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 19, 2025

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.

Please Join Us for a NEW Adult Class

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts January 19, 26 and February 2, 9: at 10:05-10:55 a.m. in Room 203, taught by Janet Olshewsky.

Christmas is still going on. Scripture tells us that all of us have spiritual gifts, to be used for the common good. Which ones are yours? How can you use yours for the common good? These are questions to be addressed in a new class for adults beginning January 19 and running for four weeks. Please sign up through the church office so we will know how many supplies to order.

Second Annual Chili Cookoff—The Results Are In



On Sunday January 12, 2025 First Presbyterian held our 2nd Annual Chili Cookoff potluck to benefit Family Promise. A total of 175 people attended and we raised a total of $802! The winners were:

1st Place: Ann Begley

2nd Place: Andy Copa

3rd Place: Carol Papa.

Ann, Andy, and Carol will retain bragging rights until next January and our 3rd Annual Chili Cookoff! Thanks everyone for participating and raising money to benefit homeless families in Sarasota.

Membership & Fellowship Committee

Shake It Up With Salt Shakers

If you love food and fellowship, please sign up for the next Salt Shakers. Groups of six to eight people (singles or couples) get together once a month from February through April or May.

Each group decides whether they want to have a potluck at a member's home, dine at a restaurant or have a picnic or brunch. Sign up forms are in the foyer of the Fellowship Hall and the narthex of the Sanctuary. Last day to sign up is **Sunday, January 26**.

Questions? Call Marcia Schaper (941)539-9207 or Kim Schmeits (941)284-0001.

Parent Small Group *Starting February 2, 10:10-10:50 in the Parlor*

We are excited about our upcoming once-per-month small group for parents! Through much discernment and discussion, we have decided on a study called ***Caring for One Another: 8 Ways to Cultivate Meaningful Relationships.*** *You will find this study to be enriching and encouraging.*

More than just a study, the goal of our time together will be to strengthen our time of fellowship and to be an encouragement and support for one another.

We are also arranging for some *premium coffee for the group to enjoy!*

The church will purchase a copy of the book for all of our participants. While you won't need the book before the first small group, the books will be in soon. Contact Eric Robinson, Director of Christan Education, for more information.

First Presbyterian Youth Group! TODAY

The next gathering is Sunday, January 19 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. We will meet on the first and third Sundays of every month. Any youth in 6th grade or older is invited!

We will have a special youth and parent night on January 19 focused on Montreat! We will have a special guest with us, Montreat's Program Director, Susie Burns!

Want to help with youth group? We are always looking for adults to participate in our meetings and outings or provide a meal or snack for the youth. Reach out to Eric at erobinson@firstpressarasota.org.

Volunteer Day Trip to Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Sponsored by the Mission and Justice Committee for the last Wednesday of the month, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, the next trip is **Wednesday, January 29.** Be a part of the group from FPC that gathers at Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma for sorting food and related activities. This mission partner distributes food to help 600-900 folks each week. To sign up or for more information or to car pool, contact **Wendy Miller** (941) 321-8488 or email towmiller@yahoo.com.

Realm and Online Giving

The wait is over; members and affiliate members are now able to access Realm!
The office has sent a reminder email to get your login to Realm. If you have any questions, please call the church office (941) 955-8119.

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.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Southern California is facing multiple uncontrolled fires, exacerbated by strong winds and dry conditions. Tens of thousands of residents have been forced to evacuate, and more than 57,000 homes are threatened.

PDA is in communication with the affected presbyteries to offer resources in the aftermath of the fires. So far, we are aware of one Presbyterian church destroyed (Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church) and several more are threatened. We will know more once the fires are contained and evacuation orders have been lifted. We pray for all lives affected, for swift containment and the safety of first responders.
The session has decided to take a special offering to help with recovery efforts in Southern California. To help, please makes checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, with FIRES in the memo.

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