

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, July 5, 2026

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out of town, thank you for worshipping 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! Summer Worship for Children: In July, activity sheets and coloring materials will be available on the tables in fellowship hall. Children are welcome to take home any drawings or creations they make. Children may take home any drawings they create.

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.fpcsrq.org/streaming 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/Lisa@fpcsrq.org.



Today We Welcome Robert C. ("R.C.") Smith as Our Guest Preacher

R.C. grew up in a Quaker family outside Philadelphia. After joining the Presbyterian Church at the age of 21, he felt called to ministry and graduated from Princeton Seminary in 1981. Over the next 37 years R.C. served six congregations in Pennsylvania before moving to Sarasota in 2018. He then served as interim pastor for three congregations in Peace River Presbytery until his retirement. His wife, Barbara, is also a Presbyterian minister.

Welcome to Our First Sunday in the Fellowship Hall!

Today marks our first Sunday worshipping together in the Fellowship Hall for the month of July. We hope you'll enjoy this opportunity to gather in a more intimate setting as we continue our summer worship season. We will continue to worship at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall on July 5, 12, 19, 26

Before worship, we invite you to join us for fellowship from 9:00-9:50 a.m. Enjoy coffee, light refreshments, and time to visit with friends and fellow church members as we prepare our hearts for worship.

On Sunday, August 2, we will return to our regular worship schedule with the 9:00 a.m. New Song Contemporary Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall and the 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

We look forward to worshipping with you throughout the summer and welcoming everyone back to our regular schedule in August!

Usher Training - Today, In the Sanctuary After the Worship Service

All current and prospective ushers are invited to attend an usher training session on **Sunday, July 5**, at 11:15 a.m. following worship. An additional training will be held in October. This training will review hospitality practices, worship procedures, safety protocols, and the important role ushers play in welcoming people to First Presbyterian Church. Whether you are a longtime usher or interested in serving for the first time, we encourage you to attend. For more information or to sign up, contact James Jordan jej.jordan@gmail.com or call the church office.

Summer First Connect Bible Study:

Revealed – The Word and Work of Christ in the Gospels – No Class Today

The 8-week summer Bible study continues next week. This discussion-based study moves beyond traditional lectures, inviting participants to engage deeply with Scripture, explore its context, and discover the nature of Christ through his words and actions. We will begin by examining Jesus' personal, face-to-face encounters with individuals and what they reveal about his character, mission, and love.

All are welcome, join in the library on Sundays July 12, 19, & 26 (9:10-9:55 a.m.) August 2, 9 (10:10-10:55 a.m.)

Are You Called to Serve in Christian Education?

As we prepare for the fall, we invite you to prayerfully consider how God might be calling you to serve in our Christian education ministries for children, youth, or adults. There are many ways to get involved, whether by teaching or substituting in a Sunday School class, preparing a meal for the youth group, chaperoning an outing, or providing behind-the-scenes support. Every gift and every helping hand makes a difference in nurturing faith within our church family. If you would like to learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact Leah Cotter (leah.t.cotter@gmail.com).

College/Continuing Education/Technical School Scholarships

Interested students should go to the website www.fpcsrq.org, go to "Connect" tab and select "Youth & Families" and print an application. The application and transcripts must be received by **Monday, July 27**. Returning applicants need only to have a current transcript sent in along with any updated contact information. All college and technical school students are encouraged to apply.

Invest in Children at Brentwood School- Volunteers Are Needed

It's not too soon to be thinking about the start of the new school year, volunteers are needed at Brentwood Elementary! This is a great opportunity for both returning volunteers and those interested in getting involved for the first time.

Volunteers can help by listening to first grade students read aloud in small groups, assisting in classrooms, art rooms, music rooms, or lending a hand in the school office. To learn more or to sign up, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Lorraine Foltz, at (215) 589-3237 or email: lmfoltz@me.com.

It's Time for Our Annual Brentwood School Supply Drive!

Help us give Brentwood students a great start to the new school year! Our mission partner, Brentwood, has provided a list of much-needed school supplies, and we've created an Amazon Wish List to make giving easy. Simply purchase items from the list, and they will be shipped directly to the church.



Prefer to shop in person? You're welcome to purchase school supplies locally and bring them to the church. We also welcome donations by check. Simply note **"Brentwood School Supplies"** in the memo line, and we will do the shopping for you.

We will collect all donated supplies and deliver them to Brentwood in time for the Welcome Back Lunch for teachers and staff. Thank you for helping us equip Brentwood students and encourage their teachers and staff as they begin a new school year!

Immigration Justice Coalition

First Presbyterian Church is now a community partner with the Immigration Justice Coalition of Southwest Florida, supporting immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in our community.

You can help by volunteering with the Food 4 Our Neighbors emergency food pantry. Volunteers are needed Mondays from 9:30–11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 1:30–3:00 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota (3975 Fruitville Rd.). To volunteer, contact Carol Papa at carolpapasrq@gmail.com or Susan Sanderson at susan@sandersonmn.com.

Donations of non-perishable food, hygiene items, diapers, and baby wipes may be dropped off at the Fellowship Hall entrance or the church office. Monetary donations are also welcome. Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian with **"Food 4 Our Neighbors"** in the memo line.

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

