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, November 17, 2024

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.

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.

Rooted and Grounded in Love, Stewardship 2024



80% as of November 14

Our 2025 pledge goal is $968,000. That is a 10 percent increase over our 2024 budget. After making sure that our salaries and utilities are keeping pace with inflation, the majority of these additional funds will be used for building maintenance and capital repairs. In a word, ROOFS! Please prayerfully consider, if you are able, increasing your pledge for next year. You should have received a pledge card in the mail. Additional pledge cards are available in the office and at both services. Fitting in with our theme of being **"Rooted and Grounded in Love,"** your pledge will help to bring life to the palm frond. More importantly, it will help to bring life to doing God's work together. We hope to have the frond fully alive by November 24, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

Realm and Online Giving

We are working as fast as we can to get the Realm Connect app up and running, and we are half way there. The office is now in its learning phase of this new church management system. 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. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

Adult Ed Class - Continues This Week

John Parks' class is titled "**Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction: Some Stories to Challenge Our Faith.**" People who have attended John's classes have said that they are challenging and enriching! His class will be held in Room 203 continues today, November 24, and December 1, from 10:05 to 10:55 a.m.

Celtic Christmas

Tickets Are On Sale Now!

Use the QR code, or visit the FPC website to purchase tickets.
Tickets are $25, in advance or $35 at the door. Students are free.
A member of the Celtic Christmas planning team will be available
on Sunday November 24 and December 1 to assist with purchasing tickets.

Celtic Christmas is back, with two performances this year, on **Friday, December 13** and **Saturday, December 14**. After turning away nearly one hundred people in 2023, the decision was made to offer two performances and to move toward a ticketed admission. A highlight is the stunning **50-voice choir** combining the singers of FPC and the Via Nova Chorale. Returning by popular demand are the incredible **Lubben Brothers Celtic Band**, bagpiper **Kevin Weigand**, and award-winning Irish dancer **Suzanne Ceasar**. At $25, this will be lowest price for the best event of the holiday season! Students college-age and under are free, and sponsorships are available for anyone needing help with admission. Don't miss this festive and inspiring celebration!

For the Celtic Christmas - We Need Your Help

As we approach our amazing and delightful Celtic Christmas performances on Friday, December 13, and Saturday, December 14, you have an opportunity to enhance the events! We need volunteers to assist with the following:

- Set up - Afternoon of Thursday, December 12, and Saturday, December 14, in Fellowship Hall
- Baking Christmas delights to share
- Serving FPC Punch Friday evening and Saturday afternoon after the performance
- Kitchen - serving and cleanup (both Friday and Saturday)
- Help reset for Sunday's New Song service after the reception on Saturday at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Please contact Kim Schmeits schmeitshk@icloud.com (941-284-0001) or Sandi Soper Strategicconsultss@yahoo.com (941-544-7315) for more information or to volunteer.

Bible Study

The third lesson of the PW Horizons Bible Study, Let Justice Roll Down, is called "Food Justice." We will learn about producing food with justice and peace. All are invited to join us for this Bible study. Elaine Barnett will be leading the lesson on Wednesday, November 20, at 10:00 a.m. We look forward to some lively discussions and learning about how the earth can produce enough food to feed the world's population, yet there are so many starving worldwide. The study guide is optional. However, Elaine Barnett can send you a copy if you would like one. Contact Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com for the Zoom link.

2024 Fall Collection for Farmworkers

The Mission and Justice committee is again sponsoring our regular collection of items to share with the migrant farm workers who come and work in our community. Beth-el and Mision Peniel are our partners who serve these folks so our gifts will go to them to distribute to those in need. As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us say "Thank you" to the people who grow and pick the food that will be a part of our feast. Items will be collected at the entrance to each worship service and in the office lobby during the week of November 17 - 24. Items Needed: new or used in good condition: blankets, sheets, towels, jackets/hoodie, sweaters, long sleeve T-shirts and shirts, gloves, coats, baby wipes and diapers size 4, 5, 6, egg cartons, rice and dry beans, non-perishable food: peanut butter, canned meat/poultry, dry cereal, oatmeal, pasta/spaghetti, pasta sauce, dry or shelf-stable milk, canned fruit/vegetables.

Financial Update

October	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 45,873	$ 73,549
Expenditures	106,951	91,825
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	990,984	902,214
Expenditures	$850,883	$915,280

Can you believe it, we are in the final quarter of 2024. Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillments.

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