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, March 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.

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God by the deacons and in honor of all those who are unable to attend church in person, but who worship with us online. May they enjoy the beauty of the flowers through their screens as a reminder of our shared faith.

Today We Welcome the Rev. Dr. Susan DeWyngaert Back To Our Pulpit

Susan served as senior pastor/head of staff at First Presbyterian Church from 1997-2011. She retired from Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, MD in 2022. She has also served as associate pastor at Venice Presbyterian Church and Selwyn Ave. Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC. Susan has two grown daughters, Rachel and Sarah Kate, who grew up at First Presbyterian. As the family they will always be grateful for the love and nurture of FPC, particularly for the children's and youth ministries. Her four grand-children, Louisa (7) Elizabeth (5) Teddy (4) and Rebecca (3) are the light of her life.

April 13, All Church, Palm Sunday Egg Hunt and Potluck Brunch

We look forward to beginning Holy Week with you on Palm Sunday. We will mark Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem at **one service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary**. Children and youth are welcome to join our annual palm procession at the beginning of the service. Following the service all are welcome for an egg hunt outside and a potluck in the fellowship hall. Children are welcome to bring their baskets to hunt for eggs filled with tickets. Tickets can be redeemed at our prize table. Meanwhile, all church members and guests will enjoy food inside. Suggested assignments based on last name; A-M: breakfast casseroles, N-Q: fruit, R-Z: pastries/bread. Please contact Eric Robinson at ERobinson@Firstpressarasota.org with any questions about the egg hunt.

Financial Update

February	Actual	Budget
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 147,381	$ 125,977
Expenditures	91,278	94,405
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	388,708	396,804
Expenditures	$ 178,404	$ 193,604

Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillments during the first two months of 2025.

Happy Birthday Rev. Dr. Margaret Towner!

Marg Towner is celebrating her 100th birthday on March 19. In 1956, Marg was the first woman to be ordained to the ministry by PCUSA, with her ordination taking place at Syracuse-Cayuga Presbytery in New York. She has been a role model and mentor to a number of women who followed her into the ministry. Marg has been a friend to First Presbyterian Sarasota for many years and joins us virtually each week for worship. Cards sent to the church office will be delivered to her.

Covenants of God

Bible Study via Zoom continues on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m through April 1.
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.

Let Justice Roll Down

"You will always have the poor with you." It is our challenge to reduce suffering and strengthen the social network. The seventh lesson of the PW Horizons Bible Study, Let Justice Roll Down is "Economic Climate Justice." We will be studying about the dry corridor in Central America and its effects on migration. We can learn what is being done to solve this crisis. All are invited to join us for this Bible study. The lesson will be held via Zoom on March 19th at 10:00 a.m. and will be led by Flossie Paul. We look forward to meaningful discussions about what is the Green Fund and how restorative justice works. Please reach out to Elaine Barnett at ewbarnet@me.com for the Zoom info and a copy of the lesson if needed.

Family Promise

is opening a "Restock Room" for its client families. Three new opportunities for volunteers:

- Help set up the Restock Room "store" for families, create an inventory, receive donations, and stock shelves as needed. All items will be free to client families. Please contact Jane Jernoske at 856.392.5096 or email jjernoske@aol.com
- Donate gently used bed linens, towels, paper products, personal care items, and cleaning supplies. Contact Joanne Simons at 703-798-7330 or SimonsJC1@gmail.com.
- Work in the office - work about 4 or 5 hours a month in their new location at Faith Lutheran Church on South Beneva Road, sending "thank you" letters, and other tasks clerical tasks. Please contact Cindy Schalk at 941.806.7301 or email fpsmcs2023@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of Family Promise!

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.