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, November 2, 2025

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.

All Saints Day

Today, we remember and honor those in our congregation who have passed away during the past year. You are invited to light a candle in memory of a loved one—either before the service or as you come forward for communion. May their memory shine as a blessing and bring comfort to all who loved them.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

The flowers today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Ron and Betty Holdsworth's 76th wedding anniversary on November 4 and Ron's 95th Birthday on November 2.

Who Is My Neighbor?

Do you know which members of First Presbyterian live in your neighborhood? Perhaps they worship at a different time, or sit near you in worship, and you've never met them. Maybe they have needs you could help meet—or perhaps you have needs they would be glad to help with. Maybe you could share rides to church or other activities. Let's find out!

In the foyer, you'll find street maps of the Sarasota/Bradenton area. The Session invites you to:

1. Write your name on the small slip of paper provided.
2. Locate your home on the appropriate map.
3. Stick the pin at your address.

Once all pins are in place, we'll arrange neighborhood gatherings after the first of the year. This will be a wonderful opportunity to get acquainted, strengthen connections, and live out being the "Body of Christ" in our neighborhoods.

Thank you for joining in this effort to know—and be—neighbors to one another.

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

Our Parent Small Group Continues NEXT Sunday
Our parent small group will continue to build community, encouragement and support as we navigate life together as families. We'll continue to share ideas and resources to equip parents together to pass on what matters the most.
Dates: November 9, 23 & December 7
Leaders: Eric Robinson, Susan DeWyngaert, George Chorba, and others
Time & Location: 10:15-10:55 in the Hospitality Suite

The Final Word: Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation
Join us for "The Final Word," a new study that unpacks the mysteries of Revelation through facilitated discussion, focusing on its rich symbolism and original first-century context. Together, we will move beyond literal predictions to grasp its core message of hope and find enduring relevance for our lives today. In today's class, we'll explore what God might be saying to our church through John's letters to the seven churches.
Dates: Ongoing
Facilitators: Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick
Location: The Library

New Class Begins Today
The Legacy of Celtic Christianity
Explore the ancient world of Celtic Christianity, a faith that flourished on the frontiers of the Roman Empire with saints like Patrick, Columba, and Brigid. This tradition offers a unique and powerful vision for faithful living, especially in difficult times.
Dates: November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & December 2 (6 Sessions)
Leader: Dent Davis, retired minister and former faculty member at Columbia Seminary
Location: Room 203

Hurricane Melissa Strikes Jamaica *Category 5 Storm Brings Widespread Devastation*
Hurricane Melissa made landfall in Jamaica on Tuesday, October 28, as a powerful Category 5 storm. The destruction is extensive, and recovery will take years.
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is responding with emergency grants and long-term recovery support. You can help through your prayers and gifts.
Checks may be made payable to *First Presbyterian Church*, with *"Melissa"* in the memo line.

Chapel News
The chapel is open Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. for silent prayer and meditation.
"In the end, contemplation is not about escaping life but entering into it more fully. It is how we listen for God in the silence—and how we hear God in the cries of the poor, the groaning of creation, and the joy of being alive. It is how we remember what's good and live from that place for the sake of the world."
from the Center for Contemplation and Action.

Calling All Knitters & Crocheters!
The Care Team is collecting **prayer shawls** to share with those in need of comfort and God's love. Prayer shawls are handmade with care and prayer, wrapping the recipient in warmth and blessing.
We also need yarn donations (washable only). Please drop off shawls or yarn at the church office. Contact: Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse 941-320-3828 | 4tracks@comcast.net

Looking Ahead to the Advent Workshop
Sunday, November, 30 at 10:00 in the Courtyard
Get ready for a morning of holiday fun, creativity, and family fellowship at our annual Advent Workshop! This year, we'll offer a variety of hands-on activities for all ages, including faith-filled crafts, seasonal decorations, and a few surprises to help your family prepare for the Advent season.
Join us as we celebrate the coming of Christ, reflect on the hope, peace, joy, and love that Advent represents, and create meaningful memories together as a church family. All ages are welcome—bring your family, friends, and festive cheer as we gather to rejoice in God's gift of Jesus.

Adopt a Classroom – Double Your Impact!
As part of our Invest in Children initiative and our partnership with Brentwood Elementary School, a retired teacher has generously offered to match every $100 gift adopting a second classroom! Brentwood still has 16 classrooms to be adopted. Your gift will go twice as far, helping to ensure every classroom is equipped and ready for learning. Together, we can make an impact on the children in our community. The deadline is Sunday, November 9. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian with "adopt a classroom" in the memo.

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