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, April 14, 2024

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 better!

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.

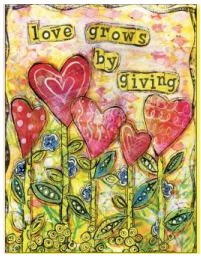
Children Of All Ages Are Welcome in Worship! At the New Song (9:00 a.m.) service there are coloring sheets on the tables and an activity center in the corner. At the traditional (11:00 a.m.) service, children are invited to take a worship bag hanging in the narthex. Sunday School is from 10:00 - 11:00 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 Livestreaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services is available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live. Additionally, sermons are archived on YouTube.

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.

Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering - Today



In 1922 Presbyterian Women chose to support the mission of their church by giving one dime for every year of their lives in a special offering called their Birthday Offering. 1922 a dime would equal $1.85 today.Since then, Presbyterian Women Churchwide have shared over $37 million for vital mission projects dedicated to improving the lives of women and children.

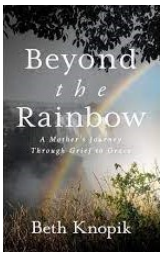
Today, you can celebrate your own birthday by giving to the Birthday Offering. Make check payable to FPC with Birthday in the memo. Your "Birthday" gift will support two mission projects in Missouri and Kentucky. Happy Birthday!

Financial Update

March	Actual	Budget
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$115,744	$ 65,853
Expenditures	81,891	95,366
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	486,265	416,263
Expenditures	$236,402	$267,365

Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillment during the first quarter of 2024.

A Deeper Dive… New Adult Sunday Class with Beth Knopik



Continuing every Sunday in April, from 10:05 – 10:50 a.m. (between services) in the parlor, we will explore topics/questions related to Beth Knopik's memoir, *A Grace Disguised, A Mother's Journey Through Grief to Grace.* Beth will lead us through an interactive discussion, delving deeper into each topic. One does not need to read the book to participate.

New Adult Class, The Bible, The Church and Social Issues



Tuesdays 11:30 a.m. via Zoom - April 16 - May 21

While Christianity is a personal religion, it is also an eminently social religion. We are never Christians "on our own." Our faith takes shape and is expressed in the context of the Christian community, the church. The church lives its mission and ministries in the context of social communities, wherever they may be. Christians in the Reformed and Presbyterian traditions have emphasized that the church must engage in issues in society. One of the "Great Ends of the Church" is "The Promotion of Social Righteousness." Society is where God is at work. This class will be led by Elaine Barnett, a member of FPC, an Elder and Certified Christian Educator. Register by emailing Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com.

All Faith Food Bank (AFFB) Donations Needs

PROUD PARTNER OF ENDING HUNGER ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

Food Carts for donations are available at the entrance to worship

Thanks to your overwhelming financial donations to this mission, we now have enough money to purchase needed food supplies through AFFB for our drive through food bank on Thurs-days. We are also able to meet our financial obligation to the Caritas walkup pantry on Main Street. THANK YOU FPC!!!

We still need "specialty items" for our "walkup" neighbors that are not always available through the AFFB warehouse.

Peanut butter and jelly in small containers, canned meat with pop-up lids, tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage, Spam, sardines, snack packs, crackers, granola bars, protein bars, cookies, shelf-stable drinks ,canned or packaged entrees with pop-up lid, canned fruit with pop-up lids.
Also, financial donations can be made to the church designated to All Faiths.

Woman's Bible Study

Women's BIBLE STUDY

"Through her faith, leadership, and resources Lydia - and other women like her - helped Christianity grow and thrive." In lesson 8 of the PW Bible study, Sacred Encounters, we will be studying the passage in Acts when Lydia responds to the preaching of Paul. Merle Chorba will be leading the discussion, "Lydia Encounters Jesus in Worship". Join us via Zoom on Wednesday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to join us in this study. The study guide is optional. However, Elaine Barnett can scan you a copy if you would like one. Also contact Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com to get the Zoom information, if this is your first lesson.

FPC Arts Advocates Training Session

We are taking the next steps with our Arts Advocates program. You are invited to attend a training session on Thursday, April 25 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. During this session Steven Phillips and Rachel Martin will familiarize advocates with our facilities and will outline best practices related to concerts on the FPC campus. Please call the church office at (941) 955-8119 to sign up.

Open Forum on Faith and Difference - April 19

Our LGBTQ+ Fellowship Group invites you to attend our fifth **Open Forum on Faith and Difference on Friday, April 19 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** in the fellowship hall. The theme for the night is "God Must Really Love Diversity," with guest leader Rev. Lillie Brock, pastor of Church of the Trinity Metropolitan Community Church (MCC). The MCC denomination was started in 1978 by Rev. Troy Perry as a safe haven for people of difference in sexuality and/or gender identification. Come hear about Lillie's own journey of faith, and learn how we can move our world forward in love and acceptance.

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