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, February 22, 2026

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.

Today ~ Immigration Justice Coalition of Southwest Florida

Barbara Smith-Bacon, chair of the Immigration Justice Coalition of SW Florida's education team, will present on the coalition's mission and work today at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Learn how the coalition advocates for immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seeking neighbors, and gain insight into current immigration policies and practices. Barbara is a lawyer and a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Sarasota.

Lenten Devotional are Available

Are you looking to grow closer in your walk with God this Lenten season? We are pleased to make available two devotional options for adults and one for families. For adults, *Discipleship in a Divided Age* offers wisdom on navigating our faith in today's complex world, while *The Work of Imagination* invites you to encounter God through creativity and wonder. Families can journey together with *Reflections on the Heart*, an interactive guide designed to spark meaningful conversations about God's love at the

You can pick up a copy in the Fellowship Hall or Narthex, or scan the QR code for a digital version.

Work of Imagination Devotional

Reflections on the Heart Family Devotional

Discipleship in a Divided Age Devotional

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry Volunteer Day Trip

Join us **Wednesday, February 25, from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon** for a volunteer day at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma. Volunteers will help sort food and assist with other tasks that support 600–900 people each week. The need is greater than ever, and your help will make a meaningful difference.
To sign up, get details, or arrange a carpool, contact Wendy Miller at (941) 321-8488 or towmiller@yahoo.com.

First Connect / Adult Education 10:05 –11:00 a.m.

The Final Word Class Resumes March 1 – Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation It's not too late to jump into "The Final Word," our collaborative exploration of the mysteries of Revelation. We are unpacking "wild imagery" in a safe, open space that favors mutual learning over traditional lectures. Come discover how this "horrifying, but also so comforting" book offers enduring relevance and a call to bold living for our world today.
Dates: Ongoing Location: the library
Facilitators: Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick

Wonders of Worship Parent Group
How can we help our children truly engage with God during worship? Join our "Wonders of Worship" group where we'll share simple, sustainable ways to involve our kids in the prayers and music of the church. These 40-minute conversational sessions are designed to fit your busy life while providing deep encouragement for your family's faith journey.
Dates: March 1, 15, & 22
Time/Location: 10:15-10:55 | Hospitality Suite

NEW Lent First Connect Class: Stewards of Living Water

Join us this Lenten season for "Stewards of Living Water: Co-Laboring for the World's Flourishing," a new study written by Eric Robinson. We will explore how God interrupts our spiritual dryness and invites us to become active partners in bringing life-giving water to a thirsty world. The class will meet on Wednesdays at 12:15 p.m. offering a meaningful midday pause to connect your faith with tangible action. Wednesdays, February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25, April 1 in room 203 and Zoom 12:15-1:15 p.m. the leaders are Eric Robinson and Susan DeWyngaert.

Today ~ Brentwood Bookmark Project + Combined Sunday School

Today, children and youth will meet together for Sunday School to decorate bookmarks for Brentwood Elementary School. These bookmarks will be placed inside the books we are providing, serving as a personal reminder that our church cares about and supports each student. The entire congregation is invited to help complete the bookmarks over the next two Sundays during and immediately following the New Song service. This is a simple, hands-on way to be part of this outreach—whether you write a note of encouragement, add a creative touch, or simply lend a few minutes of your time. Together, we can help ensure that every child at Brentwood receives a book marked with care and kindness from our church family.

Today ~ NEW First Connect Class: Lost Christianities – the Forgotten Background of the Middle East

For over a thousand years, Christianity was centered in Africa, Asia, and Europe around Jerusalem. Not until nearly 1500 AD did Christianity become closely identified with Europe. The history of Christianity in the Middle East helps us understand today's religious conflicts in Israel, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt. Join Dent Davis for a three-week class exploring this rich and complex history. Led by Dent Davis, retired minister and former Columbia Seminary faculty member. Room 203, March 1,8 and 15, 10:05—10:55 a.m.

Volunteers needed - Sunday Coffee Fellowship

Enjoy welcoming others? Help us offer simple hospitality between services by serving as a Fellowship Host for one Sunday!
• Before the 9:00 a.m. service: Set out snacks and refreshments (about 20 minutes)
• Around 10:45 a.m.: Light cleanup and kitchen reset (about 20 minutes)
Signing up for just one Sunday—one or both shifts—makes a big difference and is greatly appreciated. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall kitchen or contact Kim Whitford at 941-413-8796 (call or text).

Inquirers' Class

Are you curious about First Presbyterian Church, eager to learn more about our faith, or thinking about becoming a member? We'd love to have you join us for our next Inquirers' Class! The class will meet on Sundays, March 8, 15, and 22, 2026, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the parlor. It's a relaxed, welcoming space to ask questions, explore our beliefs, and discover how we live out our faith together as a church family. New members will be recognized in worship on Palm Sunday, with one combined service at 10:00 a.m. on March 29. For more information or to register, call the church office or contact Janet Olshewsky at (941) 376-4431. We can't wait to meet you!

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