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, April 20, 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. Large print bulletins are available, ask an usher.

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.

Welcome and Happy Easter!

He is Risen! Today, we gather in joy and gratitude to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is a day of hope, renewal, and the promise of new life.
Whether you are joining us for the first time or are a familiar face, we are so glad you're here. May your heart be filled with peace, your spirit renewed with faith, and your life overflowing with the love and grace of this holy day.

Welcome to our Easter Sunday celebration — rejoice, for the tomb is empty, and love has won!
We are excited to see all of our families and at 10:00 a.m., we will have a special Easter craft. You are welcome to complete it in the Fellowship Hall or take one home. It will also be available for families to take home after the 11:00 a.m. worship.

Family Ministry Updates

Next week, children are invited to join us for an exciting VBS-themed Sunday School in the courtyard.

Church Office Closed – Monday, April 21

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, April 21.
Regular office hours are Monday–Thursday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., and Friday, 9:00 a.m.–Noon.
E-Newsletter – *News @ First* Our weekly e-newsletter is sent every Friday afternoon and includes updates on church events, weather alerts, and important congregational news. If you are not receiving it and would like to, please contact the church office at **(941) 955-8119** or info@firstpressarasota.org.

Honoring Our Preschool Teachers, Next Sunday, April 27

We joyfully invite our church family to celebrate the incredible ministry of our preschool teachers! These devoted educators pour their hearts into nurturing, teaching, and loving the children in our community each and every day. With patience, creativity, and grace, they walk alongside families—supporting them in their parenting journey and planting seeds of faith, wonder, and love in young hearts.

Let's come together to give thanks, lift them up in prayer, and honor the vital role they play in shaping both minds and souls. Join us for Preschool Sunday—your presence means the world!

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Join us for **Faith and Family Night** at the ballpark! You are invited to a fun-filled evening as we cheer on the **Bradenton Marauders** against the **Lakeland Flying Tigers** on **Friday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m.**
Tickets: $15 (includes a Marauders hat and a Pepsi drink voucher!)
Location: LECOM Park, Bradenton
Get your tickets now! Scan the QR code to purchase.
Enjoy a night of baseball, community, and faith-filled fun! Don't miss out!

VBS Volunteer Meeting – Next Sunday, April 27

We're excited to offer Vacation Bible School again this year at First Presbyterian! Thank you to all who've volunteered to make it a success. We'll hold a volunteer meeting on **Sunday, April 27 at noon in the Fellowship Hall**. Lunch will be provided—please let Emily Weitekamp know if you can attend so we can plan accordingly.

New Adult Bible Study: Ecclesiastes

Join Eric Robinson and Doug DeCelle beginning Sunday, April 27 at 10:05 a.m. in Room 203 as they lead a new adult Bible study on the book of *Ecclesiastes*. All are welcome!

Parent Small Group

Sunday, April 27 at 10:10 a.m. in the parlor our parent small group will gather for discussion and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!

Invest in Children – Make a Difference at Brentwood Elementary

Do you have a heart for children and a desire to make a lasting impact in your community? Brentwood Elementary is looking for caring individuals to volunteer their time and talents to help nurture and support young minds.
There are several ways you can get involved—whether it's through one-on-one mentoring, assisting teachers in the classroom, or simply being a friendly face as a lunch buddy. Every moment you spend with a child can inspire confidence, build trust, and plant the seeds for a brighter future.
If you feel called to serve and invest in the lives of children, we'd love to hear from you! For more information or to get started, please contact Lorraine Foltz at lmfoltz@me.com.
Your time could be the difference a child needs.

Worship Online If you miss a Sunday morning worship, or if you are a snow bird heading north you can view the archived live streaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live, and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@fpcsarasota4017. Services are archived for one year, so you can go back and watch your favorite sermon, or send a link to a friend!

Pastoral Care

When you or a loved one is hospitalized, it is important that you contact the church or the pastor to inform us directly **and** inform the hospital that you are a member of our congregation and would welcome a visit. ***Hospitals will not contact the church.*** We have also discovered that some will no longer even list a patient as our church member on their internal records unless the patient is careful to note their relationship with our congregation. Thank you for your assistance.

We're Here for You!

The FPC care team, along with our deacons, elders, and church staff, remain available to support you. If you need assistance, please contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, at (941) 320-3828, or call the church office at (941) 955-8119. We are here for you.

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