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, December 7, 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.

10th Annual Celtic Christmas Concert

Tickets are almost gone! Don't miss the 10th Annual Celtic Christmas Concert at First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota, featuring a 70-voice choir, piper Kevin Wiegand, and The Lubben Brothers. Enjoy music from all six Celtic nations in an unforgettable evening of Christmas magic. Last year sold out—**grab your tickets now!**

Bless Brentwood Families

Gold stars on the trees suggest $30 or $100 gift cards to support 50 children and their families this Christmas. Each child receives two $30 cards, and each family gets at least two $100 grocery cards. Pick a star and sign up nearby. Thank you for your generosity!

Celebrate Advent with Devotion

This season, pick up **An Illustrated Advent for Families** for weekly devotions, coloring pages, and activities reflecting on Jesus' birth, or **The Will to Dream**, a devotional of inspiring stories revealing God's presence in everyday life. Copies are available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

Join us for the Perlman Music Program Winter Residency

From December 26–January 10, First Presbyterian Church will host exceptionally gifted young classical musicians from around the world.

Free events open to the public include orchestra and chorus rehearsals, student recitals, Works In Progress, (WIPS), and masterclasses. Advance sign-up is required—see the PMP Suncoast website for details.

Volunteer opportunities available: Members can help serve lunch or dinner in the Fellowship Hall, where meals—prepared by a caterer—will be served to students and faculty.

Come experience world-class music and support these talented young musicians!

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

The Legacy of Celtic Christianity—last class is today
Explore the ancient world of Celtic Christianity, a faith that flourished on the frontiers of the Roman Empire with saints like Patrick, Columba, and Brigid. This tradition offers a unique and powerful vision for faithful living, especially in difficult times.
Dates: Dec. 7
Leader: Dent Davis, retired minister and former faculty member at Columbia Seminary
Location: Room 203

TODAY: *The Final Word – Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation*
Join us as we explore the mysteries of Revelation, uncovering its symbolism, first-century context, and message of hope. In today's class, Paul will lead us in a discussion about the Great Seals of Revelation 6!
Dates: Ongoing
Facilitators: Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick
Location: The Library

Our Parent Small Group Meets December 7
Our parent small group will continue to build community, encouragement and support as we navigate life together as families. We'll continue to share ideas and resources to equip parents together to pass on what matters the most.
Canceled
Leaders: Eric Robinson, Susan DeWyngaert, George Chorba
Location: Hospitality Suite

Advent Class: The Will to Dream
Join us for an engaging study and discussion of the Advent themes from the Will to Dream devotional. Be prepared to grow together during this season of waiting for Christ's coming.
Dates: December 14 & 21
Leader: Dave Householder
Time & Location: 10:05-10:55 in Room 203

Mark Your Calendar: *Screwtape Letters* with Rev. Steven McConnell
Mark your calendars for our upcoming First Connect class in January where we'll dive into C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters*. More information coming soon. You won't want to miss it!
Dates: January 4, 18, 25 & February 1
Leader: Steven McConnell, retired pastor from Church of the Palms and author of *Take Me to Aslan: C.S. Lewis and the Art of Trusting*.

2026 Offering Envelopes Are Here
If you are a regular user of offering envelopes we have ordered them for you. Please pick up your box either before or after services for the next three weeks, December 7 - 21.

Thoughtful Giving Booklets
Give Hope This Christmas: Support Our Mission & Justice Partners
Each year, we joyfully give financial gifts in honor of family members and friends to support our mission partners. Through these gifts, we help **give hope** to those in need. Thoughtful Giving booklets are available to help you explore this year's giving opportunities. You may pick one up as you exit worship or find it in the *News @ First*.

The Ultimate Youth Christmas Bash
Get ready for an epic night of non-stop fun, delicious food, and hilarious games that you won't want to miss! We aren't just celebrating the season; we're spreading serious joy by working together to fill stockings for our friends at Brentwood. Grab your ugliest Christmas sweater and bring a friend for the perfect way to kick off the holidays! On Sunday, December 14, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

Young Adult & College Holiday Gathering
Sunday, December 28 • 11:00–12:30 p.m. • The Parlor
All college students and young adults are invited for a festive morning of catered bites, gifts, and games! Join us after the 10:00 a.m. worship service—whether you live here or are in Sarasota for the holidays, this is a great opportunity to connect with others in their late teens and 20s connected to First Pres. Bring a friend, see an old friend, make a new friend — all are welcome!

From Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse
For the 2025-2026 flu season, CDC recommends seasonal flu vaccination. If you're not feeling well, please stay home and join us online if you can. We will have masks available for anyone who wants one while attending in person. This is the season when flu and COVID tend to spike, so thank you for helping us keep our congregation safe.

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