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 15, 2026

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.

Inquirers' Class Continues Today Curious about First Presbyterian or considering membership? Our Inquirers' Class **continues today** and Sunday, March 22, 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the Parlor. Come ask questions, explore faith, and learn how we follow Jesus together. New members will be welcomed on Palm Sunday, March 29, at 10:00 a.m.

Lent First Connect Class: Stewards of Living Water Take a midday pause this Lenten season to connect your faith with action! In "Stewards of Living Water," a new study by Eric Robinson, we'll explore how God invites us to become active partners in bringing life to a thirsty world. It's not too late to join the conversation. The class meets Wednesdays, March 11, 18, 25, and April 1, from 12:15–1:15 p.m. in Room 203 and on Zoom, with Eric Robinson and Susan DeWyngaert.

Financial Update

February	Actual	Budget
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 147,250	$ 123,835
Expenditures	93,064	106,213
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	573,784	415,387
Expenditures	$ 177,602	$ 198,063

Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillments during the first two months of 2026.

Realm Directory
Check out the directory — all you need is your login. Need help? Call the church office for more information.

Palm Sunday Worship and Potluck Luncheon - March 29, 10:00 a.m.
Celebrate Palm Sunday with us on March 29! Join our 10:00 a.m. worship service with a joyful processional and inspiring worship for all ages. Afterward, enjoy our Annual Potluck Luncheon (bring a dish by last name: A–F: Salads/Rolls, G–N: Main Dishes, O–T: Desserts, U–Z: Sides). Families can join a fun Egg Hunt with games and prizes. Celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry with worship, fellowship, and fun for all!



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

The Final Word Class—Exploring Revelation
Join us for *The Final Word* as we unpack the mysteries and "wild imagery" of Revelation in a safe, open space that values discussion over lectures. Discover how this "horrifying, yet comforting" book speaks to our world today and calls us to bold living.
Dates: Ongoing
Location: the Library
Facilitators: Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick

New Workshop! Faith for the Future: Demystifying the Church Foundation
Want to plant seeds of faith that bloom for generations? Join Foundation President Betsy Marshall to learn how our church's foundation serves as a long-term "savings account" for God's work, distinct from the daily budget. Discover how simple it is to leave a lasting legacy that ensures First Presbyterian thrives for the future.
Date: March 22
Time & Location: 10:05-10:55 Room 203 **Leader:** Betsy Marshall

Wonders of Worship: Parent Group Continues TODAY
Discover simple, practical ways to help your children engage with God during worship. Join our 40-minute conversational sessions for encouragement and ideas that fit your busy family life.
Dates: March 15, & 22
Time/Location: 10:15-10:55 The Hospitality Suite

First Connect Class: Lost Christianities – the Forgotten Background of the Middle East

The history of Christianity in the Middle East helps us understand today's religious conflicts in Israel, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt. Join Dent Davis retired minister and former Columbia Seminary faculty member, for the last class exploring this rich and complex history. The class will meet in **Room 203, March 8 and 15, 10:05—10:55 a.m.**

Register for VBS 2026: Snowball Mountain Challenge!

Trade the summer heat for a winter wonderland this June 15-19. Kids will discover bravery and resilience through God's strength with frosty games and hands-on Bible lessons. Scan the QR code to register your "Challengers" today, or contact Eric Robinson, Leah Cotter, or Emily Weitekamp with questions.

Ring Sarasota Concert – TODAY Sunday, March 15

Join us in the sanctuary for Ring Sarasota as they present *Ocean Vibes: Cruisin' with Ring Sarasota!* Enjoy a lively handbell concert featuring more than 200 bells and a musical journey full of energy and fun. Tickets are $20 and available at the door or by contacting Rick Holdsworth at rick@ringsarasota.org. We hope to see you there for this wonderful afternoon of music!

Finding Our Identity

We are in Part III, Lesson 7: "The Woman Who Was Bent Over" (Luke 13:10-17). Many of us find our identity in our careers, hobbies, or family—imagine having it defined by an affliction. We'll explore her response to Jesus' healing and the synagogue leader's reaction, learning to serve with a compassionate, healing heart. The lesson will be led by Sandi Soper, and we will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. If this is your first time attending, please reach out to Jinny Miller at jinnyron@gmail.com for Zoom information.

Buckle Up for a Magical Musical Journey from Booker Middle School's VPA Theatre Program!

Don't miss *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.* performed by the VPA Musical Theatre students from Booker Middle School! Flying onto the Booker High School stage (3201 N. Orange Ave.) on Friday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 28 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., catch our own Alice Mills as the quirky Caractacus Potts, directed by Carrie Mills. This delightful musical, based on the 1968 movie, promises unforgettable songs, whimsical characters, and high-flying adventure! **Tickets:** VIP Reserved $25 | General Admission Adult $10 Student $5. Tickets are available online at https://bookerms.booktix.com or in person before each show. See you in the seats!

All Faith Food Bank: Walk to End Summer Hunger

Join us to kick off the Campaign Against Summer Hunger with All Faith Food Bank at a community walk on Saturday, March 28, at Riverview High School (1 Ram Way, Sarasota, FL 34231). The site opens at 7:30 a.m., and the walk begins at 8:30 a.m. This event launches our annual campaign to raise funds for children at risk of summer hunger. Registration is $35 per person at allfaithsfoodbank.org. Walk, give, and help ensure every child in our community has the nourishment they need when school is out.

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