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 31, 2023

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 better!

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 Livestreaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services is available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live. Additionally, sermons are archived on YouTube.

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.

Upcoming Service Schedule

Today is Epiphany Sunday

Star words will be available during this special service.

Sunday, January 7, One combined service at 10:00 a.m.,

Recognition of new members and installing and ordination of church officers followed by Chili Cookoff, benefiting Family Promise.

Pastor Tim's Bible Study - will resume on January 10

For 2024 Pastor Tim will is offering ONE Wednesday Bible study on Zoom at Noon. The Zoom link will be in the *News @ First.*

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87466934598?pwd=VDrc5SDYig2I0E59oYAKcIA9VmVcLv.1

If you would like receive our Friday E-Newsletter, email info@FirstPresSarasota.org

Chili Cookoff—Next Sunday, January 7

After our combined 10:00 a.m. worship service on **January 7,** we are having a potluck-style lunch. This time we're having a chili cookoff with cornbread and salad along with a fundraiser for Family Promise. Vote by dropping dollar bills into a container next to your favorite pot of chili. Proceeds will go to Family Promise.

We now have enough chili chefs, but we need more cornbread and salad chefs. Please write your name on the signup sheet this Sunday or contact Sue Hargis Spigel at Hargisspigel@yahoo.com. Afterward, please take your leftovers home, or trade leftovers with each other.

Upcoming Adult Education Classes

Recovering Creation Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. January 14 through February 11 in room 203 led by Rev. Doug DeCelle, read more information in the *News@First*

Six Themes in the Bible- God's Word Adult Bible Study Class via Zoom starting Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. January 9 through February 13 led by Elaine Barnett, read more information in *News@First*

Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts Sundays February 18 through March 24, 10:00 a.m. in room 203. Discussion leaders for this class are R.C. Smith, a retired minister originally from Pennsylvania, and Susan DeWyngaert, also a retired minister who served FPC from 1997-2011. Read more in the *News@First.*

Big Thank You



The Invest In Children steering committee would like to thank everyone! We were able to provide two $30 gift cards for each child and $300 worth of grocery cards to 24 families and 60 children from Brentwood Elementary. The total $10,800 was provided to the families this holiday season. Thank you for your over whelming generosity.



Everyone, Get in the Boat – We are soooo close to reaching our 2024 pledge goal! Thank you to everyone who has gotten in the boat and provided us with the resources we need to move confidently into the future. There are still a few of you who have yet to turn in your pledge cards. We need your participation if we hope to get to 100% percent. Please turn a pledge card in as soon as you can. If there is a reason why you are not pledging this year, please let Pastor Tim know. We don't want you to be left behind.

Church Office Hours and *News @ First*

The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - Noon.
Our E-Newsletter, *News @ First*, is sent out weekly on Friday afternoons, we also send notices about special events or weather conditions. If you and not receiving it weekly, but would like to, please call the church office (941) 955-8119 or email, info@firstpressarasota.org.

Church Office Help Needed

Do you have a couple hours a week to help out? Are you outgoing and friendly? Then we need YOU! We are looking for help at the church office reception desk. Responsibilities include greeting visitors, answering incoming calls and transferring calls to appropriate staff members. Shifts are three hours. Openings are: Mondays 1:00-4:00, Wednesdays 9:00-12:00, and Fridays 9:00 - Noon. No prior experience is needed.
Contact Rachel Martin at RMartin@FirstPresSarasota.org for more information.