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 5, 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 is World Communion Sunday – Combined Service, Mission Fair & Potluck

We are glad you are here today as we gather at the Lord's Table with Christians around the world, celebrating our shared faith and unity in Christ.

Explore · Connect · Serve. After worship, take time to **explore** the Mission Fair in the courtyard, **connect** with our local, national, and international mission partners, and **serve** by discovering ways to support their work through prayer, action, and giving. Then stay for the churchwide potluck, a wonderful opportunity to enjoy good food and fellowship with friends old and new.

Peace & Global Witness Offering

Today we will receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering. This offering helps the church share the peace of Christ by addressing conflict and injustice and by building reconciliation across the world. It empowers congregations like ours to be instruments of peace, bringing light and hope into places of anxiety and division.

25% remains with our congregation to support peacemaking efforts in our own community.
25% strengthens peacemaking in our region through the work of mid councils.
50% supports the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s ministries of peace, reconciliation, and global witness.
As we gather around the globe at Christ's table, we also join together in proclaiming and sharing peace through this special offering.

Montreat Youth Fundraiser Today

During the potluck and Mission Fair, please consider supporting our **"Montree"** to help fund future Montreat youth trips. Envelopes will be available for donations ranging from $1 to $100. Funds collected from the **Montree**, along with other fundraisers, will help us reach our overall goal of $5,000, covering half of the trip cost for 2026. Every gift brings us closer to making this experience possible for our youth!

First Connect / Adult Education Continues Next Week 10:05 –11:00 a.m.

New First Connect Class!
Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction: Some Stories to Challenge Our Faith
Join us in reading and discussing short stories by American writers that wrestle with questions of morality, justice, doubt, and faith. Together we'll consider how these stories challenge and deepen our own walk with Christ.
Dates: October 12, 19, 26
Leader: John Parks
Location: Room 203
pick up stories in the narthex

Parent Small Group Continues October 19
The Fall parent small group will continue to build community, encouragement and support as we navigate life together as families. We had a wonderful first session, with some great ideas for additional resources such as children's books, which we'll be sharing with you.
Dates: Oct. 19; Nov. 9, 23; Dec. 7
Leaders: Eric Robinson, George Chorba, and others
Location: Hospitality Suite

The Final Word: Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation

Join us for *The Final Word*, a study of Revelation that explores its symbolism and first-century context, moving beyond predictions to uncover its message of hope and relevance for today.
Dates: Ongoing (continues next week)
Facilitators: Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick
Location: The Library

LOVE IS FIRST Shirts Are Back!

By popular demand, our **LOVE IS FIRST** shirts are available again! Share a message of welcome, kindness, and encouragement. Get one for yourself, a family member, or a friend.
Available through the link in News @ First, the QR code or at the **FPC booth** at the Mission Fair.

Two Steps to Save a Life. Call 911. Push Hard and Fast!

As part of our safety protocols, we are offering this training opportunity. Are you an usher, a greeter, or someone who helps people by welcoming, assisting, or guiding others in our church? Come learn and practice these life-saving skills. Wednesday, October 15, 11:00–11:45 a.m. in room 203. Questions or to register: Cheryl Track – (941) 320-3828 | 4tracks@comcast.net

Chapel News

Feeling overwhelmed by the news or simply needing a quiet space to pray? Like Jesus, we are renewed in God's presence through silence. The Chapel will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00 –4:00 p.m., for silent prayer and meditation.

Pumpkin Carving! **Mark your Calendar for October 26, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall Courtyard**

Get ready for an amazing time, as all families at First Presbyterian are invited to our much-anticipated annual Pumpkin Carving event! Prepare to unleash your creativity as we carve spooky, silly, and spectacular masterpieces in a time filled with festive fun. Bring your own pumpkin and we'll supply the rest. We can't wait to see you there for this exciting opportunity to make wonderful fall memories together!

Meet the Newest Members of First Presbyterian Church



Susan Dunn
Susan was born in Southwest Ohio and spent her early years living with her family in Brazil, Cuba, Spain, and Chile before returning to Ohio for college. She later earned an MFA from Columbia University in New York, where she worked as a sculptor and taught part-time. Susan moved to Florida, where she met her late husband, and she is the proud mother of two children—one in Sarasota and one in Denver. Susan is delighted to be a new member of FPC.



Rebecca (Becky) Loomis
Becky is a retired family physician and lifelong Presbyterian. In the 1960s her family moved to Ethiopia where her parents served as missionaries, later returning to southern Illinois where she completed her education and medical school. After residency in North Carolina, she worked there briefly before serving six years at a Presbyterian mission hospital in Malawi.
She then returned to the U.S., spending 25 years in Georgia near family, including ten years in working in urgent care. Retiring in 2022, she returned to Illinois to help care for her father, later spending a year in Georgia before moving to Sarasota—accompanied by her father's barn cat, Miss Kitty. Her hobbies include Scrabble, gardening, travel, swimming, reading, and birdwatching. She is excited to join First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota!

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