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, January 28, 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 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.

Annual Congregational Meeting—February 11, at 10:05 a.m.

The session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, February 11, at 10:05 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Timothy T. Boggess, to present the 2024 operating budget, and to present the 2023 annual report.

Adult Education Classes

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

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

Encountering the Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts Starting Sunday February 18 through March 24, in-person at 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.

Financial Update Thank you for your support!

December	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$141,050	$112,653
Expenditures	113,520	126,042
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	1,110,736	1,005,244
Expenditures	$1,042,769	$1,028,435

Your remarkable generosity has enabled us to finish last year with contributions exceeding our expenses.

Hope Seeds

"Plant a seed! Feed a soul! Over 870 million people in the world, don't have enough to eat, and 25,000 people die of hunger every day. At Hope Seeds International, we believe this is the Worlds Most Solvable Crisis.."

Hope Seeds International, located in Bradenton, is a charitable Christian ministry that seeks to improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world by providing quality garden seed and agriculture education. Hope Seeds strives to help as many people as possible to grow food for themselves to help end hunger and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with every seed shipment.

Join us for another fun seed packing event **Thursday, February 8, at 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome! Instructions are given and the task is easy, all done while sitting. You can come for the entire time or drop in for an hour. Contact Flossie Paul at way2goflo@gmail.com so that we can get an approximate count of the number of packers. We need your helping hands.

Cuba Partnership



The next Cuba Partnership trip is scheduled for **February 22- 27** with a ten-member team Graham Hart, Linda Hart, Ken Papa, Carol Papa, Sue Hargis Spigel, Elaine Moffitt, Dick Clapp, Rick Foltz, Nancy Wellinghoff, and Jay Swick. The primary purpose of the trip is to strengthen the relationship with our sister church, Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cárdenas.

Thank you for the Cuba supplies that have already come in. The response to rice and peanut butter has been great! We would now like to focus on cooking oil, spices, flour, sugar, coffee, dried black beans, tuna (foil package pouches), powdered milk, cake and brownie mixes. If you prefer, you may write a check made out to First Presbyterian Church, with "Food for Cuba" noted on the memo line, and we will purchase items through *Supermarket 23*.

Also needed are full and carry-on sized suitcases, new and gently used sports shoes, multivitamins, and pain relievers for both children and adults, as well as cephalexin (Keflex), amoxicillin, doxycycline, and ciprofloxacinare. Specific medications needed are Levetiracetam, Memantine 10mg, Clopidogrel 75mg, Losartan 100mg, Hidroxiurea 500g, Magnesium valproate, Venaton (OTC), Diosmine (OTC), Ocuvite (OTC). Monetary donations will also be accepted for craft and soap making supplies for the artisan's store.

All donations are needed by **February 11**

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, January 31**. Be a part of the group from FPC that gathers at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma to sort food and related activities. This mission partner distributes food to help 600-900 folks each week. To sign up or for more information contact Wendy Miller (941)321-8488 or email towmiller@yahoo.com.

All Faith Food Bank Donations Needed

PROUD PARTNER OF

ENDING HUNGER
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

Boxes for food donations are available at the entrance to worship. Items that are needed are (unopened and not expired) peanut butter, jelly, canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.), canned vegetables and fruit, canned entrees (soups, stews, pasta etc), cereal, shelf-stable milk, dry mixes for cooking or baking, rice and beans. **Specialty items for "walkup" neighbors** are peanut butter and jelly in small containers, canned meat with pop-up lids, tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage, Spam, sardines, snack packs, crackers, granola bars, protein bars, cookies, shelf-stable drinks, canned or packaged entrees with pop-up lids, canned fruit with pop-up lids. Financial donations can also be made to the church with *All Faiths* in the memo.

Shake It Up With Salt Shakers TODAY is the last day to sign up



If you love food and fellowship, don't forget to sign up for the next Salt Shakers - February through April or May. Groups of six to eight people (singles or couples) get together once a month for potlucks, dining at a restaurant, having a picnic or other creative eating options. Sign up forms are in the foyer of fellowship hall and the narthex of the sanctuary. Please sign up by **Sunday, January 28.** Questions? Marcia Schaper (941)922-5245

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