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, December 22, 2024

If You Are New Here Whether you are searching for a church home or visiting from out of town, we are delighted that you are worshiping with us today. If you are interested in receiving more information about membership or the ministries of our congregation, please be sure to speak with our pastor after today's worship or share your information with us in the pew pad. 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.

Rooted and Grounded in Love, Stewardship 2025



89% as of December 19

Our 2025 pledge goal is $968,000. That is a 10 percent increase over our 2024 budget. After making sure that our salaries and utilities are keeping pace with inflation, the majority of these additional funds will be used for building maintenance and capital repairs. Fitting in with our theme of being **"Rooted and Grounded in Love,"** your pledge will help to bring life to the palm frond. More importantly, it will help to bring life to doing God's work together. It's not too late. Please turn in your pledge card today.

Realm and Online Giving

The wait is over, members and affiliate members are now able to access Realm! Please read the separate announcement page "Let's Connect!"

For on-line givers please use the QR code or enter https://onrealm.org/fpcsrq/give/now into your favorite browser. Text "FPC2050" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP.

Christmas Joy Offering, Today

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we lift up past, present, and future leaders of the church. God has blessed the church with incredible leadership in every time and place, but those leaders often need to be supported by their communities as well. This offering provides support for Presbyterian church workers and their families in their time of need, and leadership development and education for communities of color at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

Final Advent Adult Sunday School Class: Peace, Justice, Joy and Salvation

Please join us as we engage in this important theme of Advent.
Salvation: Today, 10:05-10:55, Room 203, teacher Floyd Churn

RSVP Requested Children and Youth Processional on January 5

Children and youth are invited to participate in a processional during New Song and the first 10 minutes of traditional worship on Epiphany Sunday, January 5. As we are trying to gauge availability, please respond to the brief survey question in the Family Newsletter. Thank you so much!

Christmas Pageant Reminders

- We will have a dress rehearsal today, December 22, in the Forum at 10:10 a.m.
- We will have dress rehearsal tomorrow, December 23, at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary.
- Our Family Christmas Eve Service will be on Tuesday, December 24 at 4: 00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, participants please meet in the Fellowship Hall at 3:15 p.m.

Second Annual Chili Cookoff Sunday, January 12 - ONE COMBINED SERVICE

On January 12 there will be one combined service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary, followed by the Chili Cookoff. This was a favorite potluck last year and promises to be a lot of fun once again.

Will your Chili be the winner this year? Find out by signing up to be one of the **12 contestants!** All chili must be in a crock pot and include a description. Note any ingredients that may cause any allergic reaction. Do NOT include your name, as this will be blind judging by attendees.

Voting will take place by depositing dollar bills to 'vote' for the favorite; most dollars collected for a single chili will determine the winner! *All proceeds will again go to Family Promise this year.*

Text Sue Nurczyk at (941) 586-5486. It is first-come, first-served, so don't delay!
Note: If you are not cooking chili, you can contribute side dishes such as cornbread, salads, macaroni & cheese, etc. The side dishes do not require pre-registration.

Year-End Giving To The Foundation of First Presbyterian Church of Sarasota

As the end of the year approaches, thoughtful planning can benefit both you and First Presbyterian Church. Gifts to the church's Foundation made before December 31 can reduce your income and estate taxes while providing long-term financial support for the mission and ministry of the church. Your gift to The Foundation can be in the form of cash, securities, retirement benefits, or other assets and directed to any or all five of the designated endowment funds: (1) General (2) Property, (3) Mission and Ministry, (4) Scholarship, and (5) Temporary Fund for Designated Gifts. If you do not designate a fund, your gift will be included in the General Endowment, which is the preference of the Session. If you have further questions about making a gift to the Foundation, please contact Tim Boggess or any of the Foundation's board of trustees: Betsy Marshall, Michelle Young, Ric Saba, Rich Paul, Michael Brown, Richard Clapp, or Steve Largo.

Year End Gifts Must Be Postmarked by December 31.

The end of 2024 is quickly approaching, and the last day to receive contributions to be credited towards this year is Tuesday, December 31. Please bring your donations to the church office Tuesday, December 31 by 5:00 p.m. or put them in the mail; they must be postmarked no later than December 31.

Financial Update

November	Actual	Budget
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 72,848	$ 73,497
Expenditures	113,303	130,886
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	1,048,462	958,816
Expenditures	$ 964,186	$1,046,166

Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillments.

Great news! Have a Donor Advised Fund at Fidelity Charitable? First Presbyterian Church is now registered to receive contributions via EFT. Any questions? Please contact the church's finance manager, Lisa Garcia, at (941) 955-8119 in the church office for assistance.

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

