# 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, April 27, 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. Large print bulletins are available, ask an usher.

**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.

## *Honoring Our Preschool Teachers*

Today we are celebrating the incredible ministry of our preschool and the teachers! These devoted educators pour their hearts into nurturing, teaching, and loving the children in our community each and every day. With patience, creativity, and grace, they walk alongside families—supporting them in their parenting journey and planting seeds of faith, wonder, and love in young hearts.

Let's come together to give thanks, lift them up in prayer, and honor the vital role they play in shaping both minds and souls.

## *Children's Sunday School – Vacation Bible School Preview*

**Today at 10:00 a.m.**, all children are invited to join us in the courtyard for a special Sunday School hour filled with Vacation Bible School themed activities. Kids will enjoy an engaging morning of Bible stories, songs, crafts, and games that offer a fun and faith-filled glimpse of the excitement to come during our upcoming VBS. This is a great opportunity for children to grow in their faith, connect with friends, and experience the joy of learning about God's love in a creative and interactive way.

## *Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry*

**Sponsored by the Mission and Justice Committee** Join us for a rewarding day of service at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma! Our next volunteer trip is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 30**, from **9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Volunteers from FPC will assist with food sorting and related activities to support Beth-El's efforts in distributing food to **600–900 individuals each week**. If you'd like to sign up, need more information, or want to arrange carpooling, please contact **Wendy Miller** at **(941) 321-8488** or towmiller@yahoo.com. Let's serve together and make a difference!

## *Take Me Out to the Ballgame!*

Join us for **Faith and Family Night** at the ballpark! You are invited to a fun-filled evening as we cheer on the **Bradenton Marauders** against the **Lakeland Flying Tigers** on **Friday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m.**
**Tickets: $15** (includes a Marauders hat and a Pepsi drink voucher!)
**Location:** LECOM Park, Bradenton
**Get your tickets now!** Scan the QR code to purchase.
Enjoy a night of baseball, community, and faith-filled fun! Don't miss out!

## *VBS Volunteer Meeting – TODAY, Sunday, April 27*

We're looking forward to Vacation Bible School again this year at First Presbyterian! Thank you to all who've volunteered to make it a success. Today there is a volunteer meeting **at noon in the Fellowship Hall**. Lunch will be provided.

## *New Adult Bible Study: Ecclesiastes*

Join Eric Robinson and Doug DeCelle beginning today at 10:05 a.m. and continuing weekly until May 25, in Room 203 as they lead an adult Bible study on the book of *Ecclesiastes*. All are welcome!

## *Parent Small Group Gathering*

Our parent small group will meet today **at 10:10 a.m. in the parlor** for a time of discussion and fellowship. We are using *Caring for One Another* by Edward T. Welch as our study guide. We will be discussing Chapter 6 this week Chapter 7 on May 4, and Chapter 8 on May 18. We look forward to seeing you there!

## *Invest in Children – Make a Difference at Brentwood Elementary*

Do you have a heart for children and a desire to make a lasting impact in your community? Brentwood Elementary 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!

## *Support for FSU Students through UKirk and Presbyterian Disaster Relief*

In response to the tragic mass shooting at Florida State University on April 17, many have asked how to support students in the days ahead.
Please pray for the FSU community—for those grieving, those injured, the student body, and for UKirk, the Presbyterian campus ministry offering care and hospitality during this difficult time.
As finals approach, UKirk will provide meals, snacks, and coffee to support students. To help offset these costs, donations can be made by sending a check to First Presbyterian Church with "FSU" in the memo line, and your donations will be sent to the Campus Ministry.

***Worship Online*** If you miss a Sunday morning worship, or if you are a snow bird heading north you can view the archived live streaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live, and on YouTube at www.youtube.com/@fpcsarasota4017. Services are archived for one year, so you can go back and watch your favorite sermon, or send a link to a friend!

## *We Are Here For You*.

The FPC care team, along with our deacons, elders, and church staff, remain available to support you. If you need assistance, please contact Cheryl Track, Faith Community Nurse, at (941) 320-3828, or call the church office at (941) 955-8119. We are here for you.

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