

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, April 26, 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.



Today: Sunday School in the Courtyard, VBS Preview!

Get ready for a fun and engaging morning as we transform our Courtyard into **Snowball Mountain** for a special Vacation Bible School preview! From **10:05-10:55 a.m.**, children and families are invited to experience a taste of what's coming at VBS through a variety of hands-on, high-energy stations.

Here's what to expect:

Recreation Station: Enjoy themed games and activities that get everyone moving and laughing while reinforcing the day's message.

Bible Story Station: Step into an interactive storytelling experience that brings Scripture to life in a memorable and age-appropriate way.

Craft Station: Kids will create a fun, take-home craft that connects with the Bible lesson and theme of Snowball Mountain.

Science Station: Watch exciting demonstrations or participate in simple experiments that illustrate biblical truths in a creative way.

This immersive event is designed to give everyone a preview of the excitement, creativity, and meaningful learning that VBS will offer. It's a great opportunity for kids to invite friends, meet volunteers, and get comfortable with the format ahead of time.

We can't wait to share this adventure with you—bundle up for Snowball Mountain (no actual snow required!) and come ready for a great time together!

Important Reminder: This special event will take the place of our regular Sunday School classes for today.

VBS Volunteers Meeting is Today at Noon

Do you want to have fun and make a difference this summer? Please consider volunteering during our VBS week, June 15-19! There is a role for everyone.

Interested? All VBS volunteers are asked to meet today at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

First Connect: Brainstorming Session & Screwtape Apocalypse Study

We just wrapped up our journey through Revelation last Sunday—thank you to everyone who joined us! This week, we're looking ahead and would love your input. Join us **today, April 26** for a brainstorming session as we explore ideas for our next Bible study topic. Your voice matters, and we'd love to hear your thoughts. Then, as a special conclusion to our Revelation study, don't miss a unique three-week series on **May 3, 10, and 17**. Eric Robinson will guide us through a fascinating discussion based on four "lost" Screwtape Letters that C.S. Lewis wrote, offering a fresh and thought-provoking perspective on Revelation.

Schedule: April 26 – Brainstorming led by Doug DeCelle May 3, 10, 17 – Screwtape Apocalypse Study led by Eric Robinson
Time & Location: 10:05-10:55 a.m. in The Library We hope you'll join us for both the conversation and the study ahead!

New First Connect Class Starts Today: Just Jesus

Grow closer to Christ and our church community in "Just Jesus," a new four-week, study on April 26, May 3, 10 and 17, looking at the scriptures of Jesus' life and ministry. Using a curriculum from Union Presbyterian Seminary, we will share meaningful conversations that challenge easy assumptions and deepen our call as his followers. Led by Susan DeWyngaert and Dave Householder at 10:05 a.m. in room 203.

Do You Worship With Us Online?

If so, we would truly appreciate your feedback about your experience. Your insights help us continue to grow, improve, and enhance this important part of our church ministry.

We welcome your suggestions and comments—please feel free to share them with Victor Jannett at operavic@aol.com. Thank you in advance for taking the time to help us serve you better.

Register for VBS 2026: Snowball Mountain Challenge!

Trade the summer heat for a winter wonderland this **June 15-19**. Kids will discover bravery and resilience through God's strength with frosty games and hands-on Bible lessons. Scan the QR code to register your "Challengers" today! Contact Eric Robinson, Leah Cotter, or Emily Weitekamp with questions.



VBS Needs YOU!

We need **YOU** to help make VBS 2026 a week full of fun, laughter, and faith-filled adventures for our kids! You can join the excitement by leading Bible stories, guiding crafts or science experiments, running games, serving snacks, or helping wherever the action is needed. Grab your spot on the team by filling out the volunteer form with the QR code. Youth under 18 will need a parent or guardian to complete their section of the form. Join us for our **Volunteer Planning Meeting on Sunday, April 26 at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall**—lunch is on us!



Summer is Coming: Worship Schedule

As summer approaches, we shift to our summer worship schedule:

May 31 – 10:00 a.m. Summer schedule begins with *Faith and Diversity Sunday*

June 7, 14, 21, 28 – 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

July 5, 12, 19, 26 – 10:00 a.m. Worship in the Fellowship Hall

We look forward to sharing this summer season of worship with you!

New Website Launching Next Week

Our new church website launches next week! The updated site features a clean, modern design with simpler navigation and quick access to worship, events, and ministries. You'll also find the member login for online giving, along with easy access to our livestream. Keep an eye out for more details! The new address will be www.fpcsrq.org

Online Giving

For on-line givers, please use the QR code or enter <https://onrealm.org/fpcsrq/give/now> into your favorite browser. Using your mobile device, text "FPC2050" to 73256 to give. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP.



Worship Online

If you miss a Sunday morning worship, you can view the archived livestreaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live or <https://www.youtube.com/@fpcsarosota4017>. Services are archived for one year, so you can go back and watch your favorite sermon or send a link to a friend!

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

