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 7, 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 better!

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 Livestreaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services is available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live. Additionally, sermons are archived on YouTube.

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.

Ordination and Installation of New Officers.

Elders	Leah Cotter	Deacons	Cindy Millar
Class of 2026	David Landers	*Class of 2026*	Thom Olshewsky
	Steve Largo		Flossie Paul
	Shelly Watson		Katy Sabin
Class of 2024	Denver Stutler	*Class of 2025*	Jill Cardinal

First Annual Chili Cookoff

Be sure to come to the chili cookoff and Family Promise fundraiser today after the church service in the fellowship hall. Taste the chilis and vote on your favorite by dropping money into the container next to the pot. These funds will go to Family Promise, one of our mission partners. When the chili gets spicy, cool down with cornbread and salad. If you weren't able to bring food, join us anyway! We always have plenty. Afterward, we ask chefs to please take their leftovers home or trade leftovers with each other.

In Loving Memory

A memorial service will be held in the chapel on January 9 at 10:00 a.m. for Jean Hall. Jean was a member of First Presbyterian for 20 years and active with the Presbyterian Women. Jean moved to Georgia in 2022 to be near family. Jean died on November 21, 2023.

Pastor Tim's Bible Study - Will Resume on Wednesday, January 10

For 2024 Pastor Tim will be offering ONE Wednesday Bible study on Zoom at Noon. The Zoom link will also be in the *News @ First.*

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87466934598?pwd=VDrc5SDYig2I0E59oYAKcIA9VmVcLv.1

Women's Bible Study

Have you made your New Year's resolutions? Here's one for you. Let's make an effort in the New Year to overcome our prejudices and embrace all and invite them into our faith community. In Lesson 5 of the PW Bible study, Sacred Encounters, we will be studying the passage in Luke when Jesus healed the lepers. Dorothy Murphy will be leading the discussion "A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus." Join us via Zoom on **Wednesday, January 17 at 10:00 a.m.** All are invited to join us in this study of sacred encounters. The study guide is optional. However, Elaine Barnett can scan you a copy if you would like one. Also contact Elaine at ewbarnet@me.com to get the Zoom information, if this is your first lesson.

Upcoming Adult Education Classes

Recovering Creation Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. Starting January 14 through February 11 in room 203 led by Rev. Doug DeCelle, additional information is in the *News@First.*

Six Themes in the Bible - God's Word Adult Bible Study Class via Zoom starting Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. starting January 9 through February 13 led by Elaine Barnett, additional information is in *News@First.*

Encountering the Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts Sundays February 18 through March 24, at 10:00 a.m. in room 203. Discussion leaders for this class are R.C. Smith, a retired minister originally from Pennsylvania, and Susan DeWyngaert, also a retired minister who served FPC from 1997-2011. Additional information is in the *News@First.*

All Faith Food Bank Donations Needed

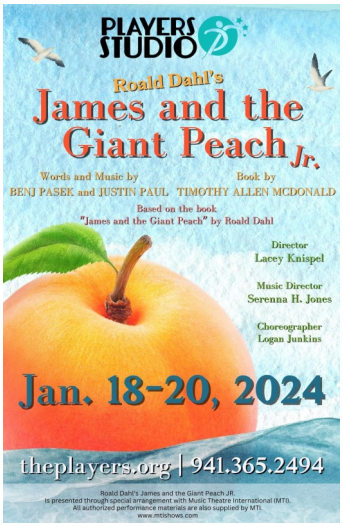
Boxes for food donations are available at the entrance to worship. Items that are needed are peanut butter, jelly, canned meats (tuna, chicken, etc.), canned vegetables and fruit, canned entrees (soups, stews, pasta etc), cereal, shelf-stable milk, dry mixes for cooking or baking, rice and beans. **Specialty items for "walkup" neighbors** are peanut butter and jelly in small containers, canned meat with pop-up lids, tuna, chicken, Vienna sausage, Spam, sardines, snack packs, crackers, granola bars, protein bars, cookies, shelf-stable drinks, canned or packaged entrees with pop-up lids, canned fruit with pop-up lids.
Financial donations can also be made to the church with *All Faiths* in the memo.

Shake It Up With Salt Shakers



If you love food and fellowship, don't forget to sign up for the next Salt Shakers - February through April or May. Groups of six to eight people (singles or couples) get together once a month for potlucks, dining at a restaurant, having a picnic or other creative eating options. Sign up forms are in the foyer of fellowship hall and the narthex of the sanctuary. Please sign up by Sunday, January 28. Questions? Marcia Schaper 941-922-5245

James and the Giant Peach Jr.



January. 18-19 at 6:30 p.m.
January. 20 at 2:00 p.m. At First Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall

Prepare to be enchanted by *James and the Giant Peach*, the extraordinary musical adaptation of Roald Dahl's timeless tale performed by 6 to 11 year-old performers! Follow young James on an unforgettable journey as he stumbles upon a colossal, magical peach and, along with a quirky crew of insect companions, sets out on an epic adventure. Join James in a story of courage, friendship, and boundless imagination, and experience the wonder of *James and the Giant Peach* for a magical theatrical experience. Tickets are available at http://theplayers.org

Our own ***Alice Mills,*** is playing the part of Ladahlord. Ladahlord is a mysterious character who seems to have a hand in the magical things that are happening. Though it may seem a bit off, Ladahlord carefully watches over James.