Love is First

We are delighted that you are joining us for worship today! We are a curious, inclusive, and diverse gathering of imperfect people united by our common hope in Jesus Christ. Through worship, study, and service, we seek to know and show the transformative love of God found in the pages of scripture and revealed in the person of Jesus. No matter who you are or where you are on your spiritual journey, know that you are welcome here.

Sunday, June 8, 2025

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out of town, thank you for worshiping here today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of this congregation, please be sure to speak with the pastor after today's worship or share your information on the pew pad or friendship card. We would love to get to know you.

Prayer Concern? Please let us know how we can be praying for you by filling out the welcome card and placing it in the offering plate or by calling the church office: (941) 955-8119.

Children Of All Ages Are Welcome in Worship! At the New Song (9:00 a.m.) service there are coloring sheets on the tables and an activity center in the corner. At the traditional (11:00 a.m.) service, children are invited to take a worship bag hanging in the narthex. Sunday School is from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the children's wing on the second floor. Ask a greeter for directions.

To Aid In Worship In the sanctuary, a T-Coil Hearing Loop is available for people with equipped hearing aids. Headphones to amplify sound are also available at the tech booth in the rear of the sanctuary.

Worship Online Livestreams of the contemporary and traditional worship services are available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@fpcsarasota4017.

Ways To Give There are many ways you can support the mission and ministries of First Presbyterian. During worship, you may place your gift in the offering plate or you can scan this QR code. It will direct you to our online giving portal. Additionally, you can mail a check to the church office. Thank you for your gifts. Questions? Contact Finance Manager, Lisa Garcia: (941) 955-8119/Lgarcia@firstpressarasota.org.

Called Congregational Meeting - Today, June 8 at 11:00 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to receive a report from the Nominating Committee. See bio on page 2.

Today is Pentecost

"I will pour out my Spirit on every kind of people." – *Acts 2:17*

Today we celebrate Pentecost—the day the Holy Spirit descended with a mighty wind and tongues of flame, empowering the Church to proclaim the risen Christ and carry His mission into all the world. We give thanks for the Spirit that ignites our faith and unites us in Christ's mission. Thank you for wearing red in celebration of this powerful day! We are also receiving the **Pentecost Offering** today. This special offering helps nurture the faith of children, youth, and young adults. Forty percent stays with our congregation to support local ministries with at-risk children and youth. Fifty percent supports national ministries with youth and young adults, and ten percent is directed toward child advocacy. *Psalm 71 reminds us that a foundation of faith built in childhood shapes a lifetime of service. Thank you for your generous support.*

Summer Worship Schedule Is Underway!

Our summer worship schedule began last Sunday with one joint service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. This season offers a meaningful opportunity to worship together as one congregation. Here's what's ahead, beginning **July 6,** worship will move to the fellowship hall. On **August 3**, we return to the sanctuary for a joyful combined service, followed by a potluck lunch—a time to share food, stories, and community. **August 10** marks the return to our two-service schedule and our celebration of Rally Day, with Backpack Blessing during worship. Each week, stay after worship for coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship, a great way to connect and grow together!

Rick Foltz - nominated for elder, class of 2025

Rick & Lorraine relocated to Sarasota in 2017 from the Philadelphia area, drawn by its vibrant philanthropic and cultural opportunities. Their journey has been shaped by a deep appreciation for diverse cultures, having spent over a decade living in Canada, Taiwan, the Philippines, and Shanghai, China. These experiences broadened their perspective on home, faith, and the importance of inclusivity—values that guided their choice of First Presbyterian as their spiritual community.

Rick's professional career spans Human Resources, Sales & Marketing, and General Management in Health Care, as well as entrepreneurial ventures in retail, a logistics startup in China, and his current role as a Business Coach for privately held companies. Through his work, he has found joy in mentoring others, a passion that extends into his church involvement.

Previously, Rick served as an Elder at Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church in New Hope, PA, focusing on Personnel and the Five-Year Strategic Initiative Plan. At First Presbyterian, Sarasota, he has been a tutor for the past two years at Brentwood Elementary as part of the Invest In Children mission. Being a tutor is a reminder that small acts of service can have a lasting impact.

Summer Sundays: Ephesians & 1 John

Our Sunday School class continues through the summer with a study of *Ephesians* and *1 John*—powerful books on Christ, salvation, and growing in faith. Join us Sundays, **June 1–August 10, 9:00–9:45 a.m.** in Room 203. (Note: August 10 meets **10:05–10:55 a.m.**) Led by Eric Robinson, Richard Cole, Doug DeCelle & Susan DeWyngaert.

Adult Education Class: "Faith in the Early Church"

This class will be taught **Tuesdays June 17- July 22 11:30 a.m. via Zoom** by Elaine Barnett. Elaine is a member of First Presbyterian Church, an ordained elder, and a Certified Christian Educator. You may sign up by contacting Elaine at ewbarnet@icloud.com.

The letters of 1 and 2 Timothy were written either by Paul, the apostle, or by a "pastor" writing in Paul's name. They continue Paul's views to encourage and strengthen churches that were seeking around the end of the first century to establish order, discipleship, and theological fidelity. They address issues of controversary and difficulty in early congregations. Jesus folks were trying to institute ways of ordering church life so they could live their lives to which they were called by Jesus Christ, all much like today.

Volunteers Needed – Food Bank Thursdays

Many of our regular volunteers are away for the summer, and we need your help! FPC partners with All Faiths Food Bank to serve over 150 families each week, and the number is growing. Join us Thursday mornings—packing starts at 8:30 a.m. and distribution runs from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. You don't need to stay the whole time; any amount of help is appreciated. No experience is needed—just a willing heart. Come be part of this vital ministry to our neighbors in need.
Please note: There will be no food bank on Thursday, June 19.

10th Annual Celtic Christmas – Planning Has Begun!

We're excited to announce that planning is underway for this year's 10th Annual Celtic Christmas—a cherished two-performance tradition celebrating music, faith, and Celtic heritage! To help fund this special event, advertising sponsorships in the program booklet are available, and donations are warmly welcomed. Your support makes it possible to share the joy of the season through the gifts of talented musicians and singers. Please see the flyer in the narthex or in the fellowship hall for details.
Míle buíochas! *(A big Celtic thank you!)*

Consider Volunteering This Summer

Many of our mission partners experience a drop in volunteer support during the summer as seasonal residents head north—but the need remains constant. You can make a difference by stepping in during this critical time. To learn more about summer volunteer opportunities with Resurrection House, Caritas, All Faiths Food Bank, or any of our other mission partners, please talk with Dave Householder or email him at dphouse47@gmail.com. Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus in our community this summer!

Would you like receive our Friday E-Newsletter? E-mail info@FirstPresSarasota.org to be added to our distribution list.