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, August 17, 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.

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

R.C. grew up in a Quaker family outside of 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.

Family Ministry

Parent Cue is here! Grab one from your table and bring faith home—this *Faith Formation at Home* resource will help your family explore God's Word together throughout the month. **We Need Your Help!** Please take a moment to complete the Children or Youth Registration form using the QR code located on the tables in the Fellowship Hall or in the Family E-Newsletter, if you haven't already.

You're Invited to a Special Worship Workshop!

On Sunday, August 24, from 10:10 to 11:00 AM, Pre-K–5th graders are invited to join our FPC youth for a fun, hands-on event all about **"Talking with God."** Kids will explore prayer through creative stations—making a community prayer chain, trying a "disappearing sins" forgiveness activity, and decorating a special gift box for God. A joyful way to grow in faith and have fun—don't miss it! The event will take place in the courtyard, (weather permitting) or the loft. We hope to see your child there!

Family Mission & Games – August 31

Bring your energy and your family to Sunday School hour for a lively mix of mission projects and VBS-style games everyone will love! We will be in the courtyard, (weather permitting) or Fellowship Hall.

Invest in Children at Brentwood Elementary - Volunteers Are Needed

With the start of a 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. Information and training will be held on **Sunday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. To learn more or to sign up, please contact our volunteer coordinator, **Lorraine Foltz**, at **(215) 589-3237**. or email: lmfoltz@me.com

First Connect / Adult Education

Faith in the Early Church, taught by Elaine Barnett, continues on Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. on Zoom. The Zoom link is available in this week's *News at First*.

No Ordinary People: C.S. Lewis and the Weight of Glory traces Lewis's journey from childhood and atheism to wartime service, Oxford scholarship, and beloved Christian writings, exploring his vision for the Christian life and its relevance for today's world, meeting August 24, 31 and September 7, 14, 21, 28 in Room 203 with Stephen McConnell, retired pastor and author of *Take Me to Aslan*.

Digging Deeper: The Psalms as a Window to Deeper Bible Engagement is a three-week study of Psalms that speak to God as Creator, using tools such as context, literary devices, and resources like Bible Hub to build confidence in Scripture study, meeting August 24, 31 and September 7 in the Library with Eric Robinson and Doug DeCelle.

Do you have ideas for adult education classes this year? Join us for a special brainstorming session today from 10:05 to 10:55 a.m. in Room 203. All are welcome!

Stay connected—sign up for our First Connect Newsletter by scanning the QR code! The First Connect Newsletter includes all our adult education offerings and up-to-date information.

Youth Group Kickoff – TODAY August 17

Join us for a ***Youth Beach Day Bash*** from 1:00–4:00 p.m.! We'll gather at Christ Church Longboat Key (6400 Gulf of Mexico Dr A) for an afternoon of lunch, beach games, and fun in the sun. All youth are welcome—bring a friend!

New Member Class – September 2025

You are warmly invited to join the upcoming New Member Class starting Sunday, September 7 at 10:05 a.m. in Room 203, meeting for four consecutive weeks: September 7, 14, 21, and 28.
This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our church family, our beliefs, and how to become an active member. You'll meet church leaders, tour the facilities, and have time to ask questions about our congregation and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).
A called Session meeting to receive new members will be held on September 28. New members will be introduced on Sunday, October 5 during the 10:00 a.m. combined World Communion Sunday service, followed by the mission fair and potluck lunch.
For more information or to RSVP, please call the church office at (941) 955-8119.

Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Sponsored by the Mission and Justice Committee for the last Wednesday of the month, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, the next trip is **Wednesday, August27.** Be a part of the group from FPC that gathers at Beth-El Farm-worker Ministry in Wimauma for sorting food and related activities. This mission partner distributes food to help 600-900 folks each week. To sign up or for more information or to car pool, contact **Wendy Miller** (941) 321-8488 or email towmiller@yahoo.com.

Rise Against Hunger – Meal Packing Event

Join us on **Saturday, September 14, from 1:00–3:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall as we partner with *Rise Against Hunger* to pack nutritious meals for communities in need around the world. This is a hands-on, family-friendly event—everyone can help make a difference! Let's work together to share Christ's love in a tangible way. Invite a friend, roll up your sleeves, and be part of this exciting mission opportunity. Use the QR code to register. Help reach our goal of 100 volunteers! *you do not need to donate to sign up.



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