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, October 15, 2023

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out-of-town, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with our pastor after today's worship or share your information with us in the pew pad. We would love to get to know you better!

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 Livestreaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services is available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live. Additionally, sermons are archived on YouTube.

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.



The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Ginny Sharma by the Reasoner family.

Guest Preacher From Our Sister Church in Cuba



TODAY The Rev. Alison Zamora from our sister church, Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cárdenas, Cuba, will preach at both the 9:00 and 11:00 services. Join us in fellowship hall for his presentation on Cuba between the services at 10:00 a.m.

If you are interested in or would like to know more about our February 15-20 partnership trip to Cuba, please contact Carol Papa at carolpapasrq@gmail.com. We are working to put our team together .

Financial Update

September	**Actual**	**Budget**	
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$48,648	$62,313	
Expenditures	87,308	76,613	
Year-to-date			**Annual Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	813,696	756,043	1,005,244
Expenditures	$746,651	$742,813	$1,028,435

Thank you for your support! Any additional pledges or contributions to the general fund will be appreciated and applied towards the anticipated deficit at year-end.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry will be training a new group of Stephen Ministers sometime this fall, for those in our congregation who are experiencing difficulties, loss, loneliness, and health issues. Our leadership team is ready to equip you with the skills you need to be a true help to someone in need. Please stop by the table where you can speak to one of our current Stephen Ministers for more information. If you or someone you know needs a Stephen Ministry, please call the church office (941-955-8119) to speak with Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse or Tim Boggess, Pastor.

Women's Bible Study

The Bible study, from the Presbyterian Women's *Horizons* magazine, *Sacred Encounters* Lesson 2 , "The Exorcism in Gerasa" will be on **October 18, at 10:00 a.m.** on Zoom. Did you know that exorcism and demonic possession is mentioned more that 60 times in the Gospels Matthew, Mark, and Luke? This lesson should help guide us to understanding those in need. The study guide is optional. However, Elaine Barnett can scan you a copy if you would like one. Also contact Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com to get the Zoom info.

SURE House Meetings

First Presbyterian will be holding four sacred House Meetings to hear and make note of what your concerns for the future are. You will be asked "What is one thing which is on your mind that bothers you?" Is it housing, mental health, physical limitations, school situations? We will work for SURE for our community.

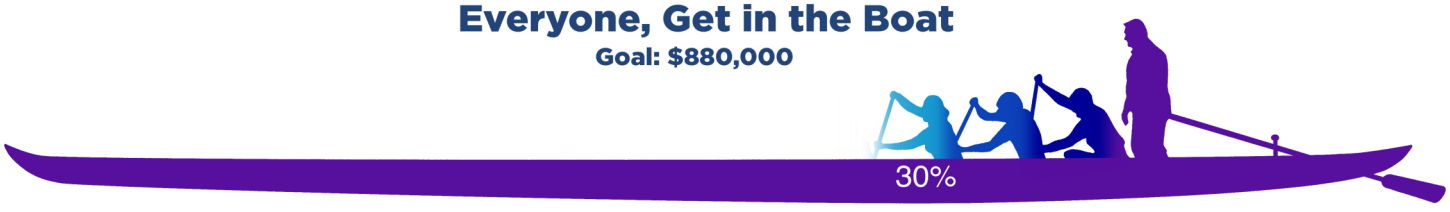
House Meetings will be held

- Tuesday, October 17, 7:00 p.m. by ZOOM; led by Ann and Don Opdycke contact Ann for Zoom link (941) 350-6126 or srq.opdycke@gmail.com
- Sunday, October 22, 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor; led by Dorothy Murphy and Barbara Chase
- Sunday, October 29, 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor; led by Victoria Guenther and Sue Pantling
- At Sunnyside Village on a date to be determined; led by Phil Kuebbeler

Why wait? Your concerns matter. Contact Dorothy Murphy: (941) 221-2257 or jamesmurphy@comcast.net

Sunday School ~ Check out these upcoming events:

October 15 - Fall Fun Day at Cedarkirk see *News@First* for more information
October 29 - Pumpkin Carving in the courtyard 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. (No Sunday School)
November 26 - Advent Workshop (No Sunday School)
Sunday school hour starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 10:50 a.m. We encourage parents to drop off your children and enjoy coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Please ask a greeter for directions. See *News@First* for more information.



Our 2024 pledge goal is $880,000. That is a 20% percent increase over our 2023 pledges. This much-needed increase will be used to fund our full-time Director of Christian Education, give our current staff cost-of-living increases, and maintain the excellence of our music program. Your elders and deacons have already set the pace, getting us 25% percent of the way there. Now we need you to get in the boat with your commitment. Please consider increasing your pledge. Letters were mailed this past week inviting you to do just that. Every Sunday through the month of October we will report on the progress towards our goal. We hope to have the boat filled by Sunday, October 29. Pick up a paddle and help us get there!