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 12, 2023

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.

Church Office Hours and *News @ First*

The church office is open Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. - Noon. Our E-Newsletter, *News @ First*, is sent out weekly on Friday afternoons, we also send notices about special events or weather conditions. If you and not receiving it weekly, but would like to, please call the church office (941) 955-8119 or email, info@firstpressarasota.org.

Advent Workshop The four weeks before Christmas--the season of Advent--is a time of waiting and preparation as we anticipate the birth of Jesus. We are excited to begin Advent with our annual Advent Workshop on **Sunday, November 26th, beginning at 10am.** This is an intergenerational opportunity for you to connect with your church family. There will be activities for all.

Financial Update

October	**Actual**	**Budget**	
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$78,525	$64,945	
Expenditures	88,467	71,691	
Year-to-date			**Annual Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	892,220	820,988	1,005,244
Expenditures	$835,117	$814,503	$1,028,435

Thank you for your support! Any additional pledges or contributions to the general fund will be appreciated and applied towards the anticipated deficit at year-end. Please make sure to read the article about third quarter results in the *News@First* by Mary Willis, co-moderator of Business Affairs.

Rise Against Hunger, Sunday, December 3

Volunteer Release & Waiver

Scan me

Mark your calendars and sign up to *Rise Against Hunger* (RAH) with your church family on **Sunday, December 3.** We need 50 volunteers! All ages are welcome to help package over 14,000 meals. Set up will start at 11:30 a.m., meal packing will be 1:00—3:00 p.m.
The mission of RAH is to end hunger by providing food and life-changing aid to the world's most vulnerable populations. RAH offers meal-packaging events to create fortified, dehydrated, shelf-stable meals that are transported by RAH to identified areas of food insecurity. Use the QR code to register.
This will be FPC's 5th meal-packing event. Let's work together once again to make a difference!

2024 Offering Envelopes

If you no longer want to receive your offering envelopes, or you would like to receive a box of envelopes, please contact Lisa Garcia, Finance Manager, by calling (941) 955-8119 or emailing her Lgarcia@firstpressarasota.org.
Beginning Sunday, December 3, through Sunday, December 17, there will be a table set up for you to pick up your 2024 offering envelopes. **To save on the cost of mailing, please make every effort to pick up your envelopes.**

Free Turkey Dinner, Thursday, November 16

PROUD PARTNER OF ENDING HUNGER ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

On Thursday, November 16, at our weekly food distribution, 9:30-11:00 a.m. we will be providing turkey dinners. Each meal included a 10-14 lb frozen turkey and pre-bagged sides (dry mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans and cranberry sauce). Turkeys are in addition to the regular food distribution, anyone is eligible. If you or someone you know is interested, please come to the drive-through food distribution on Thursday at the south end of Fellowship Hall.

Please Wear Your Name Tag

Remember to wear your name tag each Sunday. It is especially helpful to worship guests, new members, and returning seasonal residents. Replacements maybe ordered by calling the church office at (941) 955-8119. The cost of a new name tag is $7.

Women's BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study Wednesday, November 15 at 10:00 a.m.

The bible study uses the Presbyterian Women's study guide, *Sacred Encounters*. This month we will focus on Lesson 3 based on Luke 8:43-48. Discussion will be led by Barbara Andrews. We will meet via zoom on November 15, at 10:00 a.m. Join us for some discussion and contemplative moments. For example, "Has chronic illness affected your family? What impact has such illness had on your faith?" This lesson should help guide us to understanding the power of faith. 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. Contact Elaine at *ewbarnet@me.com* to get the zoom info, if it will be your first lesson, otherwise Elaine will send out the invite on Friday.



Our 2024 pledge goal is $880,000. That is a 20% percent increase over our 2023 pledges. This much-needed increase will be used to fund our full-time Director of Christian Education, give our current staff cost-of-living increases, and maintain the excellence of our music program. Your elders and deacons have set the pace, and we are a little over 80 percent of the way there. Now we need you to get in the boat with your commitment. Please send in your pledge and consider increasing your pledge for 2024. Every Sunday we will report on the progress towards our goal. We hope to have the boat filled by mid-November. Pick up a paddle and help us get there!