



LENT 2020 Sermon on the mount

first press APRIL 2020

YOUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

PAGE

2/3 Pastor's Desk
Birthdays
TAS Update

PAGE

4/7 Presbyterian Women
On-Line Events

PAGE

8/9 Mission Spotlight
Financial Update
News & Info.

PAGE

10/11 Shut-Ins
Calendar

2 Corinthians 4:16-18

"Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

Hello church,

We are in unprecedented times...and if you are anything like me...you've had to do a lot of adjusting. I guess the above Scripture addresses trials and difficulties all the time, and encourages us to plow through them in faith, but until we are up against REAL trials and difficulties as a society, it's hard to really live into that. Now, I recognize there are those of us in the congregation that have lived through global wars, economic depressions of varying sizes -- but this virus seems to be getting us all in an unprecedented manner because there is no "enemy" to fight. Instead, we adjust, adapt, adjust and adapt again. Every day...new challenges! I'm right there with you. With that being said, Session has voted to keep the church closed until the end of April for worship services and meetings. However, I encourage us all to 'not lose heart' as we navigate through this unique, historic time together.

Continued on Page 2

TERMITE FUMIGATION TENTING APRIL 14 - APRIL 17, 2020

The church buildings will be fumigated for termites the week following Easter. No one will have access to any part of our building from Tuesday, April 14—Friday, April 17. Therefore, the church offices will also be closed, and construction will cease during this time.

IMPORTANT: once building access is granted, an e-mail alert will go out. Due to the poisonous gases used, NO ONE is to enter until clearance is given.



Continued from cover page

I hope you are enjoying everything we're able to do online...I know it's not the same as meeting together...but I also realize we are learning a lot about ourselves and each other. If you're reading this and remain skeptical, find a way to get onto the computer...find our page on Youtube...watch Ted's organ concert, or join in reading a psalm, or tune into worship to see what we've been up to. It might surprise you! (See pages 5-8 in this issue for more details.)

Thanks for your continued generous giving during this trying time. It helps us maximize everything we are doing to stay vibrant, relevant, and Gospel-centered.

In closing, thank you for the outpouring of love. Hannah is a blessing to our family and we rejoice in her presence. I'll be back in the saddle come Holy Week...so I look forward to "joining with you" then! God bless you all...and stay safe!



Welcome Baby Rustin!
Hannah Penny Louise
Born on March 24, 2020
7 lbs 1 oz, 20 inches

In Christ,

Dino



- 1 Don Zimmerman
- 3 Lewis Trotter, Larry Jones
- 4 Marie Moore
- 5 Amanda Lyons
- 6 Geri Thomas
- 7 Mary Dyer-Swearingen
- 11 Doreen Hawkins
- 12 Betty Gilmore, Ruth Pope
- 14 Tony Aja, Richard Stark
- 17 Judy Wilcox
- 19 Debbie Parvin, Jim Dye
- 20 Sarah Brunner, Billy Johnson,
Sally Bishop, Susan Wade
- 22 Patty Hall
- 24 Joan McKeithen, Pat Dunlap
- 25 Elizabeth Dittmann
- 30 Joanne Miller,
Mary Evelyn Holloman



Lead Pastor: Rev. Dino Rustin

Care & Visitation: Rev. Dr. Lewis Trotter

Organist/Director of Music Ministry: Ted Hayes

Michelle Noval, Church Op. Director
Doreen Hawkins, Financial Admin.
Fernando Olaya, Maintenance Tech.
Paul Fullylove, Web/IT/Sound Tech.
Teagan Duncan, Nursery

Larry Underwood, Family Min. Dir
Amy Connours, Office Assistant
Christine Melchior, Custodian
Diane Varnadore, Pianist
Mariah Sopko, 9 am Worship Leader

Church Web Site: www.firstpresbradenton.com
Church Email address: office@firstpresbradenton.com
Address: 1402 Manatee Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34205
Contact Numbers: (941) 746-6141 / Fax: (941) 747-1198



TAKING A STAND Update



We are in the final pledge year of our Taking A Stand campaign, and our project is moving along beautifully, as planned. The new parking lot is a joy to behold, and the parapets being added to the church building are magnificent!

Life is filled with twists, turns, and challenges, and one is never quite sure what lies ahead. Who could possibly have imagined that an unknown like the Coronavirus would overlay the joy of seeing our renovation and renewal project fully in gear?

We don't know the depth or length of the current pandemic, but we do know it will be defeated and our family, our church, and our country will return to normal. It may take months, but it *will* end. God is with us, and we will carry on!

When our construction project is finished, we will be able to meet for fellowship in our new welcome center and worship together in our "almost new" church. Let us stay the course and keep our eyes trained on that day when both our church and our pledges will be completed. Let us keep our hearts firmly rooted in God's love and our faith strongly planted in His grace. Through Him, we will weather this storm together!

Blessings to you and your family.

Kaye Butler



Save ^{the} Date

Saturday, May 9th, 2020
11:30 am ~ Fellowship Hall

Presbyterian Women's Luncheon

God's Quilt

Guest Speaker—Peg Moffett

Peg, a native Floridan, was brought up in the Presbyterian Church and is currently an active member of FPC, Sarasota. She has studied Christian symbolism for 30+ years and has designed and constructed close to 100 banners. Peg has interpreted the symbolism in stained glass windows in a number of churches in Ohio and Florida. She has presented "God's Quilt" to several churches throughout the Peace River Presbytery and is looking forward to speaking at FPC, Bradenton in May!

Cost: \$10

Contact Caroline MacDonald for more information
517-881-7374 / macdonaldcg@gmail.com



A fresh look at the Ten Commandments

Lesson Eight: Words of Love: Speak Truthfully

The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for this month is on the Ninth Word, the 9th Commandment: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16). In order to live in a stable community, it is necessary to practice basic honesty. This commandment concerns false witnessing, or perjury, while being under oath. A person's words can be an outright lie or deception. We are not to speak words that cause harm or injury to another by causing the person to look bad or lower his self-esteem. To be a false witness is to claim something is true when the person was not even present. False testimony is saying something is true when it is not. This system of justice was to protect the poor and most vulnerable in society. So to prevent this from happening a rule was instituted that at least two witnesses had to testify in agreement.

Sometimes bosses tried to take economic advantage over workers by claiming they worked fewer hours or did substandard work. This problem has happened especially in farmworker communities within recent years.

In the Torah lying is permitted to save someone's life as in the case of Rahab when she lied to the king's men to protect Joshua and others (Joshua 2). Other stories also demonstrate that God's people had the freedom to lie to save a life, avoid injury, or to protect someone from being taken advantage of. Yet telling the truth is a form of loving one's neighbor. We must remember that words spoken can never be unspoken.

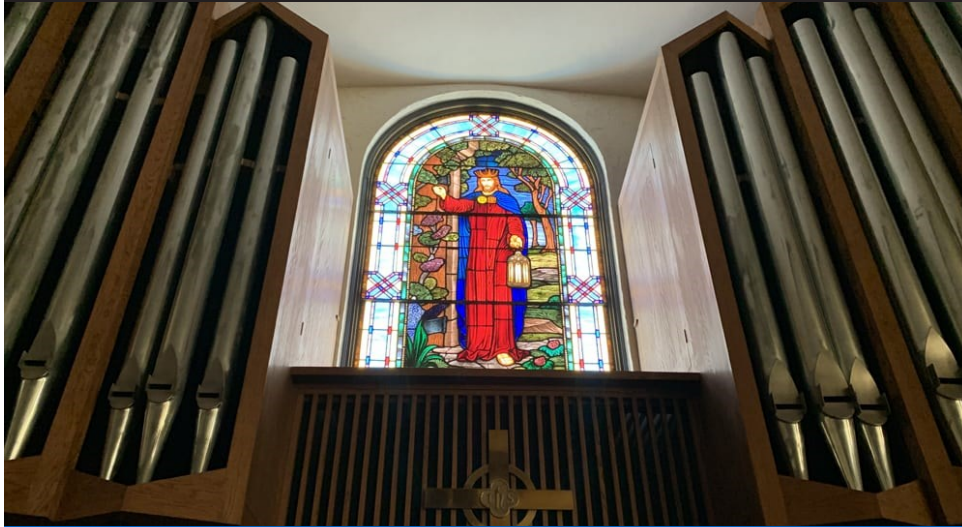
Patty Li

For a copy of the lesson for independent study this month, please contact
Caroline MacDonald 517-881-7374 / macdonaldcg@gmail.com



JOIN US
ON-LINE

Daily posts to bring encouragement and peace during these uncertain times



Sundays
@11 am

LIVE Worship
Streamed from FPC's Sanctuary
Facebook/YouTube Live

MONDAYS
WITH PASTOR DINO AT NOON

A brief, weekly devotional will be given,
as well as a short informational
look at what's going on
this week at FPC!



Join us on-line ... Facebook or YouTube*

* search: [FPBradenton](#) - our church logo will show you that you're in the right place! Also, click on "subscribe" to YouTube channel, then click on the "bell" next to the subscribe button to be notified any new postings!

You may also go to our website: www.firstpresbradenton.com OR www.bradenton.church. Choose Facebook or YouTube from the gray pop-up box. It's that easy!

Wednesday
Evenings
@ 7 pm

Concert Series

Join us on-line at 7 pm on Wednesday evenings for a musical presentation intended to provide an atmosphere of God's presence through music, featuring talented musicians from FPC's congregation.

THURSDAYS @Noon Online

"Pressure Break with Larry"

Ecclesiastes

Everything Is Meaningless

1 The words of the Teacher, a son of Darius, king in Jerusalem:

2 "Meaningless! Meaningless!" says the Teacher.

"Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless."

3 What does man gain from all his labor at which he toils under the sun?

4 Generations come and generations go, but the earth remains forever.

5 The sun rises and the sun sets, and hurries back to where it rises.

6 The wind blows to the south and turns to the north; round and round it goes, ever returning on its course.

Wisdom Is Meaningless

12 I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. **13** I devoted myself to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under heaven. What a heavy burden God has laid on men! **14** I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

15 What is twisted cannot be straightened; what is lacking cannot be counted.

16 I thought to myself, "Look, I have grown and increased my wisdom more than anyone else in Jerusalem before me. I have applied myself to the understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, and I have seen that the more I study, the more I am weary and the more I am frustrated."

Take a break from your day and dive into the book of Ecclesiastes and all its wisdom with our Family Ministries Director, Larry Underwood.

A top-down view of a breakfast table on a light blue wooden surface. In the center is a white coffee cup on a saucer with a black circle containing the text "Breakfast & Bible Study Saturdays @ 10 am". To the left is a white plate with three slices of toast. To the right is a white teapot. A large, stylized "I AM" is written in the center, with a yellow arrow pointing down to the toast. A brown Bible is visible on the right side.

Breakfast &
Bible Study
Saturdays
@ 10 am

I AM

"7" Statements of Jesus explained

In Exodus 3:14, God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: "I AM has sent me." Who did God's Son, Jesus Christ, say that He was? Join us as we look at the 7 (or more) statements in the Gospel of John in which Jesus reveals His nature by Saying, "I AM..."

Start your weekend off right with this ONLINE study of the "I AM" Statements of Jesus taught by elder Dwayne Smith

A background image of a vast green field under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The sun is shining from the bottom right, creating a lens flare effect.

THE LORD IS MY
shepherd
I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED
PSALM 23

May you draw strength from God's Word through these daily postings.

LIVE ON-LINE

MAUNDY THURSDAY

*APRIL 9
@7 PM*



JOIN US FOR A TIME OF WORSHIP AND REFLECTION

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

APRIL 10 | 7 PM | ON-LINE

THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE



Anchor House mission is to reach out to seafarers, truckers and the workers at Port Manatee, to show the love of Christ to those from around the world.

Meals are provided, along with transportation to local stores for shopping of needed items. Many of the seafarers are away from their homes and families for months and Anchor House provides a safe, friendly place for them. The seafarers have access to Bibles and Christian literature in their language, and can use the facilities to contact their families in most parts of the world.

Volunteers are needed for various duties and, most importantly, to provide comradery with the seafarers. Port Manatee is in a tremendous growth cycle with over 30% increase in ships in port, so volunteer assistance is always needed at Anchor House. Please pray for the seafarers, truckers, and those who work at Anchor House.

If you are interested in this mission, please contact Pete Jensen at 941-748-5592 or Anchor House at www.anchorhousemission.com



Now in God's hands

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO:

Steve & Melody Porter on the death of their sister-in-law, **Ann Porter**, who died on February 28, 2020; Barbara Perry, on the death of her husband, **Jerry Perry**, who died on March 24, 2020, and to George & Mary Hoagland on the death of George's mother, **Mary Jo Hoagland**, who died on March 25, 2020.

*Loss ... Depression ...
Illness ... Loneliness ...
Spiritual Emptiness ...*

Christ caring for people through people

Stephen Ministers are ready to come along beside you. If you would like to have a Stephen Minister call or visit you, please contact Pastor Dino at the church office (941-746-6141).



\$ FINANCIAL REVIEW

Budgeted Offering Through March	\$132,539
YTD Offering Received Through March	\$124,756

MARCH CHURCH ATTENDANCE (3/1 & 3/8) 9 am - 52 11 am - 139 on-line - 115

Online Sunday attendance (3/15-3/29) - 507* On-line events / Daily Psalms - well over 3,000* (*numbers increasing daily)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Geraldine Mills, Dr. Tam Porter, Bonnie Sylvester, Jerry Perry, John Westney, Jr.,
 Kevin Binder, Kathy Binder, Jean Phillips, Jeannie Oliver, Steve, David Winfried Wolpers,
 Carol Frankland, Frances MacDonald, Cameron Bogue, Don Harris, Janice Lange, Judy Plano,
 Catherine Wilcockson, Vic Kane, Irene Henderson, Debbie Parvin, Betty Gilmore,
 Melody Porter, Vada Johnson, Keith Allen, Dave Stacho, Ellen Cavanaugh, Bill Saggau,
 Carol Saggau, James Braunlin, Betty Harkins, Frances Moody, Elma Westney, John Weichel,
 Karen Montgomery, Nell Barner, Roger Lane, Jo Zonders

PRAYER CHAIN / PRAYER REQUESTS

If you would like to join our Prayer Chain and receive prayer requests via email, please contact the church office. Also, we would love to pray for you. You can either enter your prayer requests on our website or e-mail the church office at: info@firstpresbradenton.com

CARING FOR OUR SHUT-INS // ASSISTED LIVING

<i>Health Care Facilities</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Name(s)</i>
Bay Vue Nursing & Rehab.	105 15th St. W. Bradenton, 34208	941-747-8681	Betty Harkins (Room 132)
Inn at Freedom Village	6410 21st Ave W. Bradenton, 34209	941-798-8250	Margaret "Jo" Zonders (121A)
Summerfield Assisted Living	3409 26th St. W. Bradenton, 34205	941-751-7209	Vada Johnson (Room 126)
Westminster Manor Assisted Living (RAL)	1700 21st Ave W Bradenton, 34205	941-745-0167	Jeanne Oliver (RAL Room 408)
Westminster Shores Assisted Living (RAL)	1610 3rd Ave W Bradenton, 34205	941-748-1700	Rae Flanders (RAL Room 124) E. Jean Phillips (RAL Room 134) John Weichel (RAL Room 125)
Westminster Towers Assisted Living (RAL)	320 15th St Ct W Bradenton, 34205	941-666-8837 941-567-6976	Vic Kane (#146) Al Murden (#175) Joanne Oostenbrug (#141) Debbie Parvin (#133)
Westminster Towers Health Care (HC)	320 15th St Ct. W. Bradenton, 34205	941-747-1881 941-757-5941	Marion McClellan (HC 340A) Marty Murden (HC 215) Elma Westney (HC 327A)



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>ALL LISTED EVENTS <i>On-Line only</i></p> <p>Join us for our daily posting "A Psalm Per Day"</p>	<p>1 7:00 Concert Series</p>	<p>2 12:00 Pressure Break With Larry</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 10:00 Breakfast & Bible Study with Dwayne Smith</p>
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<p>5 Palm Sunday 11 am Sunday Worship LIVE</p>	<p>6 Newsletter Submission 12:00 This Week With Pastor Dino</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 7:00 Concert Series</p>	<p>9 Maundy Thursday 12:00 Pressure Break With Larry 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service LIVE</p>	<p>10 Good Friday 7:00 Good Friday Service</p>	<p>11 10:00 Breakfast & Bible Study with Dwayne Smith</p>
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<p>12 Easter Sunday 11 am Sunday Worship LIVE</p>	<p>13 Easter Monday 12:00 This Week With Pastor Dino</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 7:00 Concert Series</p>	<p>16 12:00 Pressure Break With Larry</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 10:00 Breakfast & Bible Study with Dwayne Smith</p>
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TENTING OF FPC
Building sealed; no access until 4/18/20

<p>19 11 am Sunday Worship LIVE</p>	<p>20 12:00 This Week With Pastor Dino</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 7:00 Concert Series</p>	<p>23 12:00 Pressure Break With Larry</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 10:00 Breakfast & Bible Study with Dwayne Smith</p>
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<p>26 11 am Sunday Worship LIVE</p>	<p>27 12:00 This Week With Pastor Dino</p>	<p>28 6:00 SESSION (On-Line / Zoom)</p>	<p>29 7:00 Concert Series</p>	<p>30 12:00 Pressure Break With Larry</p>		
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1402 Manatee Avenue West

Bradenton, FL 34205

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Phone: (941) 746-6141

Fax: (941) 747-1198

Lead Pastor:

Rev. Dino Rustin

Care & Visitation:

Rev. Dr. Lewis Trotter

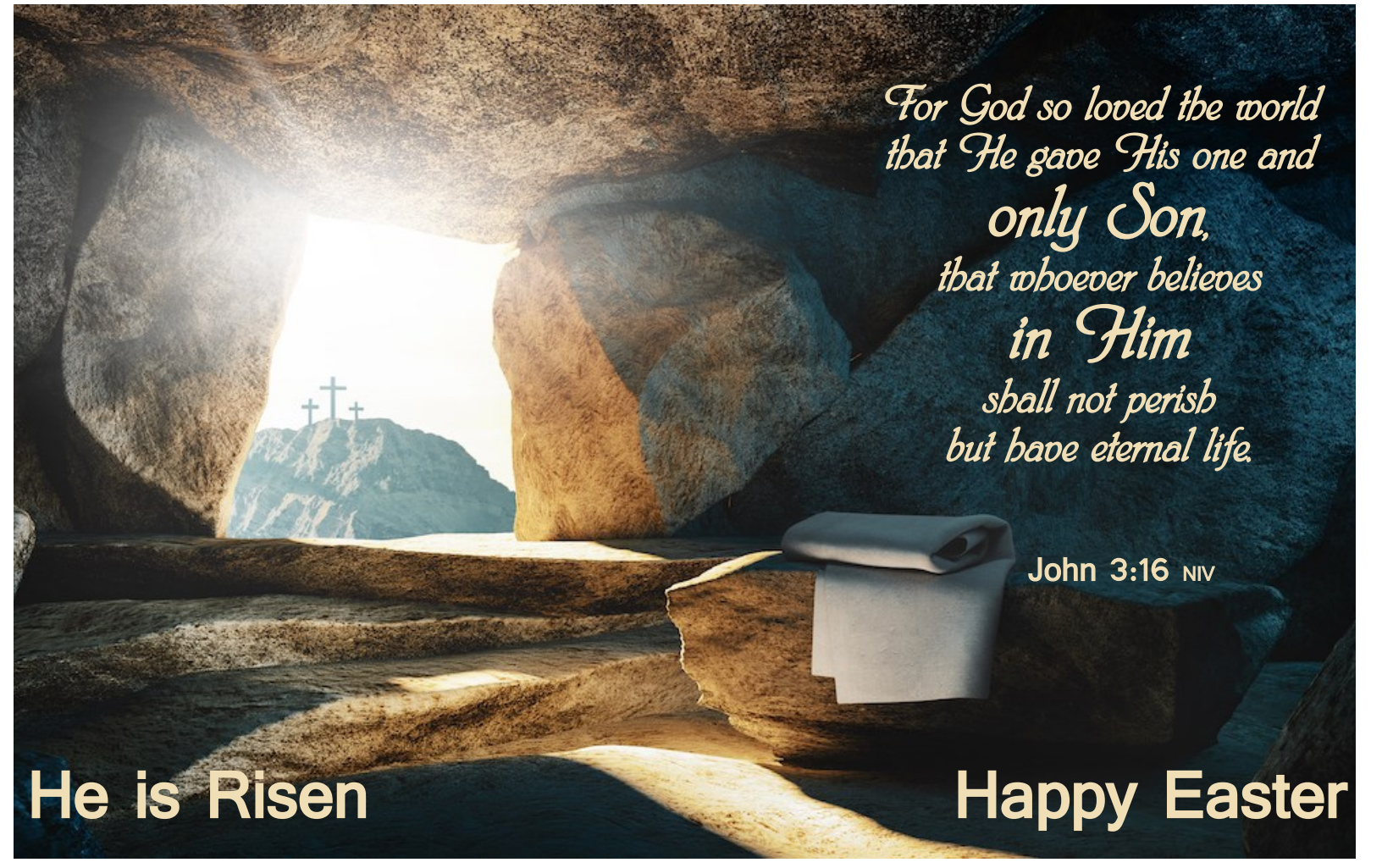
Organist/Director of

Music Ministry:

Ted Hayes

Visit us on the web at:

www.firstpresbradenton.com



*For God so loved the world
that He gave His one and
only Son,
that whoever believes
in Him
shall not perish
but have eternal life.*

John 3:16 NIV

He is Risen

Happy Easter