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 2, 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.

New Member Class

You are warmly invited to join the upcoming New Member Class starting 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.

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Continues today, February 2, and 9 at 10:05-10:55 a.m. in room 203, taught by Janet Olshewsky. Christmas is still going on. Scripture tells us that all of us have spiritual gifts, to be used for the common good. Which ones are yours? How can you use yours for the common good? These are questions to be addressed in this class for the next two weeks.

Financial Update

December	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$135,576	$118,451
Expenditures	116,062	117,188
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	1,199,408	1,094,163
Expenditures	$1,080,248	$1,163,354

Thank you for your support!

Parent Small Group *Starting **TODAY February 2**, 10:10-10:50 in the Parlor*

We are excited about our upcoming once-per-month small group for parents! Through much discernment and discussion, we have decided on a study called ***Caring for One Another: 8 Ways to Cultivate Meaningful Relationships.*** You will find this study to be enriching and encouraging.

More than just a study, the goal of our time together will be to strengthen our time of fellowship and to be an encouragement and support for one another.

We are also arranging for some *premium coffee for the group to enjoy!*

Contact Eric Robinson, Director of Christan Education, for more information.

Youth Sunday *February 23, two services in the Sanctuary*

This year, middle and high school youth will lead both services! **We are looking for 2nd to 5th graders to be ushers and greeters for both services!** Contact Eric Robinson or Leah Cotter if your children are interested in participating.

Volunteers Needed

Our children and youth ministries are looking for volunteers to serve as Sunday School teachers and subs, help lead youth outings and youth group meetings, and provide meals for children and youth events. Please contact Eric or Leah if interested!

Save the Date! *June 9-13, 2025 9:00 a.m.—Noon*

Get excited about our 2025 **Vacation Bible School**! It is open to all rising kindergartners through 5th grade. Middle School and High School youth are invited to help as leaders! Mark your calendar! More information will be provided soon, and registration will open in March! We will need all kinds of volunteers as well.

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!
The office has sent a **SECOND** reminder email and there are 272 unanswered invitations to join Realm. Call the church office (941) 955-8119 for assistance.

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.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Southern California is facing multiple uncontrolled fires, exacerbated by strong winds and dry conditions. Tens of thousands of residents have been forced to evacuate, and more than 57,000 homes are threatened.

PDA is in communication with the affected presbyteries to offer resources in the aftermath of the fires. So far, we are aware of one Presbyterian church destroyed (Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church) and several more are threatened. We will know more once the fires are contained and evacuation orders have been lifted. We pray for all lives affected, for swift containment and the safety of first responders.

The session has decided to take a special offering to help with recovery efforts in Southern California. To help, please makes checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, with FIRES in the memo.

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