Plant with Purpose, Cedarkirk, Alliance for Fair Food, All Faiths Food Bank, Resurrection House, Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry, Thornwell Home for Children, Cuba Mission Partnership, Manasota Interracial Book Club, Misión Peniel, CEPAD Nicaragua, and Fair Trade/Equal Exchange kiosk.

None of us, including me, ever do great things. But we can all do small things, with great love, and together we can do something wonderful. -
Mother Teresa

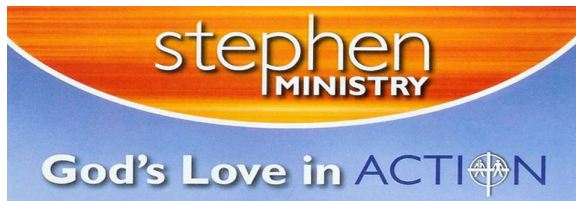
Contact Elders Dave Householder and Bob Kirkpatrick if you want to join or get information regarding one of the ministries listed above. If you are interested in SURE, or if you want to learn more about this vital Sarasota 23-congregation ministry, please contact SURE Team Leaders Ann Opdycke, Judy Kuebbeler or Dorothy Murphy.

SURE'S ANNUAL SEPTEMBER HOUSE LISTENING MEETINGS

The 23 congregations comprising SURE annually hold small group meetings each September to learn which justice issues cause congregants concern. When you are called to attend a meeting from one of SURE's network members or team leaders, say "yes." Better yet, offer to bring others with you. Zoom meeting days and times will be announced.

STATEWIDE ADULT CIVIL CITATION DATA

One of the difficulties working to increase use of adult civil citations is that there is no statewide data collection of adult arrest. Doug Giffin, congregant at St. Wilfred Church, is a retired data analyst who has agreed to help us compile and analyze any data that we can get from our Clerk of Court. In order to be able to compare data from across the state, we need all parties to request the same data. Even then, the task may be difficult. The statewide agencies have been requested to send a letter to their Clerk of Court stating what information is requested. We are requesting 2019 data in order to have pre-pandemic information so that we have a clear baseline from which to work. 2020 is somewhat skewed because of the closures that occurred with COVID-19.



The art of making a mosaic is an ancient one. At times, a mosaic is assembled from broken pieces of tile also called “tesserae.” Something beautiful is



created from something that is shattered and broken. The result most often looks nothing like the tile that the mosaic came from.

This can be true in our lives as well. A sudden turn in one’s health, the loss of a job, the end of a marriage, or the death of a loved one can seem like a shattering experience, leaving your life as “tesserae.” With God’s help and that of a faithful friend in Christ your life can be brought back together in ways you would have never considered. This is exactly the time that a faithful friend in the form of a Stephen Minister can be a wonderful resource. Stephen Ministers are trained to listen and give confidential comfort. Most of all, they can be with you as God does the healing and creative work in reconstructing a mosaic of your life.

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 Pastor Margaret LaMotte Torrence, Faith Community Nurse Cheryl Track, or Director of Music Ministries/Congregational Care Steven Phillips.

This year 1,200 children will experience homelessness in Sarasota County. Preventing families from spiraling into homelessness is an essential part of the Family Promise mission. Family Promise (FP) served eleven families with children in August, and provided support with maximum efficiency and low cash output.

The FP office and day center location has closed so they must relocate. Several years ago, our church made a generous donation from the *Imagine the Future* campaign to help FP secure a more permanent facility. August 24, 2021, the session approved the use of that money for a one-year lease on a house that will be used by FP to provide much-needed services for homeless pregnant and post-partum women and their babies.

An investment of \$260 can keep a child housed in Sarasota County, but it takes \$5,000 in resources to rehouse an evicted family—which is why prevention is so important. We can’t thank you enough for supporting the Family Promise mission and these families.

Family Promise’s contact information remains the same:

Family Promise of Sarasota, Inc.
8499 Tamiami Trail, PMB 267,
Sarasota, FL 34238
(941) 952-1800

<https://www.familypromisesarasota.org/>



**• Rise Against Hunger Meal-Packing Event
Sunday, September 19, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

We need 40 volunteers—all ages! Set-up starts at 11:30 a.m., with the official start of the event at 1:00 p.m. and lasting about three hours. We welcome children as well as adults to come out and help us package over 12,000 meals. We will be masked and practicing social distancing during the event.

The mission of Rise Against Hunger (RAH) is to end hunger in our lifetime by providing food and life-changing aid to the world’s most vulnerable populations, by making a global commitment to mobilize the resources necessary to achieve this goal. One of the ways that RAH works to achieve its mission is by working with other interested parties to offer meal-packaging events to create fortified, dehydrated, shelf-stable meals that are transported by RAH to identified areas of food insecurity.

This will be our fourth meal-packing event. Last year our event was canceled due to COVID. This year the Rise Against Hunger staff has put a system in place to keep us safe and healthy while we package the meals.

The link for signing up: <https://rah.secure.force.com/events/homepage?id=7013Z000002zqWaQA1>

• **Invest In Children**
Return of the Superstars



by Jinny Miller, Steering Committee Chair

With a bountiful breakfast for the Superstar teachers and staff of Brentwood Elementary School, First Presbyterian Church welcomed them back on August 3. Thanks to generous church members, the much appreciated Welcome Back Breakfast continued for the fourth year!

When the students returned on August 10, many supplies donated by the church awaited them. Backpacks, markers, pencils, crayons, and much, much more were there for those who needed them. Because of the economic crunch of the pandemic, many families were boosted by the gifts from our congregation. Thank you, First Presbyterian Church, for your generosity!



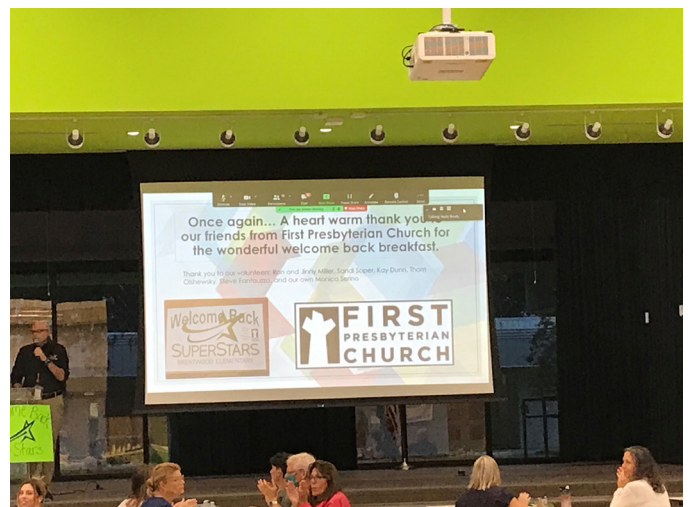
On a Facebook post the next day, Brentwood shared the above photo and their thanks for the breakfast in these words plus comments that followed, three of which are below:

HUGE "thank you" to First Presbyterian Church!! They gave our staff a warm welcome back on Tuesday morning with a beautiful breakfast. We are so thankful for their commitment to loving on our staff and students.

YES! WE FEEL SO LOVED BY YOUR ACTS OF KINDNESS! THANK YOU!

You are the best, First Presbyterian!
Thank you ❤️

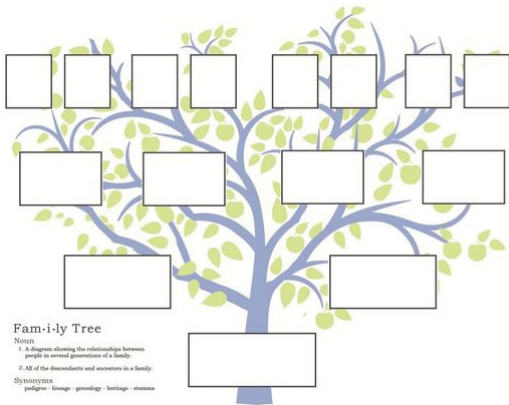
What an awesome act of kindness! First Presbyterian is always so supportive of Brentwood staff and students and we appreciate it so much.





• Presbyterian Women

PW Bible study resumes on **Wednesday, September 15** at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom. Elaine Barnett leads the first lesson in the new 2021-2022 Horizons study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*. Lesson 1 helps us begin filling in Jesus' family tree. The study guide is optional and not required to attend. All women of the church are welcome to join in and participate at any point in the study series.



Did you know that Mission Haven is operated by Presbyterian Women in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky and Tennessee?

Located adjacent to Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, Mission Haven provides affordable, short-term housing, hospitality, clothing and prayer to mission co-workers of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Having just celebrated 70 years of service, the complex includes 3 houses and 6 apartments, fully furnished and available to mission co-workers in transition. Mission Haven is just one of the many charitable organizations PW supports. Come join Presbyterian Women in mission support, Bible study and fellowship.

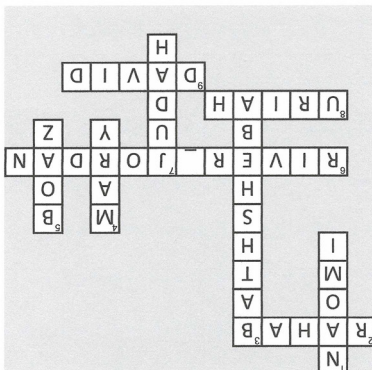
Can you complete this crossword on Jesus' genealogy based on *What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus*, the PW Bible study starting in September?

Across

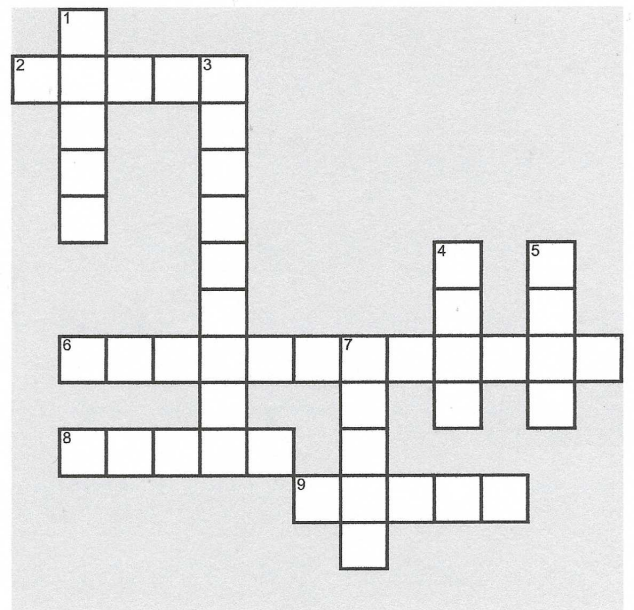
- 2 Help spies
- 6 Where Jesus was baptized
- 8 Husband of Bathsheba
- 9 Nathan accuses of taking a man's only sheep

Down

- 1 Mother-in-Law of Ruth
- 3 Mother of Solomon
- 4 Pregnant before marriage
- 5 Husband of Ruth
- 7 Fathers his widowed daughter-in-law



Jesus' Genealogy



• **Presbyterian Women Service Project**

Tuesday, October 12
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
in the Fellowship Hall



Come and go as you are able.

We are making breast surgery recovery pillows (that go underneath the arms or over the breast area to protect incisions) and fidget blankets (small tabletop or lap blankets with activities for dementia and Alzheimer patients to provide sensory and tactile stimulation for restless hands). All items will be donated to Sarasota Memorial Hospital. There is plenty to do in addition to sewing; no special skills are required. Bring a sack lunch if you want to stay during the lunch break.

Donations of construction materials are needed. See column to right for a complete list. Please leave donations in the large PW bin in the mail room at the church office by **Sunday, October 10**. Be sure to call the church office to let us know you intend to attend (941) 955-8119. Come for some fun, fellowship and service! Questions? Contact Pamela Lamb at bmalp54@gmail.com.

Construction Materials List

- Breast surgery recovery pillow donations
- Washable soft fabrics (e.g., lightweight flannel)
- Polyester fiberfill
- Spools of white sewing thread
- Fidget blanket donations - ALL ITEMS MUST BE WASHABLE
- Cotton or lightweight denim fabrics for top
- Soft, lightweight fabrics for backing (so it won't slip or slide on tabletops and laps)

Various items with the following properties are needed:

1. Texture (smooth, silky, slick, plush, bumpy, rough, etc.)
2. Moves or can be grasped
3. Colorful (solids or simple patterns preferred over busy patterns)
4. Able to be attached to blanket securely and won't fray or ravel

Items can be upcycled from things you would normally throw away

Examples include:

- Large buttons
- Velcro and elastic
- Pockets from pants/jeans/shorts
- Belt loops
- Plastic rings and D-rings
- Ribbon, rickrack, fringe, lace and trims
- Elastic hair ties
- Zippers, buckles and snaps
- Beads
- Empty thread spools
- Shoestrings
- Buttoned cuffs from sleeves
- Mesh and netting
- Pieces of washable fabric such as flannel, minky, fleece, ripstop nylon, lycra, terry cloth

• **Love Notes** (continued)

I wish to send a special shoutout to Rachel Martin! In early August Rachel, along with her son, Zach, and his girlfriend, were at Lido Beach one evening when they spotted a sea turtle hatchling. Normally, a hatchling heads straight for the water, usually at night. In best conditions, the brightest light is moonlight shining on the water, which attracts hatchlings, just as it guides mother turtles back to the water after they lay their nests. Rachel rescued the hatchling, and Mote Marine Laboratory staff members were able to make sure the hatchling had time to rest before they released it to the sea the next morning.

Remember, if you live on the beach, please keep your lights off or invest in sea turtle-safe lighting.

Thank you, Rachel!

Sue Hargis Spigel

• **Love Notes**



I want to give a big thank you to all the members and the entire staff for the love they have sent to me over the loss of my beloved dog, Checkers. He had become one of our family members 11 1/2 years ago when we rescued him at 15 months old. It was so very hard to say good-bye to him, but your outpouring of love has made it a blessing from God. Thank you church family; love you all!



Barbara Chase

• **NEW Video/Discussion Series**

**Sundays, August 22 - September 12
10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall**



Join us for five weeks, beginning August 22, in the Fellowship Hall to watch a 10-14-minute video, followed by informal guided discussion and reflections, led by Michael Fingerle. These classes are for adults of all ages. ***Come and relax, renew friendships, and make new friends!*** Each week will be different, so don't worry if you miss a class.

NOOMA is a series of short films by Rob Bell exploring our world from a perspective of Jesus. The series promotes spiritual reflections on our own individual experiences. *NOOMA* is an invitation to search, question, and join the discussion. The name *NOOMA* comes from a Greek word meaning wind, spirit, or breath.

Rob Bell is the *New York Times* bestselling author of eleven books, including *Drops Like Stars*, *Love Wins*, and *Everything Is Spiritual*. He also produces a podcast, *The Robcast*. He lives with his family in Los Angeles.

• **FPC's Mission Partnership with
All Faiths Food Bank**

Our emergency food distribution site continues to remain open! Thursday Mornings: 8:45 - 11:30 a.m. (distribution 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.)

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.

All safety measures are in place: Masks and closed-toe shoes required for volunteers; gloves and hand sanitizer provided; masks required for walk-up food recipients.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Bob Kirkpatrick, rkirkhv@aol.com or (941) 355-0809

or Dave Householder, dphouse47@gmail.com or (724) 462-4235

• **September 11**

Sarasota Twenty-Year Commemoration
sponsored by the Sarasota Ministerial Association

The twenty-year Commemoration of September 11 is being held on Saturday, September 11, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. at Patriot Plaza at the Sarasota National Cemetery, 9820 State Road 72, Sarasota, FL, 34241. (Rain Date: Sunday, September 12, same time & location.)

In the days leading up to the Commemoration, citizens will be able to choose a person who was killed on September 11 and represent each by standing at the appropriate time. Names of the deceased can be selected by visiting: <https://bit.ly/911FREETickets> During the commemoration all will be invited to stand and say the name of the individual they have selected from the 3,042 people who died during the attacks. Those arriving before 5:55 p.m., may place memorabilia of their chosen Fallen on the Gallery surrounding an American flag of flowers.

Everyone who is comfortable, feeling well and is not with a weakened immune system is invited to attend. The event's COVID-19 protocol encourages both participants and those attending to wear face masks. As the event approaches, the protocol will be updated to comply with government mandates and local conditions.

All are encouraged to get information and volunteer by going to <https://bit.ly/911FREETickets>. Everyone is welcome to this free community Commemoration. We look forward to standing for our Fallen together.



• Update/Add Your Membership Photos Online

Do you have an individual or family photograph that you would like to use in your church profile? You can upload photographs through your member login at our website (www.firstpressarasota.org).

If you don't have any personal photos to upload there is good news. **Sundays, November 14 and 21** the Fellowship Ministry Team will have a photographer take your picture and will add it to your church profile. Place and time to be announced.

Directions to Upload Individual Photo

- 1) Go to website and select member login.
- 2) Enter username/email and password (if you have never used member login select "Need a login?")
3. Select "My Complete Profile" in the "I Want to View" box.
4. Select "Edit." Select "Personal Photo."
5. Here you will upload your individual photograph by selecting "Choose File" (your picture cannot exceed 10 MB and must be a .jpg extension).
6. Once uploaded, select preview. If you like the photograph, press save and you are all set.

Directions to Upload Family Photo

1. Follow steps 1-3 for individual photo directions.
2. Select "Family Info." Select "Family Photo."
3. Follow steps 5 and 6 for individual photo directions.

If you have any questions, please call Lisa Garcia in the church office (941) 955-8119.

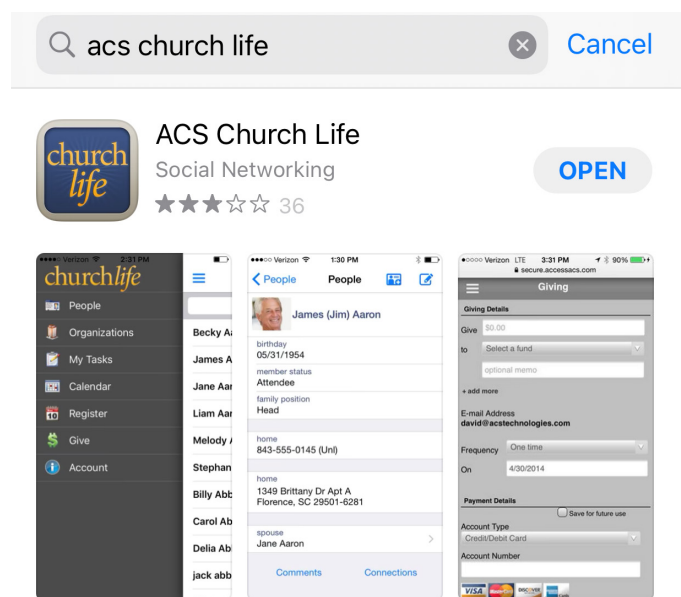


Church Life is an app that is available to church members with iPhones or Androids. You can search for members and view phone and address information, photos, and family members. You can send a text or call with a simple tap on the phone number. You can even send an email. Also, it is a quick way to give online.

Ready to go? Here are two simple steps:

1) Download ACS Church Life in your App Store using either iPhone or Android (Blackberry and other mobile devices can enter www.churchlife.mobi from any mobile browser).

2) Log in. Use the same username/email and password you use for your member login on our website.



• **Birthdays**

2	Pat Higgins Allison Tracy Charlie Weitekamp Jim Murphy John Garcia	22	Cindy Hallinan Phyllis DuBois Karen Olson
4	Tony Williams	23	Susan Gillespie Doug Tarnowsky Jim Brown
5	Martie Smith	24	Mary Jo Steltmann Helen Corcoran Jason Smith, Sr
6	Miles John	25	Tom Singleton, III Ric Saba
7	Margie Young	27	Ken Papa Julie Klick Brian Bowen Jack Simpson Linda Lahm Charlie Botsford
8	Nancy Lindsley	28	Avery Kyser Amy Stine Kim Whitford
9	Mary Willis	29	Sue Cole Allan Varner Ron Miller John Parks Christine Harrington Joe Dogoli
10	Dale Learn	30	Jean Fulton Daniel Clissold Caroline Clissold Emily O'Neill Keeley Alsum Madeline Alsum Ed Johnston
11	Carl Stover		
12	Kate Schwab George Buermann Ashton Smith Cameron Whitford		
13	Tom Lankford Kate DeLuca		
14	Meredith Sims		
15	Sue Simpson Andrew Landers		
16	Dottie Albright		
17	Ali Tarnowsky Molly Horner		
18	Patrick Hallinan John McLeod		
19	Judy Hord Phil Khuu		
20	Lois Bowen Jackie Wright Xander Jiva		
21	Ted Eastmoore Ronald Saba		

September



**Blessings from
your church family**

• **Anniversaries**

3	Hal & Gretchen Serrie
5	Bill & Cynde Mutryn
7	Tom & Bonnie Lankford
14	Scott & Clare Carter
17	Wes & Billie Burquest
18	Steve & Beth Knopik
23	Mark & Tonya Johnson
24	Richard & Robin John Timothy & Jennifer Hall
25	Branford & Yajaira Adumuah
26	Ric & Lisa Saba

Cross Connections is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, Florida, Volume 39 Issue #9. Please submit articles for the next issue by September 15, 2021. Articles submitted are proofed and edited.



Cross Connections

First Presbyterian Church
2050 Oak Street
Sarasota, FL 34237-7038

(941) 955-8119

www.FirstPresSarasota.org

Return Service Requested

• ***Peace and Global Witness Offering***

The Peace and Global Witness Offering supports the efforts of the church at every level and provides witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Gifts to the offering are divided in the following manner: 25% retained by First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota for support of our own peacemaking ministry; 25% used to support presbytery and synod peacemaking efforts; and 50% forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. **We will receive this special offering on World Communion Sunday, October 3.** We hope everyone can participate in this important sharing of our treasure.

