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 3, 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.

The Cuba team has safely returned to Sarasota!



We are grateful for the time spent with our brothers and sisters of Juan G. Hall as we continue to build our relationship with them. We look forward to sharing some of the ways we support their outreach ministries, as well as the ways we have been transformed by our visit with them. *More to come!*

The ten-member team is Graham Hart, Linda Hart, Ken Papa, Carol Papa, Sue Hargis Spigel, Elaine Moffitt, Dick Clapp, Rick Foltz, Nancy Wellinghoff, and Jay Swick.

Palm Sunday Egg Hunt and Potluck Brunch



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 are welcome to 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.

*Next Inquirers Class is *March 10, 12:00 noon *NOTE: change of date*

Join Pastor Tim after the 11:00 a.m. service on **Sunday, March 10**, to learn more about FPC. The class will be held upstairs in Room 203. Lunch will be provided. 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 (insert contact info) so that we can make sure we have enough food for everyone. (941) 955-8119.

Good Friday March 29, 12:30 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..

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.

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

(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.

Chant Re-Imagined This Friday Night!

Musica Sacra's most riveting concert yet is coming to our sanctuary this Friday night, **March 8 at 7:00 p.m.**
Directed by Steven Phillips, the 30-voice auditioned chorus will explore the heart music of many traditions, including Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, African, and Indonesian. Special guests for the evening are Steph Davis and Tihda Vongkoth, who together form the group Modern Marimba. We'll also hear from oboist Greg Stead, pianist Glenn Priest, percussionist Mark DeRose, bassist Isaac Mingus, spoken word by Carrie Mills, and others. In Steven's words this will be a "deep, exuberant, touching, creative, and mesmerizing" experience. Get tickets at musicasacrasarasota.org and use the code **save10** for a $10 discount.

Invest in Children at Brentwood Elementary



Can you spare an hour a week to hear first grade students at **Brentwood Elementary** practice their reading with you? When children read aloud to an adult and their classmates it reinforces their reading skills. A wonderful first grade class has small reading groups, and all they need is someone to hear them practice. If you can do this on Fridays from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., call our volunteer coordinator, Lorraine Foltz (215)589-3237.

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