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, January 25, 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.

Beth-El Farmworker Ministry Volunteer Day Trip

Join us **Wednesday, January 28, from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 noon** for a volunteer day at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma. Volunteers will help sort food and assist with other tasks that support 600–900 people each week. The need is greater than ever, and your help will make a meaningful difference.
To sign up, get details, or arrange a carpool, contact Wendy Miller at (941) 321-8488 or towmiller@yahoo.com.
Donations Needed: Lightly used clothing, bedding, and small kitchen items. Please bring donations to the church office by **Tuesday, January 27**.

Middle School & High School Youth Group Returns February 1

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.
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.

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 13.
Dates: Ongoing
Facilitators: Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick
Location: The Library

First Connect Class
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. You won't want to miss it!
Dates: Today and 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

Parent Group Resumes Sunday, February 1

Parents are invited to join us beginning Sunday, February 1 for our new parent group titled *The Wonders of Worship*. We'll meet in the Hospitality Suite from 10:15-10:55 a.m. Look for more details coming soon!

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

Brentwood Volunteer Opportunities

If you're looking for a meaningful way to invest in the lives of children, consider volunteering at Brentwood. You can assist the art teacher in the classroom, or—if art isn't your thing—help is always appreciated in the workroom with tasks such as making copies and laminating. Please contact Lorraine Foltz lmfoltz@me.com or (215) 589-3237 if you are interested in these or other classroom volunteer opportunities.

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 am 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.

Year-End Giving Statements

This year, your giving statement will be sent electronically, so please watch your next weeks. If we don't have an email address on file for you, your statement will be mailed instead.

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