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, March 23, 2025

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.

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. Large print bulletins are available, ask an usher.

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.

Smile! Next Sunday, March 30, we will have a photographer at both services to take pictures for our new website. Do your best to ignore him and be your usual happy and friendly selves! No pictures of children's faces will be posted on our website without prior parental approval.

April 13, All Church, Palm Sunday Egg Hunt and Potluck Brunch



We look forward to beginning Holy Week with you on Palm Sunday. We will mark Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem at **one service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary**. Children and youth are welcome to join our annual palm procession at the beginning of the service. Following the service all are welcome for an egg hunt outside and a potluck in the fellowship hall. Children are welcome to bring their baskets to hunt for eggs filled with tickets. Tickets can be redeemed at our prize table. Meanwhile, church members and guests will enjoy food inside. Suggested assignments based on last name; A-M: breakfast casseroles, N-Q: fruit, R-Z: pastries/bread. Please contact Eric Robinson at ERobinson@Firstpressarasota.org with any questions about the egg hunt.

Holy Week at First Presbyterian! Here's a Quick Summary of the Events:

- **Palm Sunday**: 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, followed by egg hunt and brunch
- **Maundy Thursday**: 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary
- **Good Friday**: 12:15 p.m. in the chapel
- **Easter**: 9:00 a.m. in fellowship hall 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

If you need any more information or assistance related to these events, feel free to ask!

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, March 26.** Be a part of the group from FPC that gathers at Beth-El Farmworker 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.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Traditionally given during Lent, contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing aid in combating hunger via the Presbyterian Hunger Program, foster development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and support disaster relief efforts through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Each of these programs serves individuals and communities in unique ways. From immediate disaster response to sustained community development, their efforts combine to offer safety, sustenance and hope to those in need. First Presbyterian will be receiving this One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday, April 13.

Giving Statements Update

We are excited to announce that quarterly and year-end giving statements will now be emailed to you! If we do not have your email address on file, you will receive your statement via traditional mail. Thank-you for your generous donations and continued support!

Vacation Bible School Registration is Open! June 9-13, 2025 9:00 a.m.-12 Noon

We are excited about our 2025 VBS called Road Trip! VBS is open to all rising Kindergarten to 5th graders, with older youth invited to help! There will be Bible stories, fun, science, recreation, music, and crafts! To register, see the *News@First.* **Calling Adults and Youth**: We need you! Please use the link below to register to help!

Covenants of God

Bible Study via Zoom continues on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m through April 1.
Covenants are essential in the biblical story. God relates to creation, chooses a people, establishes a law for the nation of Israel, promises a Messiah and enacts a new covenant in Jesus Christ. The Christian church then becomes part of God's covenant people. The following study enhances our understanding of the covenant theme in the Bible. We will also always seek what it means to be God's covenant people.

Elaine Barnett will teach the class via Zoom. Elaine is a member of FPC, an ordained Elder, and a PC(USA) Certified Christian Educator. Sign up for the class by emailing Elaine: ewbarnet@icloud.com.

Family Promise is opening a "Restock Room" for its client families. Three new opportunities for volunteers:

- Help set up the Restock Room "store" for families, create an inventory, receive donations, and stock shelves as needed. All items will be free to client families. Please contact Jane Jernoske at 856.392.5096 or email jjernoske@aol.com
- Donate gently used bed linens, towels, paper products, personal care items, and cleaning supplies. Contact Joanne Simons at 703-798-7330 or SimonsJC1@gmail.com.
- Work in the office - work about 4 or 5 hours a month in their new location at Faith Lutheran Church on South Beneva Road, sending "thank-you" letters, and other clerical tasks. Please contact Cindy Schalk at 941.806.7301 or email fpsmcs2023@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of Family Promise!

Realm and Online Giving

The wait is over; members and affiliate members are now able to access Realm! What are you waiting for? Please call the church office and we will be happy to assist you (941) 955-8119.

For on-line givers, please use the QR code or enter https://onrealm.org/fpcsrq/give/now into your favorite browser. Text "FPC2050" to 73256 to give, using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP.

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