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, October 18, 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 pray 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

The flowers today are given to the glory of God and in honor of **Jovie Lee Watkins** on the occasion of her baptism and the joy of welcoming her into our growing Christian family.

Welcome Baby James!

Congratulations to Ashleigh and Alden Jones on the birth of their son, James Vaughn, born Friday, October 9, at 11:58 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. 8 oz.! Proud grandmother Jami Kellogg shares in the joy of welcoming this precious new addition to the family.

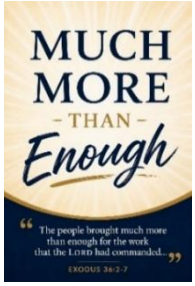
Today! Arts Advocates Meeting • 12:15 p.m. • Sanctuary

Join us as we kick off a new season of concerts and arts events! Arts Advocates welcome visiting artists and guests, answer questions, and help create a warm, welcoming experience. Returning and new volunteers are invited to reconnect, hear what's ahead, and share ideas. New Arts Advocates are especially welcome!

Stewardship 2027 — Much More Than Enough

Commitment Sunday: Growing in Faith. Giving with Gratitude.

Today, we celebrate Commitment Sunday and reflect on how we can support FPC's missions and ministries in the year ahead. Every gift helps us nurture faith, care for one another, and serve our community. As you consider your commitment, prayerfully reflect on what FPC means to you and how, together, we can share God's love. **Thank you for being part of our church family and for giving with gratitude, generosity, and love.**



Celebrating 70 Years of Ordained Ministry

Congratulations to Dr. Margaret Towner on the 70th anniversary of her ordination to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament! On October 24, 1956, she became the first woman ordained to ministry in the Presbyterian Church at First Presbyterian Church in Syracuse, New York. A member of Peace River Presbytery, Dr. Towner has often worshiped at FPC and even sang in our choir! Now 101 years young, she continues to inspire us with her remarkable legacy. Happy 70th Ordination Anniversary, Dr. Towner!
Watch her story: vimeo.com/1162576395

The New Mission Partner Guide

The Mission Partner Guide highlights ways to support FPC's local and global mission partners through volunteering, giving, and service. Thank you to the Mission and Justice Committee, Eric Robinson, Dave Householder, Rachel Martin, Lisa Garcia, Colleen Forristall, and our partner liaisons for making this guide possible. Find it online at *FPCSRQ.org* or pick up a copy in the narthex or Fellowship Hall foyer. Explore our partnerships and discover new ways to make a difference!

Adult Sunday School Class *Join us for Adult Sunday School, 10:00 Sundays in Room 203*

Aging as a Spiritual Journey (led by Dent Davis and Mary Ziegler) continues today and wraps up next week, October 25

Women of the Bible Speak (led by Paul Urbanick) resumes in November! You can pick up a copy of Shannon Breams' book by the same title from Rachel at the church office.

- November 1 and 8: Esther, November 15: Sara, November 22: Hagar

Coming November 29 and lasting through December 20: New Avent Class (Details Coming Soon!)

Celtic Christmas

SCAN HERE
TO VOLUNTEER!

Planning for this year's "A Celtic Christmas" is well underway and your help is instrumental in making this wonderful tradition both successful and fun! We are in need of several volunteers to help everything run smoothly and would love to have you join us in showing off FPC to the community for "A Celtic Christmas" on December 11 and 12. Please scan the QR code to reach the volunteer sign-up directly, or feel free to contact Sandi Soper at (941)544-7315 or Kim Schmeits at (941)284-0001. Thanks, in advance for your support of this cherished tradition!

Horizons Bible Study: United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other

This month, we continue exploring Paul's relationship with the Corinthian church, examining how he nurtured, guided, and challenged early Christians—and what his message means for us today.
Wednesday, October 21 at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom, led by **Barb Andrews**.
For Zoom information and a copy of the lesson, contact **Jinny Miller** at jinnyron@gmail.com.

Meet Shana and Garrett Watkins

Shana Watkins is originally from Ramsey, New Jersey, and is a graduate of the University of Tampa. She previously worked in healthcare marketing and communications and is now home with their ten-month-old daughter, Jovie.
Garrett is originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, and graduated from East Carolina University. He comes from an eighth-generation farming family and works in the automotive and equipment industry.
After moving to Sarasota from Texas, Shana and Garrett are happy to call Sarasota home and look forward to becoming part of the First Presbyterian Church family. We are delighted to welcome them!

Financial Update

September	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 52,246	$ 76,384
Expenditures	103,184	127,649
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	1,149,385	1,011,519
Expenditures	$ 877,662	$ 1,006,698

We are in the home stretch! Together, every gift—big or small—helps strengthen our church. Thank you for giving generously and for being an important part of all we accomplish together!

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