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 9, 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.

The Sanctuary Flowers Today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of L. Thomas (Tom) Melly by his wife Judy.

New Member Class

You are warmly invited to join the upcoming new member class starting **next Sunday, 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.

Souper Bowl of Caring is Today

Beginning in 1990 with a simple prayer by a Presbyterian seminary intern, who wanted to inspire others on Super Bowl Sunday to donate to those "who are without a bowl of soup to eat." Since then, youth groups have been harnessing the energy of people coming together for football, food, and fun to raise funds to help feed those in need.

Today, our youth and children will be stationed with soup pots at the doors after both services to collect your monetary gifts to help alleviate hunger in our area or abroad. Checks may be made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Souper Bowl" in the memo line.

Cuba Partnership Trip, February 13-17



February 13, a small team from FPC will travel to Cárdenas, Cuba, to be part of Juan G. Hall's 125th anniversary celebration. Our team – Graham Hart, Tim Boggess, Ken Papa, and Carol Papa – will join members of the two other sister churches, Lakeview in New Orleans and Idlewild in Memphis, as well as other groups from the U.S. and other countries in participating in the celebration.

This celebration will happen during a challenging time for the people in Cuba with frequent and lengthy power outages and extreme food and fuel shortages. Our presence there provides much encouragement and hope for our sisters and brothers in Christ.

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 for Vacation Bible School (VBS)! *June 9-13, 2025 9:00 a.m.—Noon*

It is open to all rising kindergartners through 5th grade. Middle school and high school youth are invited to help as leaders! 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! 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.

Provide A Shower and Shoes For Someone

The Resurrection House needs **men's** athletic (tennis) shoes that are clean and in good repair. They also need hotel-size toiletries for the folks who come in for showers and supplies. If you have some unused shoes in the back of your closet or can collect some unused toiletries as you travel, please bring them to church. There are collection bins at the sanctuary and fellowship hall entrances and at the church office. Someone will be really grateful.

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