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, March 8, 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.

Inquirers' Class Starts Today

Curious about First Presbyterian or considering membership? Our Inquirers' Class **starts today** and continues Sundays, March 15 and 22, 10–11 a.m. in the Parlor. Come ask questions, explore faith, and learn how we follow Jesus together. New members will be welcomed on Palm Sunday, March 29, at 10:00 a.m.

LIFT and MS/HS Youth Group Meet Today!

We are hosting a special evening for our LIFT Kids (Love is First Tweens, 4 and 5 graders) and our Middle and High School youth. Join us for an evening of fun, games, Bible study, and dinner. From 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., LIFT Kids will enjoy games and a Bible study. At 6:00 p.m., LIFT and MS/HS youth will share dinner together, followed by the MS/HS Youth Group gathering from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Lent First Connect Class: Stewards of Living Water

It's not too late to join *Stewards of Living Water: Co-Laboring for the World's Flourishing*, a new study by Eric Robinson. Discover how God interrupts our spiritual dryness and calls us to bring life-giving water to a thirsty world. The class meets Wednesdays, March 11, 18, 25, and April 1, from 12:15–1:15 p.m. in Room 203 and on Zoom, with Eric Robinson and Susan DeWyngaert.

Palm Sunday Worship and Potluck Luncheon - March 29, 10:00 a.m.

Celebrate Palm Sunday with us on Sunday, March 29! We'll begin with a **combined 10:00 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary**, featuring a joyful processional and meaningful worship for all ages. After worship, join our Annual Potluck Luncheon, please bring a dish to share according to your last name: A–F: Salads / Rolls, G–N: Main Dishes / Casseroles, O–T: Desserts / Cookies / Pastries, U–Z: Side Dishes – Vegetables / Fruits. Families can enjoy a fun Egg Hunt with games and prizes. Invite your friends and come celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry with worship, fellowship, and fun for all ages!



First Connect / Adult Education 10:05 –11:00 a.m.

The Final Word Class—Exploring Revelation

Join us for *The Final Word* as we unpack the mysteries and "wild imagery" of Revelation in a safe, open space that values discussion over lectures. Discover how this "horrifying, yet comforting" book speaks to our world today and calls us to bold living. **Dates:** Ongoing **Location:** the Library **Facilitators:** Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick

New Workshop! Faith for the Future: Demystifying the Church Foundation

Curious about how to plant seeds of faith today that will bloom for generations to come? Join Betsy Marshall, our Foundation President and estate planning expert, as she demystifies how the Foundation acts as the long-term 'savings account' for God's work, distinct from our daily operating budget. You'll leave inspired—and fully informed—about how simple and joyful it is to leave a legacy that ensures First Presbyterian thrives for the future. **Date: March 22, Time & Location: 10:05 -10:55 | Room 203 Leader: Betsy Marshall**

First Connect Class: Lost Christianities – the Forgotten Background of the Middle East

The history of Christianity in the Middle East helps us understand today's religious conflicts in Israel, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt. Join Dent Davis retired minister and former Columbia Seminary faculty member, for the second of three weeks exploring this rich and complex history. The class will meet in **room 203, March 8 and 15, 10:05—10:55 a.m.**

Ring Sarasota Concert – Sunday, March 15

We are hosting Ring Sarasota in our sanctuary for an afternoon of music as they present *Ocean Vibes: Cruisin' with Ring Sarasota!* on Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 p.m. Experience an exciting handbell concert featuring more than 200 bells and a musical journey filled with energy and fun. Tickets are $20 and may be purchased at the door, on the church website, or by contacting Rick Holdsworth, rick@ringsarasota.org. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful afternoon of music!

Caritas Food Pantry—The End of an Era

For over 45 years, First Presbyterian Church has partnered with downtown churches to support Caritas Food Pantry, sharing Christ's call to feed the hungry. The pantry's current location closed on **March 5**. Each month, about 270 vulnerable individuals receive bag lunches five days a week. We are now seeking a new location to continue this vital ministry. Please prayerfully consider any connections or ideas to help sustain it. For information or suggestions, contact **Susan Sanderson** at susan@sandersonmn.com. Thank you for supporting this important mission.

Finding Our Identity

We are in Part III, Lesson 7: "The Woman Who Was Bent Over" (Luke 13:10-17). Many of us find our identity in our careers, hobbies, or family—imagine having it defined by an affliction. We'll explore her response to Jesus' healing and the synagogue leader's reaction, learning to serve with a compassionate, healing heart. The lesson will be led by Sandy Soper, and we will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. If this is your first time attending, please reach out to Jinny Miller at jinnyron@gmail.com for Zoom information.

Buckle Up for a Magical Musical Journey from Booker Middle School's VPA Theatre Program!

Don't miss *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.* performed by the VPA Musical Theatre students from Booker Middle School! Flying onto the Booker High School stage (3201 N. Orange Ave.) on Friday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 28 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., catch our own Alice Mills as the quirky Caractacus Potts, directed by Carrie Mills. This delightful musical, based on the 1968 movie, promises unforgettable songs, whimsical characters, and high-flying adventure! **Tickets:** VIP Reserved $25 | General Admission Adult $10 General Admission Student $5 Tickets are available online at https://bookerms.booktix.com or in person before each show. See you in the seats!

All Faith Food Bank: Walk to End Summer Hunger

Join us to kick off the Campaign Against Summer Hunger with All Faith Food Bank at a community walk on Saturday, March 28, at Riverview High School (1 Ram Way, Sarasota, FL 34231). The site opens at 7:30 a.m., and the walk begins at 8:30 a.m. This event launches our annual campaign to raise funds for children at risk of summer hunger. Registration is $35 per person at allfaithsfoodbank.org. Walk, give, and help ensure every child in our community has the nourishment they need when school is out.

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