



FIRST things FIRST

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | BONITA SPRINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF **DECEMBER 10, 2017**

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs!

Whether you're a resident of Southwest Florida or just visiting, we invite you to participate in any of the following worship, study, mission or fellowship opportunities available at First Church. So, as you plan your week, be sure to put "First things" first!

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Saturday, December 23
CenterPoint Praise
5:30 PM | CenterPoint

Sunday, December 24
Sunday Morning Worship
7:30 AM, 9 AM & 11 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services
5 PM, 7:30 PM & 10 PM

Spend Christmas Eve with us!
Our 5 PM service is tailored for families and includes a message for the children; childcare available for ages 6 months-3 years. The 7:30 PM service features the Chancel Choir; the 10 PM service features our Section Leaders; both will include a Christmas message from Pastor Doug Pratt.

DECEMBER MEMORY VERSE

*"And the Word became flesh
and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory,
glory as of the only Son from the Father,
full of grace and truth."*

John 1:14 (ESV)

TODAY AT FIRST CHURCH

Congregational Meeting

12 PM | Sanctuary

Church members are invited to attend our year-end congregational meeting today following the 11 AM service. Items of business include election of new Elders and Deacons and approval of the Pastors' "terms of call."

FAM Christmas Recital

3 PM | Sanctuary & CenterPoint

Reception afterward | McClure Hall

First Academy of Music invites church members to join FAM parents and friends in celebrating both the Christmas season and student progress; followed by a festive reception with holiday goodies.

DEACONS MINISTRY



Manger Tree

Gift Drop-off deadline today

Thank you for participating in our Manger Tree project that makes it possible for many local children in need to experience the joy of Christmas.

Please drop off your gifts today at the Manger Tree site at the east end of the narthex as you enter the Art Gallery. Questions? Contact Polly Grafton at 239-949-9632.



Witnessing Ministries of Christ (WMC) INDIA

Born a dahlit (untouchable caste in India), Rev. Philip Prasad and his wife Elizabeth began ministry to “untouchables” in his home state of Uttar Pradesh, India in 1984. In association with the Exodus Christian Presbyterian Church in India, the ministry has three goals: to develop faith, to educate, and to find work for the dahlits that will not isolate or dehumanize them. WMC consists of 62 presbyteries encompassing over 9,800 villages, ministering to over 1.7 million members and seekers. More than 1,300 dahlit pastor-couples have been trained; each couple serves 12 villages within a 10-mile radius. The couples begin churches in small villages or city enclaves by reaching out to the dahlits relegated to the filthiest jobs of society and paid mostly in throwaways and leftovers. The Christian message that they are valued by God brings them great hope, which is translated into transformed lives through education and work with dignity. Currently WMC has 11 major primary and secondary schools, and some smaller village schools for dahlit children who may study all the way through college. College education is one of the best ways to insure exodus from untouchability. One can be a Christian but, unless the family can find an economic footing, they must continue to live in poverty and do jobs relegated to untouchables.

Please pray for the staff of WMC as they are truly transforming lives in India. For more information, visit witnessingministries.com.

Continued on next page

CE MINISTRY

Sunday Morning D.I.G. Class “The Gospel in Isaiah”

Today and Next Sunday

10:10-10:50 AM | Great Room



Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the Gospels. He foretold the birth and ministry of Jesus, His inevitable suffering, and God’s grand story of redemption through Him. Our pastoral staff is leading this study on how the New Testament writers came to understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the prophet Isaiah. Today’s teaching is **Darkness and Light**, based on Isaiah 60, John 1 and John 8. Next Sunday, the final class in this series will be **The Spirit of the Lord in Jesus’ Ministry** based on Isaiah 61 and Luke 4.

D.I.G. resumes on Sunday, January 7 with a study of Ezra and Nehemiah. Join us after the holidays!

Advent Devotional

Available online at fpcbonita.org.



Through original contributions of various leaders of our church, staff members and elders, the Christian Education Ministry invites you to take a journey — away from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to the site of the manger. This Advent, unwrap the greatest gift the world has ever received.

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Our Prayer Chain continues to pray for all who have asked for prayer. Even though an individual's name may appear once in this section, be assured that our "prayer warriors" are persistent in their work and continue to pray for all who have requested prayer. To be added or removed from the Prayer Chain, call Sherri Feeley at 239-992-2726, or place a written request in our "prayer box" at the Welcome Desk.

Special Prayers

Please remember Xxxx

Our Christian sympathy goes out to Paul & Judy Roth on the death of their 3-year-old grandson, **Anderson Roth**, on December 4, in Ohio.

Pastoral Care

The Pastors, Parish Nurses, Deacons and Visitation Team are available as needs arise. If you or someone you know has been hospitalized, requests a visit or needs prayer, let us know. Please contact the Parish Nurse office (239-992-3233 ext. 296).

GREAT BANQUET

Monthly Gathering

Thursday, December 14 | MCH

6 PM Potluck Dinner | 7 PM Worship

Join us for a fun potluck dinner followed by our informal monthly service. The service includes a meditation by one of our pastors, the sacrament of Holy Communion, songs of praise, and a time for prayer concerns in a relaxed atmosphere of fellowship.

Annual Retreat

Men's: Feb. 8-11 | Women's: Feb. 22-25

The Great Banquet weekend is a 72-hour experience which begins on a Thursday evening and concludes on Sunday evening. Guests live, share, and study together through a worshipful time of singing, prayer and discussion. **You are invited to God's Great Banquet!**

For more information on the Great Banquet, stop by the Great Banquet kiosk this morning or contact:

David Mustian (jadmust@aol.com; 239-498-5972)

Jerry Weisnauer (jerry@jerrylw.com; 239-948-8056)

Joan Faux (jffaux@outlook.com; 239-940-2940)

SACRED ARTS MINISTRY

Christmas Poinsettia Fund

Remember loved ones this Christmas by contributing toward our "poinsettia fund" in their name. This fund is used to purchase flowers to beautify our worship areas for services on Christmas Eve; donors are listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

*You may fill out a form at the **Sacred Arts** kiosk today and submit with your donation. You may also deliver a completed form with your donation to the church office **by Sunday, December 17.***

Questions? Please contact Cheryl Bauer (cbauer@fpcbonita.org; 239-308-1712).

FIRST MISSIONS CONTINUED

Spanish-speaking Volunteers Needed

New Horizon's newest Super Teens Club at Cornerstone UMC in Naples is in desperate need of Spanish-speaking volunteers. Can you help? Some of the students at this club do not speak English yet. Until a part-time Teen Club Assistant is hired, Spanish-speaking volunteers are needed ASAP.

Can you or someone you know donate your time any day(s) Monday through Thursday, from 2:00-4:00 PM, to help Spanish-speaking high school students with their homework? Although this request is for temporary help, volunteers are more than welcome to continue at Cornerstone if you enjoy it. The club is in North Naples at 8200 Immokalee Road, Naples, FL 34119.

For more details about New Horizons, contact Debbie Bedard at 239-948-4146 debbie@newhorizonsofswfl.org.

MEN'S MINISTRY FELLOWSHIP

Breakfast Fellowship

Thursdays | 7:20-8:35 AM | MCH

All men are invited to join us on Thursdays for fellowship with other men, encouragement from God's Word... and a delicious continental breakfast!

For more information, stop by the **Men's kiosk** today or contact Steve Thompson (smt4444@gmail.com; 765-427-5299).

MILITARY CARE MINISTRY



If you have a loved one serving in the military, we urge you to place their name on our **Military Prayer List**.

For deployed military personnel, you may also add them to our **Military Deployed List** so they can receive a care package from members of our church. Just stop by the **Military Care** kiosk today with your loved one's name, military address and your contact info. You may also contact one of the following deacons:

Bob Lorenz (239-495-8172)
 Jerry Meier (239-992-9033)
 Ron Maki (239-596-8821)

To send a care package to a deployed soldier, stop by the **Military Care** kiosk today during First Stop.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

At Neon Kids, our mission is to partner with parents to lead children into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Our Children's Ministry (Neon Kids) and the Children's Choir meet on Sundays in the Family Ministries Center. If you have any questions about our Sunday morning programs, please inquire at the Children's Desk this morning or visit neonkids.org. You may also contact Grace Coldiron (gcoldiron@fpcbonita.org). For info about the Children's Choir, contact Peter Lewis (plewis@fpcbonita.org).

Children's Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 19 | 6-7:30 PM | Sanctuary



Join us for our annual Children's Christmas Program featuring our Wonder Years Pre-school students, Neon Kids, and Youth Ministry in a musical retelling of Jesus' birthday. Following the program, families are invited to enjoy birthday cake for Jesus in McClure Hall.

Tickets (\$1) may be purchased at the Children's Check-in desk on Sunday mornings.

UPPER LEVEL STUDENT MINISTRIES

Wednesdays | 6-8 PM | Student Ministry Center

Our youth group gathers weekly for Bible study, fellowship, activities, and discussion. New middle and high school students are welcome to join us as we begin a new study called "I'm In!" "Are you in?" is a question we hear often. Sometimes the answer is easy, other times it is tougher. Some of Jesus' friends were faced with this decision. Were they "in" or "out." They had good reasons to join the Jesus movement but they also had compelling reasons to step out—like doubt, guilt, pride, and the fear of what they might miss. We are getting to know these devoted followers and discussing the decision they faced, including why they could have walked away and what led them to say, "I'm in!"

Questions? Contact Student Ministry Coordinator Chris McNamara (cmcnamara@fpcbonita.org; 239-221-8319).

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Annual Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 13 | McClure Hall

11:30 AM | Doors open 11 AM



Come celebrate God's great love for us with our featured speaker **Trusha Barner**, FPC's Director of Missions. Trusha was born in the Netherlands and immigrated to the United States as a young girl. Her love for God's people, travel and the desire to share His Word have allowed her to see His favor upon her life in many ways! Join

us as she shares her Christmas message, "**Blessed and Highly Favored**," based on the biblical story of Esther.

*Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at the **Women's** kiosk on Sunday mornings.*

Study & Prayer Groups

Manna on Monday

Through December 11 | 2-3:30 PM | Chapel

Interior Design: a DVD study on Titus 2 from Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth and Mary Kassian.

Working Women's Fellowship

Resumes Tuesday, January 2

7-8:30 PM | LCR

Wednesday in the Word

Resumes January 10 | 9:30-11 AM | McClure Hall

Wednesday Prayer Group

1st & 3rd Wednesdays | 11 AM | HHC

Prayer warriors are invited to help us pray for the concerns of families, friends, church, community, country and world.

*Questions? Stop by the **Women's** kiosk or contact Women's Ministry Coordinator Donna Tenfelde (239-992-3233 ext. 293 or dtenfelde@fpcbonita.org).*

TICKETS KIOSK

Speak with Ticket Coordinator Scott Fox at the **Tickets** kiosk this morning with any questions about our concert season and Bonita Christian Forum speaker series. He can assist with sponsorships and ordering tickets.

Ticket Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 AM to 3:30 PM Please contact Scott Fox (sfox@fpcbonita.org: 239-992-3410).

CONCERT SEASON

This year, our concert offerings include three distinct series. In addition to our **Concert Series** and **Fine Arts Series**, we are featuring the inaugural season of the **Christian Artist Series**.

*Brochures are available at the **Tickets** kiosk on Sundays and at the Ticket Office during the week. Order tickets through the mail, by calling our ticket office, or online at fpcbonita.org/tickets.*

CONCERT SERIES

Holy Rocka Rollaz



Friday, December 15 | 2 PM & 7 PM Sanctuary

Take an authentic trip back to the '50s with this exciting trio from Minneapolis. They know how to deliver the spirit and the sound of the pioneers of rock 'n' roll!

*Remaining tickets for this free concert are available today at the **Tickets** kiosk.*

FPC BOOKCENTER

Our BookCenter has the latest in Christian fiction, non-fiction, devotionals and Bibles at 20% off retail. Hours: Sundays after worship and Monday–Thursday, 9 AM–4:30 PM.



Dayspring Greeting Cards Now Available!

Visit the BookCenter for your Dayspring all occasion cards at 20% off retail and boxed Christmas cards for the holidays.

Today's Featured Books

Bigger Than Me

Ward Brehm

This is a collection of candid reflections from a successful businessman about money, ego, truth, busyness, solitude, legacy, dying, faith, gratitude and much more.

Blue Ridge Sunrise

Denise Hunter

Former free spirit Zoe Collins swore she'd never again set foot in Cooper Creek or speak to the man who broke her heart. But she must return when her grandmother dies and leaves her a peach orchard nestled at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The Power of Praying Through Fear

Stormie Omartian

You can enjoy freedom from damaging fear. Discover what to think, say and pray the moment you sense fear in your heart.

Where We Belong

Lynn Austin

Despite Victorian society's strict rules for women, Rebecca and Flora Hawes' desire for adventure leads them to the Sinai Desert to search for a biblical manuscript.

BONITA CHRISTIAN FORUM UPDATE



A big thank you to all our Friends of the Forum who have so enthusiastically and generously expressed their support for this year's speaker series!

The Bonita Christian Forum is now fully subscribed at sponsor levels 2, 3 and 4. Going forward,

we are able to accept sponsorships only at Level 1 (\$150), which guarantees two general admission tickets for each of our remaining events.

General Admission seating is located in CenterPoint and McClure Hall, and in the Sanctuary as space is available. We also distribute free General Admission tickets to the public one week before each event.

Pick up a brochure from the literature racks in the Narthex or visit bonitachristianforum.org to learn more.

SINGLE DIRECTION MINISTRY

Single Direction offers opportunities for singles (50+) to gather for fun activities and Christian fellowship. We welcome all single members of First Church and guests.

Sunday Brunch

Following the 11 AM service, singles are invited to meet at the Single Direction kiosk to join us for brunch at a local establishment.

Holiday Concert:

Bonita Springs Concert Band

Sunday, Dec. 10 | 2 PM | Riverside Park

Sign up at the Single Direction kiosk this morning!

Musical Christmas Performance

Thursday, Dec. 14 | First Baptist Church, Naples

This holiday program features a live nativity, 25-piece orchestra, and a hundred-voice choir. Reserved seats are \$10, due today. Sign up today at the Single Direction kiosk and carpool from First Church.

*For a schedule of planned events, stop by the **Single Direction** kiosk today or contact Carol Townsend (clayartist1@yahoo.com; 609-954-4643).*



CAFÉ FIRST
Monday–Friday
8:30 AM–4 PM

Chase away your holiday shopping stress and enjoy a large cup of creamy gingerbread chai tea overlooking our Christmas decorations! We invite you to visit Café First for a relaxing atmosphere, quiet reflection, or fellowship with your FPC family and friends. Enjoy irresistible pastries, Monin coffee syrups, and organic hot teas.

All of these delicious options are **only \$1** per item (self-serve, donation).

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Your 2018 offering envelopes are ready. You can claim them from the tables in the Mission hallway across from the entrance to the church office.

Questions? Contact the church office at 239-992-3233.



WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 10

First Light Service, 7:30A, Sanctuary
 Manger Trees, 7:30A, Art Gallery
 Worship Service, 9:00A, Sanctuary & CPT
 Children's Choir, 10:00A, FMC
 D.I.G. Bible Study, 10:10A, Great Room
 Neon Kids Sunday School, 11:00A, FMC
 Worship Service, 11:00A, Sanctuary & CPT
 Time of Prayer & Communion, 12:00P, Chapel
 Congregational Meeting, 12:00P, Sanctuary
 FAM Christmas Recital, 3:00P, Sanctuary & CPT

Monday, December 11

Manna on Monday, 2:00P, Chapel
 Angelus Bells Rehearsal, 5:00P, Sanctuary
 DivorceCare, 5:30P, SDC
 Missions Leadership Team, 5:30P, LCR

Tuesday, December 12

Manger Tree Gift Distribution, 8A, CR
 GriefShare, 1:30P, SGR
 Tuesday Singers, 1:30P, Brookdale

Wednesday, December 13

Women's Christmas Luncheon, 11:30A, MCH
 Facilities Meeting, 2:00P, HHC
 New Horizons Band, 2:00P, Sanctuary
 Men's Choir Rehearsal, 6:00P, Chapel
 Upper Level Student Ministries, 6:00P, SMC
 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 7:00P, CR

Thursday, December 14

Men's Fellowship Breakfast, 7:20A, MCH
 Banner Committee, 9:00A, Banner Room
 Resurrection Garden Committee, 2:00P, LCR

Friday, December 15

Bulletin Crew, 8:30A, Narthex
 Dixie Band Rehearsal, 9:30A, CR
 Concert: Holy Rocka Rollaz, 2:00P, Sanctuary
 Concert: Holy Rocka Rollaz, 7:00P, Sanctuary

Saturday, December 16

CenterPoint Praise, 5:30P, CPT

Sunday, December 17

First Light Service, 7:30A, Sanctuary
 Worship Service 9:00A, Sanctuary & CPT
 Children's Choir, 10:00A, FMC
 D.I.G. Bible Study, 10:10A, Great Room
 Neon Kids Sunday School, 11:00A, FMC
 Worship Service, 11:00A, Sanctuary & CPT
 Time of Prayer & Communion, 12:00P, Chapel

CPT=CenterPoint

FMC=Family Ministries Center

CR=Choir Room

LCR=Lightner Conference Room

MCH=McClure Hall

SDC=Spiritual Development Center (9696)

SGR=Small Group Room (9696)

SMC=Student Ministries Center (9696)



CenterPoint praise

Saturdays at 5:30 PM

Modern worship music
and traditional hymns
led by Randy & Lori Thomas

Pastor's Message
(same as on Sunday)

Casual atmosphere

*The "First" service
of the weekend—join us!*

FIRST STOP

All are invited to join us for coffee
& fellowship time in McClure Hall
after worship.

TODAY'S KIOSKS

McCLURE HALL

Great Banquet

Men's Ministry

Military Care

Sacred Arts: Poinsettias

Single Direction Ministry

Tickets

Women's Ministry

ART GALLERY

Manger Tree

“The First Christmas Song”

Luke 1:39-55 (NIV)

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, ⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. ⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" ⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my LORD should come to me? ⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that the LORD would fulfill his promises to her!"

⁴⁶And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the LORD

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me—
holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him,
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones
but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things
but has sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever,
just as he promised our ancestors."



9751 Bonita Beach Road | Bonita Springs, FL 34135 | 239.992.3233 | fpcbonita.org
First Academy of Music ~ 239.308.1712 | First Thrift Shop ~ 239.992.0285
Spiritual Development Center ~ 239.221.8250 | Ticket Office ~ 239.992.3410
Wonder Years Preschool ~ 239.948.6677