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, August 24, 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 We Welcome Robert C. ("R.C.") Smith as Our Guest Preacher

R.C. grew up in a Quaker family outside Philadelphia. After joining the Presbyterian Church at the age of 21, he felt called to ministry and graduated from Princeton Seminary in 1981. Over the next 37 years R.C. served six congregations in Pennsylvania before moving to Sarasota in 2018. He then served as interim pastor for three congregations in Peace River Presbytery until his retirement. His wife, Barbara, is also a Presbyterian minister.

You're Invited to a Special Worship Workshop!

TODAY from 10:10 to 11:00 AM, children from Pre-K through 5th Grade are invited to join us for a 50-minute interactive event all about "Talking with God."

Led by our FPC youth, kids will explore different ways to pray through fun, hands-on stations. They will create a community prayer chain to lift up others in prayer, learn about forgiveness with a "disappearing sins" activity, and decorate a special box to understand how to dedicate their gifts to God.

This workshop offers a wonderful, age-appropriate chance for children to deepen their understanding of prayer in a meaningful and engaging way. **The event will take place in room 225 (note location change).**

Family Mission & Games – Next Sunday, August 31

Bring your energy and your family to Sunday School hour for a lively mix of mission projects and VBS-style games everyone will love!

Sunday School Teachers & Subs

This morning, from **10:10–11:00 a.m. in the Parlor**, all teachers and substitutes are invited to a professional development session. We'll explore creative teaching strategies and spend time preparing for the new curriculum together.

Invest in Children at Brentwood Elementary - Volunteers Are Needed

With the start of a new school year, volunteers are needed at Brentwood Elementary! This is a great opportunity for both returning volunteers and those interested in getting involved for the first time. Volunteers can help by listening to first grade students read aloud in small groups, assisting in classrooms, art rooms, music rooms, or lending a hand in the school office.
Information and training will be held TODAY **Sunday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m.**. In fellowship hall. To learn more or to sign up, please contact our volunteer coordinator, **Lorraine Foltz**, at **(215) 589-3237**. or email: lmfoltz@me.com

First Connect / Adult Education

New Class Starting TODAY! *No Ordinary People: C.S. Lewis and the Weight of Glory*
Trace the remarkable pilgrimage of C.S. Lewis—from the trenches of WWI to the halls of Oxford—and discern with us his profound vision for a Christian life that speaks with hope and clarity to our own time.
Leader: Stephen McConnell, retired pastor from Church of the Palms
Dates: August 24, 31 & September 7, 14, 21, 28
Location: Room 203

New Class Starting TODAY! *The Psalms as a Window to Deeper Bible Engagement*
In this hands-on, three-week class, you'll learn how to use the Psalms as a guide to deeper Bible study, equipping you with new tools and confidence to enrich your faith.
Dates: August 24, 31, September 7
Facilitators: Eric Robinson and Doug DeCelle
Location: The Cowden-Smith Library

New Member Class – September 2025

You are warmly invited to join the upcoming New Member Class starting Sunday, September 7 at 10:05 a.m. in the parlor, meeting for four consecutive weeks: September 7, 14, 21, and 28.

This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our church family, our beliefs, and how to become an active member. You'll meet church leaders, tour the facilities, and have time to ask questions about our congregation and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

A called Session meeting to receive new members will be held on September 28. New members will be introduced on Sunday, October 5 during the 10:00 a.m. combined World Communion Sunday service, followed by the mission fair and congregational potluck lunch.

For more information or to RSVP, please call the church office at (941) 955-8119.

Rise Against Hunger – Meal Packing Event

Join us on **SUNDAY, September 14, from 1:00–3:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall as we partner with *Rise Against Hunger* to pack nutritious meals for communities in need around the world. This is a hands-on, family-friendly event—everyone can help make a difference! Let's work together to share Christ's love in a tangible way. Invite a friend, roll up your sleeves, and be part of this exciting mission opportunity. Use the QR code to register. Help reach our goal of 100 volunteers!



Hurricane Preparedness

Hurricane Erin in the Atlantic has reminded us that hurricane season is getting busy, and now is the time to prepare. Make sure you have a plan for your household, including knowing your evacuation zone and where you will go if you need to leave. Take time to gather supplies such as water, non-perishable food, flashlights, batteries, medications, and important documents. Stay informed by following reliable weather sources and signing up for local alerts so you receive the most up-to-date information. Just as important, remember to check in on neighbors and fellow church members, especially those who live alone or may need extra help. As the body of Christ, we are called to care for one another. By preparing well and staying connected, we can face this storm season together with faith and compassion.

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