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 12, 2026

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.

Visiting Missionaries

This morning we're delighted to welcome **Jim and Jodi McGill** to the 9:00 a.m. worship service. They served for many years as Presbyterian mission co-workers in Africa, working in community development and public health. Some in our congregation know them personally—Becky Loomis served with them, and the DeCelle family's daughter, Kristen, worked with them in Malawi. The McGills are now living in Decatur, Georgia, and we're grateful they're with us today. Please welcome them warmly.

Youth Sunday, Next Week April 19, 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Services in the Sanctuary Rooted in Christ and growing in faith, our youth invite us to reflect on the Fruit of the Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. On this **Youth Sunday**, they will lead us in worship, and we will hear reflections from our graduating seniors as they share how God has been at work in their lives.
Come celebrate the ways the Spirit is moving among us and be inspired to grow deeper in Christ together.

Financial Update - March

	Actual	Budget
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 90,322	$ 95,072
Expenditures	112,595	109,539
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	664,106	510,458
Expenditures	$ 290,197	$ 307,602

Your generous gifts and fulfilled pledges for the first quarter of 2026 are truly appreciated. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Realm Directory Check out the directory — all you need is your login. Need help? Call the church office for more information.

The Final Word: Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation Resumes Today

Curious about the mysteries of Revelation but haven't tried our class yet? Join *The Final Word* for an open, discussion-led exploration of its wild imagery. Together, we'll uncover how this challenging yet profoundly comforting book inspires bold faith in today's world. Class resumes today; the facilitators are Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick. Time & Location: 10:05-10:55 in the library.

A Legacy of Care – Adult Education Series, Starts Today
Presented in Partnership with Faith Community Nurse, Cheryl Track

As part of our church's commitment to caring for the whole person—body, mind, and spirit—join us for this two-part workshop on end-of-life planning. Secure your future and give your family peace of mind.

Attorney M. Michelle Robles will guide you in taking control of your medical care through advance directives. The following week, licensed counselor Anne Swartz will explore the gift of pre-planning cremation and burial. Together, these sessions help ensure your wishes are honored while easing the burden on your loved ones. **Time:** 10:05–10:55 a.m. **Location:** Room 203

April 12: *Your Voice, Your Choice* (Advance Directives) – M. Michelle Robles, Esq.
April 19: *Peace of Mind for You* (Pre-Planning) – Anne Swartz, Licensed Counselor

Youth Group: All Are Welcome!

Join us on **tonight from 6:00–8:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall for dinner as we prepare for Youth Sunday. We'll spend time planning and practicing, along with games, laughter, and meaningful time together as we grow in faith and friendship.

This is a great opportunity to use your gifts—whether that's reading, music, creative ideas, helping behind the scenes, or simply being part of the group. Every voice matters, and there's a place for everyone.

All youth are truly welcome—whether it's your first time, you bring a friend, or you're not participating in the Youth Sunday service itself. Come as you are and be part of a joyful evening of food and fellowship.

Finding Our Identity

We are now in Part III, "Finding our Identity." The eighth lesson is "Remembering Jesus' Baptism." At times many of us are unsure of our identity. However, at the time of our baptism, we find clarity and focus that we are the children of God. As we study Jesus' baptism, let us remember that we are charged to be participants in Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice. Our lesson is based on Luke 3:1-22. We will meet via Zoom on **Wednesday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m.** Our lesson will be lead by Eric Robinson. Please reach out to Jinny Miller at jinnyron@gmail.com for the Zoom information if this is your first time attending the Bible study.

Register for VBS 2026: Snowball Mountain Challenge!

Trade the summer heat for a winter wonderland this **June 15-19.** Kids will discover bravery and resilience through God's strength with frosty games and hands-on Bible lessons. Scan the QR code to register your "Challengers" today! Contact Eric Robinson, Leah Cotter, or Emily Weitekamp with questions.

VBS Need YOU!

We need **YOU** to help make VBS 2026 a week full of fun, laughter, and faith-filled adventures for our kids! You can join the excitement by leading Bible stories, guiding crafts or science experiments, running games, serving snacks, or helping wherever the action is needed. Grab your spot on the team by filling out the volunteer form with the QR code. Youth under 18 will need a parent or guardian to complete their section of the form. Join us for our **Volunteer Planning Meeting on Sunday, April 26 at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**—lunch is on us!

Worship Online

If you miss a Sunday morning worship, you can view the archived livestreaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live or https://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!

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