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, September 28, 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.

Hey Kids! Join the World Communion Sunday Processional

Sunday, October 5, 10:00 a.m. Want to help lead the worship? Come carry the bread into the sanctuary for World Communion Sunday. Meet us in the narthex at 9:50 a.m. and be part of this special celebration!

World Communion Sunday Combined Service, Mission Fair & Potluck

Join us for worship on **Sunday, October 5, at 10:00 a.m.** as we gather at the Lord's Table with Christians around the world.

After worship, visit the **Mission Fair in the courtyard**, where all of our mission partners will be present, including local, national, and international ministries we support through prayer, service, and financial gifts. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about their work, ask questions, and discover ways to get involved.

Then stay for a **potluck lunch** as we celebrate the unity of Christ's church and the call to serve together. We invite everyone to bring a dish to share!

- Families with last names **A–H**: side dishes & salads
- Families with last names **I–T**: main dishes
- Families with last names **U–Z**: desserts

World Communion Sunday Montreat Fundraiser: October 5

During the Potluck and Mission Fair, please consider supporting our **"Montree"** to help fund future Montreat youth trips! Envelopes will be available for donations ranging from $1 to $100. Funds collected from the **Montree**, along with other fundraisers, will help us reach our overall goal of $5,000, covering half of the trip cost for 2026. Every gift brings us closer to making this experience possible for our youth!

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

No Ordinary People: C.S. Lewis and the Weight of Glory—Wraps up Today
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
Location: Room 203

Parent Small Group Continues This Sunday
The Fall parent small group will continue to build community, encouragement and support as we navigate life together as families. We had a wonderful first session, with some great ideas for additional resources such as children's books, which we'll be sharing with you.
Dates: Sept. 28; Oct. 19; Nov. 9, 23; Dec. 7
Leaders: Eric Robinson, George Chorba, and others
Location: 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.
Dates: Ongoing
Facilitators: Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick
Location: The Library

New First Connect Class!
Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction: Some Stories to Challenge Our Faith
Join us in reading and discussing short stories by American writers that wrestle with questions of morality, justice, doubt, and faith. Together we'll consider how these stories challenge and deepen our own walk with Christ.
Dates: October 12, 19, 26
Leader: John Parks
Location: Room 203

LOVE IS FIRST Shirts Are Back!
By popular demand, our **LOVE IS FIRST** shirts are available again! Share a message of welcome, kindness, and encouragement, get yours for yourself, a family member, or a friend.
Available through the link in News @ First, the QR code or at the **FPC booth** at the Mission Fair.

Chapel News
Feeling stressed and anxious about the turmoil in the news of world affairs? Or just needing a quiet place to sit in silence and pray? Our Lord took time to go apart to be with God to pour out his heart and be grounded in the Divine love and presence. Our spiritual lives are nurtured, sustained and empowered through spiritual practices like silence. The Chapel will be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 -4:00 p.m. for silent prayer and meditation.

Youth Service Outing TODAY 12:30-3:30 at Siesta Beach
Youth will be meeting at Siesta Beach (Turtle Pavilion) from 12:30-3:30 p.m. today. We will have lunch, then embark on a beach cleanup for Sarasota County. Please bring a water bottle and sunscreen and be ready for an afternoon of fun and service! Please see Eric Robinson for more details and for a map.

Help Us Connect Our Community!
Support our Adult Education program with Zoom setup or video editing. All skill levels welcome! Contact **Eric Robinson** ERobinson@FirstPresSarasota.org to get involved.

Peace & Global Witness Offering
On **World Communion Sunday, October 5**, we will receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering. This offering helps the church share the peace of Christ by addressing conflict and injustice and by building reconciliation across the world. It empowers congregations like ours to be instruments of peace, bringing light and hope into places of anxiety and division.
25% remains with our congregation to support peacemaking efforts in our own community.
25% strengthens peacemaking in our region through the work of mid councils.
50% supports the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s ministries of peace, reconciliation, and global witness.
As we gather around the globe at Christ's table, we also join together in proclaiming and sharing His peace through this special offering.

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