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 9, 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.

New Member Class - Continues TODAY

You are warmly invited to join the new member class continuing today, March 9 at 10:05 a.m. in room 203, even if you missed the earlier classes. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our church community, beliefs, and how to become an active member or affiliate member. We welcome you to come as you are and ask any questions you may have. **March 9** - Meet with the Session. **March 23**- During worship, be recognized as a new member of First Presbyterian Church. For more information or to RSVP call the church office (941) 955-8119.

Realm and Opting into the Online Directory

At the last session meeting, on February 25, the elders approved for the administrative staff to "opt-in" all members, affiliate members, and retired clergy to the Realm online directory.

In two weeks, on Monday, March 10, the administrative staff will "opt-in" those members and retired clergy. You will receive an email from Realm regarding the change IF there is an email address listed on the profile. If an email is not listed, there is no way for you to be notified that you are in the online directory.

If you need assistance with any aspect of our new cloud-based membership platform, please call the church office (941) 955-8119. We are here to help.

Financial Update

February	Actual	Budget
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 147,381	$ 125,977
Expenditures	91,278	94,405
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	388,708	396,804
Expenditures	$ 178,404	$ 193,604

Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillments during the first two months of 2025.

Creation in Exodus - Adult Education Class, continues *today and* March 9, 16 at 10:05 a.m. in the Parlor.

Discussion leaders are Eric Robinson and Doug DeCelle. Discussions of Creation often begin and end with the first two chapters of Genesis. However, the Bible is replete with themes of God's continued creative work throughout, which tells us much about God and ourselves. This creative work is also invitational, inviting us to take part in God's work in the world. From the stories of the ten plagues to the parting of the Red Sea to the building of the Tabernacle, the book of Exodus continues the theme of the God who is continually creating and involved in God's own creation. This class will explore these important creation themes from passages in the book of Exodus.

Covenants of God

Bible Study via Zoom continues on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m through April 1. Covenants are essential in the biblical story. God relates to creation, chooses a people, establishes a law for the nation of Israel, promises a Messiah and enacts a new covenant in Jesus Christ. The Christian church then becomes part of God's covenant people. The following study enhances our understanding of the covenant theme in the Bible. We will also always seek what it means to be God's covenant people.

Elaine Barnett will teach the class via Zoom. Elaine is a member of FPC, an ordained Elder, and a PC(USA) Certified Christian Educator. Sign up for the class by emailing Elaine: ewbarnet@icloud.com.

Let Justice Roll Down

"You will always have the poor with you." It is our challenge to reduce suffering and strengthen the social network. The seventh lesson of the PW Horizons Bible Study, Let Justice Roll Down is "Economic Climate Justice." We will be studying about the dry corridor in Central America and its effects on migration. We can learn what is being done to solve this crisis. All are invited to join us for this Bible study. The lesson will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, March 19 at 10:00 a.m. and will be led by Flossie Paul. We look forward to meaningful discussions about what is the Green Fund and how restorative justice works. Please reach out to Elaine Barnett at ewbarnet@me.com for the Zoom info and a copy of the lesson if needed.

Family Promise

is opening a "Restock Room" for its client families and there are three new opportunities for volunteers:

- Help set up the Restock Room "store" for families, create an inventory, receive donations, and stock shelves as needed. All items will be free to client families. Please contact Jane Jernoske at 856.392.5096 or email jjernoske@aol.com.
- Donate gently used bed linens, towels, paper products, personal care items, and cleaning supplies. Contact Joanne Simons at (703) 798-7330 or SimonsJC1@gmail.com.
- Work in the office - work about 4 or 5 hours a month in their new location at Faith Lutheran Church on South Beneva Road sending "thank you" letters and other tasks clerical tasks. Please contact Cindy Schalk at 941.806.7301 or email fpsmcs2023@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support of Family Promise!

Realm and Online Giving

The wait is over; members and affiliate members are now able to access Realm! What are you waiting for? Please call the church office and we will be happy to assist you (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.

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