

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, August 16, 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.fpcsrq.org/streaming 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/Lisa@fpcsrq.org.



Sanctuary Flowers in Memory of Elaine Barnett

Presbyterian Women have donated today's flowers to the glory of God and in celebration of the life of Elaine Barnett, whose birthday is today. We remember with gratitude her faithful ministry, leadership at First Presbyterian, and, most of all, her friendship. Her love and legacy continue to bless our church.

Today is Rally Day & Sunday School Kickoff!

Celebrate the start of a new program year at First Presbyterian! Sunday School returns for children, youth, and adults, with opportunities for everyone to learn, grow, and connect.

Share your gifts through Christian Education!

We welcome teachers, assistants, youth activity helpers, and behind-the-scenes volunteers. Your time and talents help nurture faith and strengthen our church family. Come join us for a wonderful new year! To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Tim Walsh TimW@fpcsrq.org

Financial Update

July	Actual	Budget
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	\$ 88,173	\$ 75,935
Expenditures	88,094	101,980
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	985,032	837,585
Expenditures	\$ 669,395	\$ 772,571

As we move through the summer months, a time when giving often slows down; every gift, big or small, helps us continue serving, connecting, and making an impact. Thank you for your continued support!

Congregational Meeting – August 30

Please plan to join us for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 30, at 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary. The congregation will gather to elect new officers for the Class of 2029. Please join us as we prayerfully elect those who will help lead and serve First Presbyterian Church in the years ahead.

New Adult Sunday School Class: Aging as a Spiritual Journey

Beginning Sunday, September 13, Dent Davis and Mary Ziegler will lead a new adult Sunday School class, *Aging as a Spiritual Journey*.

As Job reminds us, “*Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom*” (Job 32:7). Aging is a journey filled with opportunities for spiritual growth, reflection, and deeper understanding. Together, we will explore stories from the Bible, history, and literature, along with insights from gerontology and psychology, to discover how faith can enrich the aging experience.

Participants will have opportunities to reflect on their own journeys and gain practical insights for navigating the joys and challenges of aging.

Join us Sundays, September 13–October 25 (no class October 4) at 10:00 a.m. in Room 203.

Memorial Garden Renewed

We are pleased to announce the completion of the renovation of our Memorial Garden, a beautiful and peaceful space renewed for reflection, prayer, and remembrance.

This sacred area continues to provide a meaningful place to honor and celebrate the lives of loved ones while offering a quiet setting for members and visitors to pause, reflect, and pray. Care was taken to preserve the dignity and significance of this special space as a place of peace and spiritual connection for generations to come.

Through thoughtful planning and the dedication of many individuals, the Memorial Garden has been beautifully restored as a lasting gift to our church community. We invite you to visit and experience the beauty, serenity, and reverence it offers.

Invest in Children – Make a Difference at Brentwood School

Do you have a heart for children and a desire to make a lasting impact in your community? Brentwood School is looking for caring individuals to volunteer their time and talents to help nurture and support young minds. There are several ways you can get involved—whether it's through one-on-one mentoring, assisting teachers in the classroom or helping in the office. Every moment you spend with a child can inspire confidence, build trust, and plant the seeds for a brighter future.

If you feel called to serve and invest in the lives of children, we'd love to hear from you! For more information or to get started, please contact Lorraine Foltz at lmfoltz@me.com.

Your time could be the difference a child needs!

Our Relationship with Juan G. Hall Is So Important

Thank you for your continued support of our sister church, Juan G. Hall, in Cuba. Your generous gifts recently provided food through Supermarket 23, helping the church provide breakfasts, snacks, and lunches to people in the congregation and neighborhood. Pastor Josué Montejo Bayola shared, “Your help is so important for our church...you remain alongside us—to sustain us.”

Cuba Partners Network: Sue Hargis Spigel will travel to Cuba in October as a representative of the Cuba Partners Network. We hope to send two 50-pound bags of supplies with her and will share information soon about how you can help.

Next Mission Trip: We are exploring a mission trip to Juan G. Hall in February. Join us Sunday, September 6, at 10:00 a.m. in the church parlor to learn more about the trip and the current situation in Cuba. Questions? Contact Graham Hart [\(941\) 539-3235](tel:9415393235) or Carol Papa [\(941\) 374-0311](tel:9413740311)

First Presbyterian Receives Grant From All Faith Food Bank

FPC recently received a grant to cover the costs of repairing and maintaining a commercial freezer used to keep food for distribution during our Thursday operation. This allows us to continue to order enough food to ensure everyone is served while reducing waste. This grant means we can use our existing funds to purchase food and increase the variety we hand out. Thanks AFFB!

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

