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, February 11, 2024

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 better!

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 Livestreaming of the contemporary and traditional worship services is available at www.firstpressarasota.org/worship-live. Additionally, sermons are archived on YouTube.

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting—TODAY February 11, at 10:05 a.m.

The session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, February 11, at 10:05 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Terms of Call for the Rev. Dr. Timothy T. Boggess, to present the 2024 operating budget, and to present the 2023 annual report. The officers of the church's corporation as well as our Foundation Board of directors will be announced (meeting of the corporation of FPC and the Foundation will run concurrently with the congregational meeting.)

Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday, TODAY February 11

Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 with the simple prayer by a Presbyterian seminary intern, with a desire to inspire others on Super Bowl Sunday to donate to those "who are without a bowl of soup to eat." Since then, youth groups have been harnessing the energy of people coming together for football, food, and fun to raise funds to help feed those in need.

Our youth and children will be stationed with soup pots at the door after both services on **today** to receive your gifts of money to help alleviate hunger in our area or abroad. Checks may be made to First Presbyterian Church with "Souper Bowl" in the memo line. We will be using these funds for our next "Rise Against Hunger" event.

If you would like receive our Friday E-Newsletter, email info@FirstPresSarasota.org

Ash Wednesday Service Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 p.m.

We begin our observance of Lent on this special evening with the words of our faith; "Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust, in the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life in Jesus Christ." Our service will be led by Rev. Tim Boggess.

Arts Advocate Program Launches on February 15!

Did you know that a dozen performing arts organizations use our church campus for concerts and rehearsals? This presents us with an exciting opportunity for community outreach and growth. We are seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help us build relationships with arts leaders, performers, and audiences. We will do this by ushering and resourcing at rehearsals and concerts. Steven Phillips will host an **Informational Zoom Session on Thursday, February 15** at 6:00 p.m. to unveil this exciting program and to chart out next steps. Call the church office at 941-955-8119 to register for the session. The Zoom link is in the *News @ First.*

Adult Education Class ~ Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts

Sundays, February 18 - March 24, 10:00 a.m. in room 203

Sacred Encounters invites us to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. The Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles demonstrate the unfolding of God's redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. The message to the early Christian community (and to us) is joyous, life-changing, inclusive, and hope-filled.

This class will invite us into a deeper and more compassionate engagement with the world. The author asks: "What are the potential implications for the church if we treat our interactions as sacred encounters that demonstrate the transformative love of Christ Jesus?"

Discussion leaders for this class are R.C. Smith, a retired minister originally from Pennsylvania, and Susan DeWyngaert, also a retired minister who served FPC from 1997-2011.

Presbyterian Woman Bible Study

God calls us to affirm that each person is a child of God who should be treated equally with dignity and equity. In lesson 6 of the PW Bible study, Sacred Encounters, we will be studying the passages in Acts when Peter heals a disabled man. Flossie Paul will be leading the discussion of lesson 6, " A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus." Join us via Zoom on **Wednesday, February 21 at 10:00 a.m.** All are invited to join us in this study of sacred encounters. The study guide is optional. However, Elaine Barnett can scan you a copy if you would like one. Also contact Elaine at *ewbarnet@me.com* to get the Zoom link if this is your first lesson.

Cuba Partnership Today is the last day for donations.

The next Cuba Partnership trip is scheduled for **February 22- 27** with a ten-member team Graham Hart, Linda Hart, Ken Papa, Carol Papa, Sue Hargis Spigel, Elaine Moffitt, Dick Clapp, Rick Foltz, Nancy Wellinghoff, and Jay Swick. The primary purpose of the trip is to strengthen the relationship with our sister church, Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cárdenas.

Thank you for the Cuba supplies that have already come in! NO MORE FOOD ITEMS ARE NEEDED. Checks can still be made out to First Presbyterian Church, with "Food for Cuba" noted on the memo line, and we will purchase items through *Supermarket 23*.

We are still in need of full and carry-on sized suitcases, new and gently used sports shoes, multivitamins, and pain relievers for both children and adults, antifungal cream, Neosporin, toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, as well as cephalexin (Keflex), amoxicillin, doxycycline, and ciprofloxacinare. Specific medications needed are Levetiracetam, Memantine 10mg, Clopidogrel 75mg, Losartan 100mg, Hidroxiurea 500g, Magnesium valproate, Venaton (OTC), Diosmine (OTC), Ocuvite (OTC). Monetary donations will also be accepted for craft and soap making supplies for the artisan's store.

Invest in Children at Brentwood Elementary



Can you spare an hour a week to hear first grade students at **Brentwood Elementary** practice their reading with you? When children read aloud to an adult and their classmates it reinforces their reading skills. A wonderful first grade class has small reading groups, and all they need is someone to hear them practice. If you can do this on Fridays from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m., call our volunteer coordinator, Lorraine Foltz (215)589-3237.