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 1, 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 by the Reasoner family wishing Rea F. Reasoner a happy birthday in heaven.

TODAY is World Communion Sunday, where we celebrate communion with Christians throughout the world. After the **combined 10:00 a.m.** communion service, the Mission & Justice committee is holding a **Mission Fair**. This year's theme is ***Come See What We Are Doing in Our Neighborhood and Join in the Work.*** Please stop at the fair tables outside Fellowship Hall. Are you searching for meaningful volunteer opportunities? You might just find programs at the fair that capture your interest!

Participants:

Feeding the Hungry: All Faith Food Bank
Helping the Homeless: Resurrection House and Family Promise
Supporting our Farmworkers: Bethel
Working for Justice: SURE
Supporting Children: Invest in Children/ Brentwood Elementary school
Working in the Church: Opportunities to serve in FPC
Presbyterian Women in mission: Hope seeds
FPC Health Ministry
Meet our Cuban partners at Juan G Hall

Peace and Global Witness Offering, TODAY The Peace and Global Witness Offering supports the efforts of the church at every level and provides witness to God's gift of peace in the world. Gifts to the offering are divided as follows: 25% retained by First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota for support of our own peacemaking ministry; 25% used to support presbytery and synod peacemaking efforts; and 50% forwarded to the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program.

NEXUS Chamber Music Alexander Hersh, cello; Stephanie Zyzak, violin; Evren Ozel, piano **TODAY** Sunday, October 1 • 4:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church 2050 Oak Street. Tickets ($40) at ArtistSeriesConcerts.org or by calling (941) 306-1202.
Artists Series Concerts of Sarasota is a Community Partner of FPC.

Meet Anita Taylor from CEPAD Thursday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parlor

Anita, from CEPAD (Coalition of Protestant Churches of Nicaragua) will be here to tell us more about the partnership FPC has with CEPAD and the transforming work that is happening in Nicaragua.

CEPAD provides faith-based training to people in rural Nicaraguan villages through programs in leadership training, sustainable agriculture, economic development, and community organization so they can break the cycle of hunger and poverty to support themselves and their families. In past years several members of FPC have traveled to Nicaragua on mission trips to learn and experience the work CEPAD is doing.

We hope to see you there. ~FPC mission committee

Intergenerational Mission Opportunity

Mothers Helping Mothers, **Monday, October 16**
(Sarasota Schools are closed that day)
9:00 a.m. to noon, 5933 N Washington Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34243
We are looking for 20 volunteers to help sort donations.
Children accompanied by parent/adult are welcome. See *News@First* to sign up.

Brentwood Volunteers Needed. Do you have a morning or partial day each week to work with young children at Brentwood Elementary School this fall? If so, call Lorraine Foltz (215-589-3237) who coordinates our classroom volunteers. And here's a bit of good news about the good you can do. 93% of Brentwood students' scores in reading and math rose by the end of school year last year. Thanks to their wonderful teachers and our team of dedicated volunteers.



Bible Study Pastor Tim is offering two Wednesday Bible studies: an in-person Bible study at noon in Room 203 and a Zoom Bible study at 7:00 p.m. Both classes are studying the text for the coming Sunday's sermon. See *News @ First* for Zoom link. Tim's Bible study will continue every Wednesday.

Sunday School ~ Check out these upcoming events:

October 1 is World Communion Sunday - ONE SERVICE at 10: 00 a.m. (no Sunday School)
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. **PreK to 5th graders must be picked up by a parent/guardian OR an authorized pick up person.** Please ask a greeter for directions. See *News@First* for more information.
PreK-2nd graders - Room 215, 3rd-5th Graders - Room 222, Middle and High School - The Loft

CPR Class Tuesday, October 10 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Forum. Attend an American Heart CPR class and learn to save a life! Cost: $30 for two year CPR certification, healthcare providers for $48 for provider card. Contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, at (941) 320-3828 or 4tracks@comcast.net by Tuesday, October 3 to reserve your spot. If you are an greeter or usher we encourage you to take this class.

If you would like to receive our Friday E-Newsletter, News @ First, please call the church office, (941) 955-8119 or email, info@firstpressarasota.org.