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, November 9, 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.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

The flowers this morning are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of the birth of John Matson Ernst, born September 4, 2025, to Allison and Nickolas Ernst, by his proud grandparents, Kathy and John Kutz.

Do You Know Which Members of First Presbyterian Live Near You?

Maybe they worship at a different time, sit near you, or have needs you could help meet—or vice versa. Perhaps you could share rides or other activities. Let's find out!
In the foyer, you'll find street maps of the Sarasota/Bradenton area. The Session invites you to:

1. Write your name on a slip of paper.
2. Locate your home on the map.
3. Place a pin at your address.

Once all pins are in place, we'll plan neighborhood gatherings after the new year—an opportunity to connect and live out being the "Body of Christ" in our neighborhoods.
Thank you for joining this effort to know—and be—neighbors to one another.

Adopt a Classroom – Double Your Impact! DEADLINE IS TODAY

As part of our Invest in Children initiative and our partnership with Brentwood Elementary School, a retired teacher has generously offered to match every $100 gift adopting a second classroom! Your gift will go twice as far, helping to ensure every classroom is equipped and ready for learning. Together, we can make an impact on the children in our community. The deadline is Sunday, November 9. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian with "adopt a classroom" in the memo.

First Connect / Adult Education 10:05 –11:00 a.m.

Our Parent Small Group Meets TODAY

Our parent small group will continue to build community, encouragement and support as we navigate life together as families. We'll continue to share ideas and resources to equip parents together to pass on what matters the most.
Dates: November 9, 23 & December 7
Leaders: Eric Robinson, Susan DeWyngaert, George Chorba, and others
Time & Location: 10:15-10:55 in the Hospitality Suite

The Final Word: Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation

Join us for "The Final Word," a new study that unpacks the mysteries of Revelation through facilitated discussion, focusing on its rich symbolism and original first-century context. Together, we will move beyond literal predictions to grasp its core message of hope and find enduring relevance for our lives today. In today's class, we'll explore what God might be saying to our church through John's letters to the seven churches.
Dates: Ongoing
Facilitators: Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick

The Legacy of Celtic Christianity—continues today

Explore the ancient world of Celtic Christianity, a faith that flourished on the frontiers of the Roman Empire with saints like Patrick, Columba, and Brigid. This tradition offers a unique and powerful vision for faithful living, especially in difficult times.
Dates: November 9, 16, 23, 30 & December 2
Leader: Dent Davis, retired minister and former faculty member at Columbia Seminary
Location: Room 203

Looking Ahead to the Advent Workshop

Sunday, November, 30 at 10:00 in the Courtyard

Get ready for a morning of holiday fun, creativity, and family fellowship at our annual Advent Workshop! This year, we'll offer a variety of hands-on activities for all ages, including faith-filled crafts, seasonal decorations, and a few surprises to help your family prepare for the Advent season.
Join us as we celebrate the coming of Christ, reflect on the hope, peace, joy, and love that Advent represents, and create meaningful memories together as a church family. All ages are welcome—bring your family, friends, and festive cheer as we gather to rejoice in God's gift of Jesus.

Your Name

There is something special about hearing your name spoken—it makes you feel seen, acknowledged, and valued. In the church, our names also remind us of our identity in God. At First Presbyterian Church, we are a community of faith that cherishes every member and worship guest. We would be delighted if you would wear a name tag so that we can extend the hospitality we feel in our hearts and remind you of how vital you are to our fellowship. (It also helps us with occasional memory lapses!)
If you have lost your name tag or would like to order a new one, please stop by the Ambassador Station near the entrance to worship to get a temporary sticker name tag or place an order for a replacement. If you are a worship guest, our Ambassadors are there to answer your questions and welcome you to First

Hurricane Melissa Strikes Jamaica *Category 5 Storm Brings Widespread Devastation*

Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica on Tuesday, October 28, as a powerful Category 5 storm. The destruction is extensive, and recovery will take years.
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is responding with emergency grants and long-term recovery support. You can help through your prayers and gifts.
Checks may be made payable to *First Presbyterian Church*, with *"Melissa"* in the memo line.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study

This month, we will study the third lesson of *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. Everyone faces testing in life. Even Jesus was tested in the wilderness. Scripture tells us that testing produces endurance, which is closely related to resiliency, our ability to withstand and recover from challenges. We invite you to join us as we discuss questions such as: Why was Jesus tested? Can stress be a good thing? This chapter, *Jesus is Tested*, reminds us that we all will face trials, and in those moments we must trust God to help us handle whatever comes our way.
Our discussion will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, November 19, at 10:00 a.m., led by Merle Chorba. We look forward to hearing the ways God has helped you endure difficult times.
For Zoom information and a copy of the lesson, please contact Jinny Miller at jinnyron@gmail.com.

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