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, October 19, 2025

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.

Adopt a Classroom – Double Your Impact!

As part of our Invest in Children initiative and our partnership with Brentwood Elementary School, a retired teacher has generously offered to match every $100 gift, adopting a second classroom! Brentwood still has 29 classrooms to be adopted. Your gift will go twice as far, helping to ensure every classroom is equipped and ready for learning. Together, we can make an impact on the children in our community. The deadline is Sunday, November 9. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian with 'adopt a classroom" in the memo.

Pumpkin Carving!

Mark your Calendar for Sunday, October 26, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall Courtyard

Get ready for an amazing time, as all families at First Presbyterian are invited to our much-anticipated annual Pumpkin Carving event! Prepare to unleash your creativity as we carve spooky, silly, and spectacular masterpieces in a time filled with festive fun. Bring your own pumpkin and we'll supply the rest. We can't wait to see you there for this exciting opportunity to make wonderful fall memories together!

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) helps congregations and partners of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) share Christ's healing love with communities affected by disaster.

PDA responds to natural and human-caused disasters in the U.S. and around the world, providing both immediate relief and long-term support. Working through church partners and local organizations, PDA helps communities rebuild, offering financial assistance, training, and emotional and spiritual care.

This Sunday, as we commission our church as a host site for volunteers serving in our area, we give thanks for the opportunity to join in Christ's ministry of compassion and restoration.

PDA also supports refugee ministries and shares stories of resilience through *Counter Stories Productions.* Its work is made possible through the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering and designated donations.

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

Spiritual and Moral Issues in American Fiction: Some Stories to Challenge Our Faith

Join us in reading and discussing short stories by American writers that wrestle with questions of morality, justice, doubt, and faith. Together we'll consider how these stories challenge and deepen our own walk with Christ. This week, we'll discuss the story "Cathedral" We also have copies of the third story, "Omelas" available for pickup.

Dates: October 19, 26
Leader: John Parks
Location: Room 203
Pick up stories in the narthex

Parent Small Group Continues TODAY

The fall parent small group will continue to build community, encouragement and support as we navigate life together as families. We had a wonderful first session, with some great ideas for additional resources such as children's books, which we'll be sharing with you.

Dates: Oct. 19; Nov. 9, 23; Dec. 7
Leaders: Eric Robinson, George Chorba, and others
Location: Hospitality Suite

The Final Word: Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation

Join us for "The Final Word," a new study that unpacks the mysteries of Revelation through facilitated discussion, focusing on its rich symbolism and original first-century context. Together, we will move beyond literal predictions to grasp its core message of hope and find enduring relevance for our lives today. In today's class, we'll explore what God might be saying to our church through John's letters to the seven churches.

Dates: Ongoing **Facilitators:** Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick
Location: The Library

New Class Begins November 2

The Legacy of Celtic Christianity

Explore the ancient world of Celtic Christianity, a faith that flourished on the frontiers of the Roman Empire with saints like Patrick, Columba, and Brigid. This tradition offers a unique and powerful vision for faithful living, especially in difficult times.

Dates: November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 & December 2 (6 Sessions)
Leader: Dent Davis, retired minister and former faculty member at Columbia Seminary
Location: Room 203

Parents: We Would Love Your Feedback!

We would love to hear your thoughts on your children's worship experience in both Traditional and New Song services. Scan the QR code to complete the survey or ask Eric Robinson for a paper copy!

Youth Outing at TreeUmph, Next Sunday

The youth at First Presbyterian are invited to an exhilarating outing at TreeUmph for an adventure in the trees! Prepare to test your limits and have a blast as you swing on ropes, navigate challenging obstacles, and experience the thrill of ziplining. Come and enjoy a day of fun, fellowship, and high-flying excitement. Time: Sunday, October 26, from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Address: 21805 State Road 70 E, Bradenton, FL 34202

Wednesday Night Dinner Planning Needs YOU

We are so thankful for the turnout and positive feedback from our first Wednesday Night Dinner! We are **postponing our next dinner** to give more time for planning around food and programming, and to build a bigger team of volunteers who want to make a difference with this new ministry built on fostering intergenerational connection and conversation. If you would like to learn more about helping, or just have an idea to share, don't hesitate to reach out to Eric Robinson or Leah Cotter.

Financial Update

September	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 73,430	$ 80,172
Expenditures	118,746	141,266
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	1,003,704	934,701
Expenditures	$ 899,302	$ 946,385

We are in the final quarter of 2025. Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillments.

Realm Directory

Check out the online directory — all you need is your login. Need help?
Call the church office for more information.

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