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, October 26, 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.

Today We Welcome Scott Sabin as Our Guest Preacher

Scott has served as the Executive Director and CEO of ***Plant With Purpose*** since 1995, growing the organization from a single program in one country to over 900 communities across eight countries. Motivated by the unique intersection of spiritual, environmental, and economic work, Scott has spent more than 25 years addressing deforestation and poverty in rural communities.

Prior to joining Plant With Purpose, Scott served seven years in the United States Navy as a Surface Warfare Officer and worked as a Program Manager at Floresta from 1993 to 1996. In 2010, he published *Tending to Eden: Environmental Stewardship for God's People*.

Scott holds a B.A. in Political Science from Oregon State University and an M.A. in International Relations from the University of San Diego. He resides in San Diego with his wife, Nancy, and their two children, Amanda and Danny. On any given Saturday, Scott can often be found dinghy sailing on San Diego's waterways.

Pumpkin Carving! TODAY

10:00 - 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall Courtyard

Get ready for an amazing time, as all families at First Presbyterian are invited to our much-anticipated annual Pumpkin Carving event! Prepare to unleash your creativity as we carve spooky, silly, and spectacular masterpieces in a time filled with festive fun. We can't wait to see you there for this exciting opportunity to make wonderful fall memories together!



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

Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction: Some Stories to Challenge Our Faith
LAST CLASS TODAY
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. This week, we'll discuss the story "Omelas."
Dates October 26
Leader: John Parks
Location: Room 203

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
Location: The Library

New Class Begins November 2
The Legacy of Celtic Christianity
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 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & December 2 (6 Sessions)
Leader: Dent Davis, retired minister and former faculty member at Columbia Seminary
Location: Room 203

Youth Outing at TreeUmph, TODAY

The youth at First Presbyterian are invited to an exhilarating outing at TreeUmph for an adventure in the trees! Prepare to test your limits and have a blast as you swing on ropes, navigate challenging obstacles, and experience the thrill of ziplining. Come and enjoy a day of fun, fellowship, and high-flying excitement. Time: Sunday, October 26 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Address: 21805 State Road 70 E, Bradenton, FL 34202

Chapel News

The chapel is open Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. for silent prayer and meditation.
"In the end, contemplation is not about escaping life but entering into it more fully. It is how we listen for God in the silence—and how we hear God in the cries of the poor, the groaning of creation, and the joy of being alive. It is how we remember what's good and live from that place for the sake of the world."
from the Center for Contemplation and Action.

Calling All Knitters & Crocheters!

The Care Team is collecting **prayer shawls** to share God's love and comfort. If you can, please make one or donate washable yarn. Drop off at the church office. **Contact:** Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, 941-320-3828, 4tracks@comcast.net

Help Us Connect Our Community!

Help us connect our entire community by lending your tech skills to our adult education program! We are looking for friendly faces to help with everything from setting up our Zoom classes to editing recordings. Whether you're a pro or a beginner, we have a place for you! Please contact Eric Robinson to learn how you can help!

Adopt a Classroom – Double Your Impact!

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! Brentwood still has 23 classrooms to be adopted. 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.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry Volunteer Day Trip

Join us on Wednesday, October 29, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon as we travel to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma. Volunteers will help sort food and assist with related tasks that support 600–900 people each week. The need is greater than ever. We need your help.
To sign up, get details, or carpool, contact Wendy Miller at (941) 321-8488 or towmiller@yahoo.com.

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