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 10, 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.

Palm Sunday Egg Hunt and Potluck Brunch, March 24



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.
All are welcome following the service for an egg hunt outside and potluck in the fellowship hall. Children are welcome to bring their baskets to hunt for colorful eggs filled with tickets. Tickets can be redeemed at our prize table. Meanwhile, all church members and guests will enjoy food prepared by congregation members inside. The Membership and Fellowship Committee are asking as many church members as possible to please bring a dish. Assignments will be based on last name; A-H: breakfast casseroles, I-Q: fruit, R-Z: pastries/bread
Please let Leah Turner Cotter leah.t.cotter@gmail.com or Sue Nurczyk Flomergirl@outlook.com know if you plan on bringing a dish and reach out to Emily Weitekamp emily.weitekamp@gmail.com or Carrie Mills carriefmills@gmail.com with any questions about the egg hunt.

Maundy Thursday March 28, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Join us in the Sanctuary on Thursday, March 28, for communion and special music. The service will begin at 7:00p.m.

Good Friday March 29, 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel

Join us in the chapel on Friday, March 29, to hear and reflect on Mark's account of the Passion of Jesus. The service will begin at 12:30 p.m..

*Next Inquirers Class is *March 24, 12:00 noon *NOTE: change of date*

Join Pastor Tim after the Palm Sunday Brunch on **Sunday, March 24**, to learn more about FPC. The class will be held upstairs in Room 203. The class will conclude by 2:00 p.m. Those who wish to join the church will have an opportunity to do so at the end of the class. Please contact the church office to RSVP (941) 955-8119.

We Need Your Help!

PROUD PARTNER OF ENDING HUNGER ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

We serve over 150 families per week! *Volunteers are needed at FPC's Weekly All Faiths Food Bank Distribution*. Join us on Thursday mornings, in the south parking lot to volunteer. We start packing food at 8:30 a.m. and serve from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. You don't need to stay the whole time -- any help is welcomed.

Adult Education Class ~ Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts Continues

Sundays through March 24 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 203

Sacred Encounters invites us to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles demonstrate the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. The message to the early Christian community (and to us) is joyous, life-changing, inclusive, and hope-filled.

This class will invite us into a deeper and more compassionate engagement with the world. The author asks: "What are the potential implications for the church if we treat our interactions as sacred encounters that demonstrate the transformative love of Christ Jesus?" 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. Scripture Texts: 3/10 Luke 17:11-21, 3/17 Acts 9:36-42, 3/24 Acts 16:11-15.

SURE Nehemiah Action: Monday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.

Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity SURE

(Doors open at 6:00 p.m.) First Congregational UCC 1031 South Euclid, Sarasota

At the Nehemiah Action, SURE Network Members, members of First Presbyterian Church, friends, relatives and neighbors are invited to walk together as siblings to act for justice.

Why? The backbone of our community is breaking. The workforce in Sarasota County (the teachers, bartenders, waitstaff, caddies, firefighters and police officers, and government employees) cannot afford to live in the county that they have dedicated themselves to serving. No one with the authority or power to do so has any plan to fix this growing crisis.

When God's children come together, we make an impact. We need to be on the same page with a full sanctuary when our elected public officials are present and admit we have an Affordable Housing Crisis!

Provide A Shower and Shoes For Someone

RESURRECTION HOUSE INC
A DAY RESOURCE CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS OF SARASOTA COUNTY

The Resurrection House needs **men's** athletic (tennis) shoes that are clean and in good repair. They also need hotel-size toiletries for the folks who come in for showers and supplies. So, if you have some unused shoes in the back of your closet or can collect some unused toiletries as you travel please bring them to church. There are collection bins at the entrances and at the office. Someone will be really grateful.

Woman's Bible Study

Women's BIBLE STUDY

"Carl Henry, an early evangelical, said the Bible is the most extensively printed, most widely translated and most frequently read book in the world." God calls us to understand his message and share it with others. In Lesson 7 of the PW Bible study, Sacred Encounters, we will be studying the passage in Acts when Philip is instructed to meet with an Ethiopian eunuch on the road to Gaza. Elaine Barnett will be leading the discussion of lesson 7, " An Ethiopian Eunuch Encounters the Good News of Jesus." Join us via Zoom on **Wednesday, March 20 at 10:00 a.m.**. All are invited to join us in this study of sacred encounters. The study guide is optional. However, Elaine Barnett can scan you a copy if you would like one. Also contact Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com for the Zoom information.

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