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 22, 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.

Give to One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing invites us to follow Jesus by seeking justice and caring for those in need. Through this special offering, Presbyterians join with Christians around the world to share God's love in tangible ways. Gifts support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—addressing hunger, poverty, disaster relief, and the needs of vulnerable communities. We will receive this offering on Palm Sunday, March 29.

Lent First Connect Class: Stewards of Living Water

Take a midday pause this Lenten season to connect your faith with action! In "Stewards of Living Water," a new study by Eric Robinson, we'll explore how God invites us to become active partners in bringing life to a thirsty world. It's not too late to join the conversation. The class meets Wednesdays, March 25, and April 1, from 12:15–1:15 p.m. in Room 203 and on Zoom, with Eric Robinson and Susan DeWyngaert.

Celebrate Palm Sunday – March 29! Combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Come join a joyful Palm Sunday worship service filled with singing, celebration, and a lively processional! All ages are welcome, bring your family and friends to share in the excitement of this special day.
After worship, stay for our Annual Potluck Luncheon. To help everyone plan, we invite attendees to bring a dish according to last name: A–F bring salads or rolls, G–N bring main dishes, O–T bring desserts, and U–Z bring sides. It's a wonderful time to share a meal, connect, and enjoy fellowship together.
Children and families are also invited to join a fun Egg Hunt, complete with games and prizes—perfect for laughter, smiles, and making joyful memories.
Come celebrate Palm Sunday with a morning of worship, community, and joyful fun for all ages. We can't wait to see you there!



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

Event Canceled

The session with Foundation President Betsy Marshall has been canceled. We apologize for any inconvenience and will share updates if it is rescheduled.

Wonders of Worship: Parent Group Concludes TODAY

Discover simple, practical ways to help your children engage with God during worship. Join our 40-minute conversational sessions for encouragement and ideas that fit your busy family life.
Dates: March 22
Time/Location: 10:15-10:55 The Hospitality Suite

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, or contact Eric Robinson, Leah Cotter, or Emily Weitekamp with questions.

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 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 Next Saturday!

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 their 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.

Centering Prayer Workshop

A workshop on Thomas Keating's ***Centering Prayer*** method will be held here on Wednesday, March 25, from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 noon. It will be led by newly trained leaders who are in the process of certification. This free workshop will include teaching, an excellent video, and opportunities to practice Centering Prayer. If you are interested in attending or would like more information, please call the church office or contact Pat Higgins at (941) 993-9221.

Financial Update

February	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 147,250	$ 123,835
Expenditures	93,064	106,213
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	573,784	415,387
Expenditures	$ 177,602	$ 198,063

Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillments during the first two months of 2026.

Realm Directory

Check out the directory — all you need is your login. Need help? Call the church office (941) 955-8119 for more information.

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