# 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 1, 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.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.

## *Middle School & High School Youth, Today*

All middle school and high school youth are invited for our next youth group, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We'll have food, games, a Bible study, and service opportunity! If you would like to make a meal for one of our youth group outings, please see Eric Robinson.

## *Hope Seeds Event Thursday, February 5*

Start the new year by serving others in a fun and meaningful way! Presbyterian Women is sponsoring a **Seed Packing Event with Hope Seeds** on **February 5 from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** Together, we will pack seeds that will help provide food and hope to communities in need. In the Fellowship Hall
Come for all or part of the time—everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will be available, and no prior experience is needed. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship while making a tangible difference.

## *Financial Update*

| **December** | **Actual** | **Budget** |
|---|---|---|
| Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts) | $ 177,434 | $ 129,328 |
| Expenditures | 119,942 | 112,160 |
| **Year-to-date** | | |
| Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts) | 1,344,900 | 1,208,364 |
| Expenditures | $ 1,273,334 | $ 1,290,948 |

Thank you for your support!

## *Realm Directory*

Check out the online directory — all you need is your login.
Need help? Call the church office for more information.

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

***The Final Word***
***– Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation***

Join us for "The Final Word," as we continue to unpack 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 our next class, Paul will lead us in an engaging discussion about Revelation 14.
**Dates:** Ongoing
**Facilitators:** Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick
**Location:** the library

***First Connect Class—Final Class Today***
***Screwtape Letters with Stephen McConnell***

Come view human vulnerability through the eyes of a devil in our four-week study of C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*. Pick up your copy today to read along as we discuss this brilliant and humorous work.
**Dates:** February 1
**Leader:** Stephen McConnell, retired pastor from Church of the Palms and author of *Take Me to Aslan: C.S. Lewis and the Art of Trusting*.
**Time & Location:** 10:05-10:55 in room 203

## Wonders of Worship Parent Group Begins Today!

How can we help our children truly engage with God during our contemporary service? Join us for a four-week "Wonders of Worship" group where we'll share simple, sustainable ways to involve our kids in the prayers and music of the church. These 40-minute conversational sessions are designed to fit your busy life while providing deep encouragement for your family's faith journey.
**Dates**: February 1 & 15 + March 1 & 15 **Time/Location**: 10:15-10:55 | hospitality suite

## New First Connect Class: Estate Planning & The Theology of Legacy

How do we ensure our responsibility as stewards extends beyond our lifetime to bless the people and causes we value most? The first in our new Faith and Finance initiative, this one-time class session will frame estate planning as a spiritual discipline, helping you shift your focus from a simple financial inheritance to a lasting, values-based legacy. Don't miss this opportunity!
**Date:** February 8 **Leader:** Brent Campbell, Financial Planner with Edward Jones
**Time & Location:** 10:05-10:55 in room 203

## Caregivers Forum 2026 by Senior Friendship Center

Caring for a loved one can be deeply meaningful and deeply challenging. Senior Friendship Centers is hosting its annual Caregivers Forum on Friday, February 6, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Harvest House, located at 3650 17th Street in Sarasota. This morning retreat is designed for both new and experienced caregivers and will focus on connection, education, and self care. The program includes breakfast, a keynote physician speaker, panel discussions, and access to local caregiving resources.
The cost to attend is $25. Registration is required and can be completed through Eventbrite at SFC2026.eventbrite.com. Tickets are available until sold out.

## Immigration Justice Coalition of Southwest Florida

A presentation on Immigration Justice Coalition of SW Florida will be given by Barbara Smith-Bacon, chair of the coalition's Education team, on February 22, 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The stated mission of the coalition reads: "We are a community that advocates for and supports our immigrants, refugees, and asylum -seeking neighbors."
Please join us as we learn more about the mission, purpose and work of the coalition and insights about current immigration policies and practices. Barbara is a lawyer by profession and a member of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Sarasota.

## Inquirers' Class

Are you curious about First Presbyterian Church, eager to learn more about our faith, or thinking about becoming a member? We'd love to have you join us for our next **Inquirers' Class**! The class will meet on **Sundays, March 8, 15, and 22, 2026, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the parlor**. It's a relaxed, welcoming space to ask questions, explore our beliefs, and discover how we live out our faith together as a church family.
New members will be recognized in worship on Palm Sunday, with one combined service at 10:00 a.m. on March 29. For more information or to register, call the church office or contact Janet Olshewsky at (941) 376-4431. We can't wait to meet you!

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