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 16, 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.

10th Annual Christmas Celtic Concert

A Celebration of Celtic Music and Holiday Joy

Experience the magic of the season at First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota with an unforgettable evening of Celtic music. Now in its 10th year, this beloved concert features a 70-voice choir, our First Presbyterian choir and the Via Nova Chorale, piper ***Kevin Wiegand,*** *and the acclaimed folk band* ***The Lubben Brothers****. Together, they will bring to life the rich sounds of the six Celtic nations, from ancient melodies to lively jigs.*

Last year, both performances sold out—don't miss this chance to celebrate Christmas with music, warmth, and tradition. Bring your friends and family for a night that promises to be a highlight of the holiday season!

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.

Advent Devotionals – Available November 30

Begin preparing your heart for Christmas! Pick up an Advent devotional at either service, one for adults, and another designed for families to enjoy together.

Would you like receive our Friday E-Newsletter? E-mail info@FirstPresSarasota.org

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

Our Parent Small Group Meets 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: Nov. 23 & Dec. 7
Leaders: Eric Robinson, Susan DeWyngaert, George Chorba
Location: Hospitality Suite

TODAY: *The Final Word – Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation*
Join us as we explore the mysteries of Revelation, uncovering its symbolism, first-century context, and message of hope. Today, Eric will lead a discussion on what happens when the church succumbs to wealth and power.
Dates: Ongoing
Facilitators: Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick
Location: The Library

The Legacy of Celtic Christianity—continues today
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: Nov. 16, 23, 30 & Dec. 2
Leader: Dent Davis, retired minister and former faculty member at Columbia Seminary
Location: Room 203

A Celtic Christmas is Just Around the Corner, and We'd Love Your Help!

Volunteers are needed for the receptions following the concerts on Friday, December 12, and Saturday, December 13. If you can assist at one or both events, please contact Kim Schmeits schmeitshk@icloud.com or Sandi Soper strategicconsultss@yahoo.com.
Sweet or savory treats are gratefully accepted for the receptions and may be dropped off before the concerts. This special First Presbyterian concert is a gift to the community, and your help makes it even more meaningful.

Do You Know Which Members of First Presbyterian Live Near You?

Maybe they worship at a different time, sit near you, or have needs you could help meet—or vice versa. Perhaps you could share rides 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 a slip of paper. 2. Locate your home on the map. 3. Place a pin at your address.

Once all pins are in place, we'll plan neighborhood gatherings after the new year—an opportunity to connect and live out being the "Body of Christ" in our neighborhoods.
Thank you for joining this effort to know—and be—neighbors to one another.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ – Lesson 3: Jesus Is Tested
Join us for Lesson 3 of *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* as we explore how testing builds endurance and resiliency. We'll discuss questions like: Why was Jesus tested? Can stress be good? Wednesday, November 19, 10:00 a.m. via Zoom led by Merle Chorba. For Zoom details and a copy of the lesson, contact Jinny Miller at jinnyron@gmail.com.

Children, Come Decorate the Chrismon Tree!

Children and families are invited to help decorate the Chrismon Tree for Advent and learn more about the meaning of these important symbols! Sunday, after Sunday School November 23 from 11:00-11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

4th and 5th Graders are Invited to Bowlero TODAY!

Come enjoy some fun, complete with two hours of bowling, $20 per person for the arcade, plus pizza, chicken wings, fries, funnel cakes, and unlimited drinks! Please contact Eric Robinson if you are interested in attending. TODAY from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Bowlero. (Gulfgate 7221 S. Tamiami Trail Sarasota, FL 34231)

Financial Update

October	Actual	Budget
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 83,559	$ 64,432
Expenditures	152,612	127,813
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	1,087,263	999,134
Expenditures	$ 1,051,915	$ 1,074,198

Can you believe it? Just two months left in 2025! If you made a pledge, now's a great time to check in — have you had a chance to fulfill it yet? Every gift makes a difference, and we couldn't do what we do without you. Thanks for being part of our community!