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, February 16, 2025

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.

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.

Today We Welcome Robert C. ("R.C.") Smith as our Guest Preacher

RC grew up in a Quaker family outside of Philadelphia. After joining the Presbyterian Church at the age of 21 He felt called to the ministry and graduated from Princeton Seminary in 1981. R.C. served six churches in Pennsylvania over 37 years before moving to Sarasota in 2018. He served as interim pastor for three congregations in Peace River Presbytery until retiring nearly two years ago. His wife Barbara, is also a Presbyterian minister.

New Member Class - Starts Today

You are warmly invited to join the upcoming new member class starting **Today Sunday, February 16 at 10:05 a.m. in room 203**. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our church community, beliefs, and how to become an active member or affiliate member. We welcome you to come as you are and ask any questions you may have. **February 16** - Get acquainted. **February 23** - Who we are: a description of FPC. **March 2** - Annual Congregational meeting summarizing the previous year. **March 9** - Tour the facilities and meet with the Session. **March 16** - During worship, be recognized as a new member of First Presbyterian Church. For more information or to RSVP call the church office (941) 955-8119.

Youth Sunday Next Sunday *February 23, Two Services in the Sanctuary*

This year, middle and high school youth will lead both services!

Annual Congregational Meeting—March 2, at 10:05 a.m.

The session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, March 2 at 10:05 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Timothy T. Boggess, to present the 2025 operating budget, and to present the 2024 annual report.

Cuba Partnership Trip, February 13-17

A small team from FPC traveled to Cárdenas, Cuba, to be part of Juan G. Hall's 125th anniversary celebration. They left on Thursday and will return on Monday, February 17. Our team – Graham Hart, Tim Boggess, Ken Papa, and Carol Papa – will join members of the two other sister churches, Lakeview in New Orleans and Idlewild in Memphis, as well as other groups from the U.S. and other countries in participating in the celebration.

This celebration will happen during a challenging time for the people in Cuba with frequent and lengthy power outages and extreme food and fuel shortages. Our presence there provides much encouragement and hope for our sisters and brothers in Christ.

Creation in Exodus - Adult Education Class, February 16, 23, March 9, 16 at 10:05 a.m. in the Parlor.

Discussion leaders: Eric Robinson and Doug DeCelle. Discussions of Creation often begin and end with the first two chapters of Genesis. However, the Bible is replete with themes of God's continued creative work throughout, which tells us much about God and ourselves. This creative work is also invitational, inviting us to take part in God's work in the world. From the stories of the 10 plagues to the parting of the Red Sea to the building of the Tabernacle, the book of Exodus continues the theme of the God who is continually creating and involved in God's own creation. This class will explore these important creation themes from passages in the book of Exodus.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you for your generous donations we raised **$1748.91.** These funds will be used to partially support our next Raise Against Hunger meal-packing event.

Ash Wednesday, Intergenerational Meal and Worship March 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

We will come together for an intergenerational meal, a time of reflection and worship. The supper and service will occur in the fellowship hall, ending in the labyrinth.
There will be soup, bread, cut-up veggies, and mac & cheese.
We are looking for volunteers for: six crock pots of soup, two veggie trays, large pans of mac and cheese. The church will provide the bread. Please get in touch with Kim Schmiets at schmeitshk@icloud.com if you can help with the food.

Let Justice Roll Down, Bible Study - Wednesday, February 19

Climate change is real. The sixth lesson of the Presbyterian Woman's *Horizons Bible Study,* Let Justice Roll Down is "Climate Change." We will be studying the causes of climate change, how we can not fall into despair and what can be done to help solve the crisis. All are invited to join us for this Bible study. It is held via Zoom the third Wednesday of each month.
Our next lesson, **February 19** at 10:00 a.m., will be presented by a selected group of participants. We look forward to some meaningful discussions about what changes we are making to effect climate change. Please reach out to Elaine Barnett at ewbarnet@me.com for the Zoom information and a copy of the lesson.

Covenants of God Bible Study via Zoom beginning **February 25** for six weeks, Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

Covenants are essential in the biblical story. God relates to creation, chooses a people, establishes a law for the nation of Israel, promises a Messiah and enacts a new covenant in Jesus Christ. The Christian church then becomes part of God's covenant people. The following study enhances our understanding of the covenant theme in the Bible. We will also always seek what it means to be God's covenant people.

Elaine Barnett will teach the class via Zoom. Elaine is a member of FPC, an ordained Elder, and a PC(USA) Certified Christian Educator. Sign up for the class by emailing Elaine: ewbarnet@icloud.com.

Realm and Online Giving

The wait is over; members and affiliate members are now able to access Realm! What are you waiting for? Please call the church office and we will be happy to assist you (941) 955-8119.

For on-line givers, please use the QR code or enter https://onrealm.org/fpcsrq/give/now into your favorite browser. Text "FPC2050" to 73256 to give, using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP.

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