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, July 6, 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! For the 10:00 a.m. worship in June and July, children are invited to engage in worship through a variety of activity resources. Coloring sheets are available on the tables in the fellowship hall, and a children's activity center is set up in the corner of the room. In the Sanctuary, worship bags with quiet activities are available in the narthex. Feel free to pick one up on your way in.

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)

Summer Worship: What's Coming in July & August

Today, July 6, worship is in the Fellowship Hall. Worship will continue in the Fellowship Hall for all Sundays in July. On Sunday, August 3, we'll return to the sanctuary for a combined service and potluck lunch. Then on Sunday, August 10, our two-service schedule resumes with Rally Day and a Backpack Blessing. Stay after worship each Sunday for coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship!

Ice Cream Social, July 20 - For The Whole Church Family

Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 20, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a Family Ice Cream Social. We'll gather at **Great Heights Creamery** (1371 Blvd. of the Arts) for a time of sweet treats and even sweeter fellowship. Bring the whole family and come enjoy some cool ice cream and warm community!

Worship Online

If you miss a Sunday morning worship, you can view the archived live streaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live or https://www.youtube.com/@fpcsarasota4017. Services are archived for one year, so you can go back and watch your favorite sermon or send a link to a friend!

Sunday School Teachers and Subs Needed This Fall

Our Sunday School ministry plays a vital role in nurturing the faith of our youngest members. Each week, dedicated volunteers share God's love and help children grow in their relationship with Jesus through stories, activities, and prayer. As we prepare for the Fall, this is our greatest need. We are looking for adults who feel led to walk alongside our children, on a regular basis or as an occasional substitute. Training, curriculum, and support are all provided. All you need is a willing heart and a love for Jesus and kids! If you are curious or feel a nudge to get involved, we'd love to talk with you. To learn more or ask questions please reach out to Eric Robinson ERobinson@firstpressarasota.org .

College/Continuing Education/Technical School Scholarships

Interested students should go to the website www.firstpressarasota.org, go to "Grow" tab and select "Young Adult" and print an application. The application and transcripts must be received by Monday, **July 28.** Returning applicants need only to have a current transcript sent in along with any updated contact information. All college and technical school students are encouraged to apply.

Summer Sundays: Ephesians & 1 John

Our Sunday School class continues through the summer with a study of *Ephesians* and *1 John*—powerful books on Christ, salvation, and growing in faith. Join us Sundays, through **August 10, 9:00–9:45 a.m.** in Room 203. (Note: August 10 meets **10:05–10:55 a.m.**) The class is led by Eric Robinson, Richard Cole, Doug DeCelle and Susan DeWyngaert. Please check the newsletter for specific class updates, or email Eric at erobinson@firstpresssarasota.org.

Family Ministry Updates

Please join us each Sunday this summer for an engaging time of worship, children's message, and activities. We have worship bulletins for kids and teens, and many ways to engage with the Bible in our Family Newsletter.

Support Families Through Family Promise's ReStock Room

Family Promise's ReStock Room helps families transitioning into stable housing by providing essential household items. Right now, there is a special need for small appliances in working condition—especially coffee makers, toasters, and similar items. They are also seeking donations of pots and pans, dishes, cutlery, sheets, and towels. If you have gently used items to share, please contact Joanne Simons at simonsjc1@gmail.com to arrange a pickup.

Adult Education Class: "Faith in the Early Church" Has Been Rescheduled

This class will be taught on **Tuesdays starting July 22 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom** by Elaine Barnett. See *New@First* for details.

Realm Directory

Check out the online directory — all you need is your login. Need help? Call the church office for more information (941)955-8119.

10th Annual Celtic Christmas – Planning Has Begun!

We're excited to announce that planning is underway for this year's 10th Annual Celtic Christmas—a cherished two-performance tradition celebrating music, faith, and Celtic heritage! To help fund this special event, advertising sponsorships in the program booklet are available, and donations are warmly welcomed. Your support makes it possible to share the joy of the season through the gifts of talented musicians and singers. **Míle buíochas!** *(A big Celtic thank you!)* Contact Steven Phillips, SPhillips@FirstPresSarasota.org, for more information.

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