



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VERO BEACH

Dear Youth Music Tour Attendee,

Anticipation is building for our upcoming trip, and the purpose of this letter is to share critical dates and essential tour details. Please set aside time to review this information carefully and feel free to reach out with any questions. This year we are collaborating/inviting Brevard String Academy and IRCHS Dance.

Attendance and Commitment

Maintaining regular attendance in your respective ensembles is vital to the success of this tour. Please be aware that consistent participation in rehearsals and performances is a requirement. If a student is not meeting these expectations or contributing positively as an asset to their ensemble, they will not be permitted to participate in the trip. **Additional Sunday Rehearsals (Choir and Bells)** – Sunday rehearsals from 1-3(Choir) and 3-4:30(Bells) will begin in **November** and end after the benefit dinner in February. **THEN**, they will start back up in May and end after the trip to Chicago.

Communication

To ensure clear and consistent communication, all questions regarding the trip or fundraisers should be directed to me, **Peter Mahtani**, at **Petermahtani@firstpresvero.org**. Please refrain from asking your directors directly. If you feel an inquiry applies to both your director and myself, please CC me on the email.

Trip Dates and Logistics

The tour to Chicago is scheduled for **June 13–19** (approximate). We are currently awaiting the release of June flight schedules from Frontier and Allegiant to determine the most economical options for our outgoing flight. However, I can confirm that we will be flying back to Orlando from Chicago on June 19. I have already confirmed a large number of tickets.

Registration and Deposits

We are beginning the registration process now to finalize our group size and estimated ticket count. It is earlier this year due to the size of the group.

- **Early Registration Deadline:** Friday, December 4.
- **Deposit:** A **\$150 non-refundable** deposit is required by the deadline.
- **How to Register:** [Click Here](#) or scan the QR code located at the end of this letter.
- **Student Pricing:**
 - **Before December 4:** \$600 (includes transportation, accommodation, and almost all meals).
 - **After December 4:** \$750 (includes a \$150 late fee), Space may be limited after this date.

Registration and the **\$150 non-refundable deposit** can be processed via credit card online. If you prefer to pay with cash, please hand it directly to me. All checks should be made payable to **First Presbyterian Church** with "**Chicago Trip**" included in the memo line. Payments can be delivered to me in person or mailed to the church at the following address: **First Presbyterian Church Attn: Peter Mahtani, 520 Royal Palm Blvd. Vero Beach, FL 32960**. Please do **not** give cash or checks to your director. If you only have cash but prefer to mail your payment, please visit a grocery store to obtain a money order, as cash should not be sent through the mail. Also, please keep the receipt for your money order in case it gets lost in the mail.

Chaperone Information

We appreciate the high level of interest in chaperoning; however, we may not be able to accommodate every request. Chaperones will be selected based on the following criteria:

- Previous trip experience with FPC Youth.
- Experience working with youth.
- Experience Navigating Chicago
- Medical background (Doctor/Nurse).
- FPC/BSA/IRCHS leadership.

Chaperone Pricing:

- **Before December 4:** \$1,000.
- **After December 4:** \$1,200.

If you are interested in chaperoning, please register with student link above, pay the deposit, **and** complete the chaperone request form by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR code at the end of this letter. If we are unable to include you on the trip, your funds will be applied toward the students' trip costs.

Required Events:

Mandatory Fundraiser & Performance Dates

These fundraisers cover costs that the \$750 contribution does not. **The following dates are REQUIRED for ALL participants:**

- **February 12: (5:00 PM):** Setup for Benefit Dinner and Dress Rehearsal.
- **February 13: Benefit Dinner Fundraiser.** Students must be available all day. We will try to stagger groups to arrive and leave earlier, but those seeking scholarships should plan to be there the entire time. **Read Below for more info about February 12 + 13.**
- **June 9–12: Music Camp (Tour Prep).** More details will be released later.
 - June 9: Normal Thursday evening rehearsal schedule...but on Wednesday
 - June 10: Normal Thursday evening rehearsals
 - June 11: Afternoon/evening rehearsals.
 - June 12: Daytime rehearsals and bonding activities (this day will be canceled if not needed).
- **June 13:** Youth Music in Worship and Benefit Concert (Concert TBD based on flights).

Mandatory Policy: We are implementing a **\$500 extra fee** for students who do not attend the benefit dinner. If you are not present for the fundraiser, you will not receive funds from it. Notifying us only a week prior that you cannot attend is completely unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Students unwilling to work the fundraiser will be sent home and will not be permitted to attend the trip. Deposits remain non-refundable in this event.

Scholarship and Service Opportunities

If you need a scholarship, please sign up for the following events by contacting Peter (priority is given to financial need). Students seeking scholarships should attend as many of these dates as possible. More opportunities will be announced during rehearsals and emails.

- **Now – February 13:** Soliciting donations for silent auction baskets, food for the dinner, and program ads.
- **December 4-5** – Assistance with Christmas Tree Lane
- **January 9** – Assistance with FPC Car Show
- **January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 (9:00 AM – Noon):** Selling tickets to congregants.
- **February 7–11:** Specific dinner prep tasks (phone calls, folding napkins, centerpieces, etc.).
- **February 6** – FPC Golf Tournament – “Tim Cup”
- **Adult Choir Christmas and Easter Cantatas.** Must attend Wednesday rehearsals with the adult choir for months prior in addition to youth choir on Thursdays. Must also be able to be a contributing member of the adult choir.
- **June 7–11: Vacation Bible School.** Helpers needed for camp leadership and setup/teardown.
- **Easter Egg Hunt:** Date TBD

Upcoming Meetings

- **Parent/Volunteer Meeting:** I will be holding a meeting on **Sunday, November 7 at 12:15 PM** for anyone willing to help. I can provide a Zoom link if needed.

Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction

On **February 13**, we will host a Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction as a primary group fundraiser for our tour. The students will be responsible for every aspect of this event, including setup, teardown, cooking, cleaning, and providing the evening's entertainment. **All participants must be present on March 12** at 5:00 PM to help with preparations; dinner will be provided on that evening, which will also serve as our dress rehearsal. This is our 5th annual benefit event, and our goal is to raise **\$50,000**.

Entertainment & Auditions

Auditions to be part of the evening's entertainment are due by **December 31**. To audition, please submit an audio or video recording of yourself or your group performing. Performers have the option to be accompanied by our live band; however, for the initial audition, feel free to sing a cappella, use a karaoke/accompaniment track, or provide your own accompaniment.

Once selections are finalized, we will notify you regarding rehearsals with the live band. The musical theme for the evening is **Love Songs**. The choir will perform “Somebody to Love”. While the choir repertoire is set/still being decided, all other Love Song acts are welcome for auditions, including solos, duets, and small or large instrumental/vocal groups. Please note that the string orchestra will perform their repertoire while dinner is served. Selections do **not** all have to be vocal.

Silent Auction Donations

All students are required to donate items for the silent auction. Each section is assigned a specific theme for their donations. You do not need to assemble the basket yourself; simply provide the items, and we will handle the professional packaging.

- **Deadline:** Items are due by **Thursday, January 20.**
- **BSA and IRCHS Students:** I can collect your items when I stop by BSA or at school

Assigned Themes & Suggested Basket Items

- **Soprano 1s – Relaxation & Spa**
 - Lower-Priced (\$5–\$10): Sheet masks, moisturizing hand creams, or bath shower steamers
 - Mid-Priced (\$15–\$20): Essential oil diffusers, bath bomb sets, or high-end scented candles
 - Higher-Priced (\$30+): Electric neck massagers, plush bathrobes, or local spa gift certificates
- **Soprano 2s – Beauty, Health & Fitness**
 - Lower-Priced (\$5–\$10): Cooling workout towels, luxury lip balms, or gel eye masks
 - Mid-Priced (\$15–\$20): Foam rollers, yoga mats, resistance bands, or skincare/beard oils
 - Higher-Priced (\$30+): Massage guns, high-capacity gym duffel bags, or designer skincare sets
- **Alto 1s – Gardening & Yard**
 - Lower-Priced (\$5–\$10): Seed packets, small watering cans, or plant markers
 - Mid-Priced (\$15–\$20): Hand trowels, solar path lights, gardening gloves, or bird feeders
 - Higher-Priced (\$30+): Garden kneeling benches, large ceramic planters, or birdbaths
- **Alto 2s – "Sweetheart" Romance & Valentine's**
 - Lower-Priced (\$5–\$10): Artisan chocolate bars, heart-themed ceramic mugs, or specialty tea lights
 - Mid-Priced (\$15–\$20): Chocolate fondue sets, plush fleece throw blankets, or crystal wine glasses
 - Higher-Priced (\$30+): Local fine-dining gift certificates, couple's experience vouchers, or luxury charcuterie gift hampers
- **Tenors –Party All Things Florida or Vero**
 - Lower-Priced (\$5–\$10): Vero postcard sets, citrus candies, or reef-safe sunscreen
 - Mid-Priced (\$15–\$20): Vero candles, Florida honey, or local hot sauces
 - Higher-Priced (\$30+): Insulated beach wagons, hard-sided coolers, or beach canopy tents
- **Bass 1s – Kitchen & Gourmet Grilling**
 - Lower-Priced (\$5–\$10): Decorative dish towels, specialty marinades, or silicone grill brushes
 - Mid-Priced (\$15–\$20): Cast-iron skillet, pizza stones, bread slicing guides, or sushi rolling kits
 - Higher-Priced (\$30+): High-end wood charcuterie boards, electric bread makers, or premium knife sets

- **Bass 2s – "Luck of the Irish" (St. Patrick's Day)**
 - Lower-Priced (\$5–\$10): Irish breakfast tea tins, clover seed tins, or Irish sweets
 - Mid-Priced (\$15–\$20): Soda bread baking kits, Irish coffee glass sets, or Celtic coasters
 - Higher-Priced (\$30+): Whiskey decanter sets, authentic wool tartan throw blankets, or pub gift cards
- **Strings (Violin + Bass) – Super Bowl & Game Day**
 - Lower-Priced (\$5–\$10): Specialty BBQ rubs, party chip/dip trays, or novelty bottle openers
 - Mid-Priced (\$15–\$20): Gourmet popcorn tins, tailgate game sets (cornhole/washer toss), or slow-cooker recipe kits
 - Higher-Priced (\$30+): Portable tabletop grills, Bluetooth tailgate speakers, or branded cooler bags
- **Strings (Viola + Cello) – Easter & Spring Renewal**
 - Lower-Priced (\$5–\$10): Premium jelly beans, decorative eggs, or spring candles
 - Mid-Priced (\$15–\$20): Gourmet chocolate bunnies, porcelain egg cups, or spring door wreaths
 - Higher-Priced (\$30+): Wicker picnic baskets, religious statues, or floral arrangement vouchers
- **IRCHS Dance – Family Game & Movie Night**
 - Lower-Priced (\$5–\$10): Gourmet microwave popcorn assortments, movie theater candy packs, or playing cards
 - Mid-Priced (\$15–\$20): Family board games (*Catan*, *Ticket to Ride*), theater gift cards, or soft throw blankets
 - Higher-Priced (\$30+): Mini HD home theater projectors, streaming sticks (Roku/Fire TV), or oversized beanbag chairs

Program Advertisements

We are also soliciting advertisements for our event program, and I have included an ad form for this purpose. **All students are asked to sell at least one advertisement.**

- **Note for String Students:** I understand that selling ads for a Vero Beach event from your location can be challenging. If you are unable to sell an ad, please consider donating a higher-value item for the silent auction or soliciting businesses for several auction items instead. We are happy to accept any contributions you can secure.

Ticket Sales

Tickets for the Benefit Dinner will go on sale for **\$45 through January 31**. After that date, the price will increase to **\$60**. The ticket includes live entertainment, dinner, dessert, and access to the silent auction.

- **Event Details:** The dinner will begin at **5:00 PM**.
- **Limited Availability:** We have a total of **200 tickets** available for sale, and there will be no comped or free tickets issued.
- **Reservations:** To confirm your attendance, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code at the end of this letter.
- **Student & Volunteer Attendance:** Adults working the event do **not** need to make a reservation. However, any adults working the event must be available on both **February 12 and 13**.

We sold out of tickets 2 weeks before the event last year and expect to do so again. Ticket sales will open to the general public in late January, so I highly recommend confirming your reservations and purchasing your tickets now.

CHOIR/HANDBELL INFO – We will continue with weekly Thursday rehearsals and once a month Sunday performances. **Additional Sunday Rehearsals** – Sunday rehearsals from 1-3(Choir) and 3-4:30(Bells) will begin in **November** and end after the benefit dinner in February. **THEN**, they will start back up in May and end after the trip to Chicago. November-December is to prepare for Christmas and January-February is to prepare for the benefit. When we get to December, there will be December performances that will be important. I can tell you that we will perform at Windsor on December 21 and at Church on December 24 for the 3PM service. More may be added, but I will try to limit that! I know it's a busy time. If we are prepared for performances, I will cancel Sundays.

STRINGS AND IRCHS DANCE INFO– I will Visit BSA and IRCHS DANCE to go over all of this. Parents are welcome to be there to ask any questions. String students/IRCHS dance who are not a part of the FPC Youth Choir or FPC Youth handbells are **required** to attend and perform(**unpaid**) at 2 events at First Presbyterian Church besides the benefit dinner(February 12-13) before June 13. June 13 does not count even though you will be there for a final Send-off service/concert before tour. You may perform as a full group/solo/ensembles. If you cannot make that commitment, you may not attend the Chicago trip. The only way to avoid that is to join the FPC Youth Choir and/or handbells which does perform once a month at the church anyways. Joining the choir and/or bells will *only* help string playing. If you need scholarship opportunities, those will be beyond these 2 mandatory unpaid performances. Remember, the members of FPC are funding this trip with their gracious donations and as a part of the church's budget. You can view this as giving back to the church for their financial assistance. You may also use these performances as volunteer hours. To sign up for a Sunday to perform at the church, [Click Here](#) or scan the QR code.



Chicago
Registration



Chaperone
Request Form



Benefit Dinner
Ticket Order



Strings/Dance
Performance
Sign-up



First Presbyterian Church

520 Royal Palm Blvd. Vero Beach

Ads for FPC Youth Music Benefit Sweetheart Dinner 2027 Program



Scan to see
last year's program

- ☐ ¼ Page -- \$30 (5.5X2.125)
- ☐ ½ Page - \$75 (5.5X4.25)
- ☐ Full Page - \$150 (5.5X8.5)
- ☐ Back Page - \$500 (5.5X8.5) Only 1 available
- ☐ Back Cover - \$1000 (5.5X8.5) Only 1 available

Name of Ad: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____ Student Seller: _____

Please Send a digital copy of your ad to petermahtani@firstpresvero.org (Receipts can be given upon request after emailing the digital ad. Please include the receipt request in the email). ☐ Use Artwork from 2026

MONEY/ADS/FORMS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN January 29, 2027



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