

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, August 9, 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.fpcsrq.org/streaming 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/Lisa@fpcsrq.org.



Welcome Tim Walsh, Interim Director of Christian Education

We are pleased to welcome Tim Walsh as our part-time **Interim Director of Christian Education**. Tim will serve in this role for an anticipated 10-18 months, providing leadership and support for our ministries with children, youth, young adults, and adults while helping to ensure continuity and growth during this interim period.

Many of you already know Tim, as he has been a familiar face at First Presbyterian Church. He has helped with Vacation Bible School, taught Bible studies, and shared children's moments during Sunday morning New Song worship.

Tim served as Youth Group Leader and Sunday School Teacher at Old Stone Church in Rockton, Illinois, from 1992-2001. He also served on the Young Life East Manatee Advisory Board from 2008-2018 and currently serves as Advisory Board Chair for the Young Inventor Challenge, an international toy design competition for children and youth ages 6-18.

Please join us in welcoming Tim to this new role and offering your support as he helps nurture and strengthen our Christian education ministries at First Presbyterian Church!

Backpack Blessing Today

As a new school year begins, we have invited all students—from preschool through college—as well as teachers, school staff, and administrators to bring their backpacks, book bags, or briefcases to worship. During the service, we will offer a special blessing, asking for God's guidance, wisdom, protection, and encouragement throughout the year ahead.

Next Sunday, August 16 – Rally Day & Sunday School Kickoff

Celebrate the start of a new program year at First Presbyterian! Rally Day marks the return of Sunday School for children, youth, and adults. Whether you're a longtime participant or looking to get involved for the first time, there's a place for you. We hope you'll join us as we begin another exciting year of faith, learning, and fellowship.

New Adult Sunday School Class: Aging as a Spiritual Journey

Beginning Sunday, September 13, Dent Davis and Mary Ziegler will lead a new adult Sunday School class, *Aging as a Spiritual Journey*.

As Job reminds us, *"Let days speak, and many years teach wisdom"* (Job 32:7). Aging is a journey filled with opportunities for spiritual growth, reflection, and deeper understanding. Together, we will explore stories from the Bible, history, and literature, along with insights from gerontology and psychology, to discover how faith can enrich the aging experience.

Participants will have opportunities to reflect on their own journeys and gain practical insights for navigating the joys and challenges of aging.

Join us Sundays, September 13–October 25 (no class October 4) at 10:00 a.m. in Room 203.

Share Your Gifts Through Christian Education

As we prepare for the fall, we invite you to be part of our Christian education ministries for children, youth, and adults. Whether teaching, assisting in a class, helping with youth activities, or offering behind-the-scenes support, your gifts make a difference in nurturing faith and strengthening our church family.

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Leah Cotter at leah.t.cotter@gmail.com.

Memorial Garden Renewed

We are pleased to announce the completion of the renovation of our Memorial Garden, a beautiful and peaceful space renewed for reflection, prayer, and remembrance.

This sacred area continues to provide a meaningful place to honor and celebrate the lives of loved ones while offering a quiet setting for members and visitors to pause, reflect, and pray. Care was taken to preserve the dignity and significance of this special space as a place of peace and spiritual connection for generations to come.

Through thoughtful planning and the dedication of many individuals, the Memorial Garden has been beautifully restored as a lasting gift to our church community. We invite you to visit and experience the beauty, serenity, and reverence it offers.

Invest in Children – Make a Difference at Brentwood School

Do you have a heart for children and a desire to make a lasting impact in your community? Brentwood School is looking for caring individuals to volunteer their time and talents to help nurture and support young minds. There are several ways you can get involved—whether it's through one-on-one mentoring, assisting teachers in the classroom or helping in the office. Every moment you spend with a child can inspire confidence, build trust, and plant the seeds for a brighter future.

If you feel called to serve and invest in the lives of children, we'd love to hear from you! For more information or to get started, please contact Lorraine Foltz at lmfoltz@me.com.

Your time could be the difference a child needs!

We Need Your Help at the Food Bank

Our weekly All Faiths Food Bank ministry is a vital outreach that provides food and hope to more than 200 families each week. We could use a few extra helping hands to support this important ministry.

Join us on **Thursday mornings** in the south parking lot. Food packing begins at **8:30 a.m.**, and distribution takes place from **9:30–11:00 a.m.** Whether you can stay for an hour or the entire morning, your time makes a real difference.

Come serve alongside a wonderful team and help us share Christ's love with our neighbors. Any amount of help is truly a blessing!

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

