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, April 13, 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. Large print bulletins are available, ask an usher.

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.

TODAY, Palm Sunday Egg Hunt and Potluck Brunch



We look forward to beginning Holy Week with you on Palm Sunday. We will mark Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Following the service all are welcome for an egg hunt outside and a potluck in the fellowship hall.

Maundy Thursday Service – April 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a special *Maundy Thursday* service as we reflect on Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples. This solemn and meaningful service will include scripture readings, Holy Communion, and a time of quiet meditation. We will remember Christ's commandment to love one another, and prepare our hearts for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. Come and experience this sacred evening of worship and reflection.

Good Friday, April 18, 12:15 p.m. in the Chapel



This short but powerful service will be a service of Tenebrae (from Latin, meaning "darkness" or "shadows") where you will hear Luke's account of the Passion of Jesus. You will be able to reflect as the passages are read, musical interludes are shared, and the eighth candle on the communion table is extinguished after the scripture reading of the crucifixion of Jesus. Come and be touched by the reality of Good Friday as we await the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Family Ministry Updates

Join us for a special *Time with Young Disciples* during the Maundy Thursday service at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. On Easter Sunday, children will receive a fun activity to enjoy during the or at home. Then on, April 27, don't miss our *VBS-themed Sunday School* for all ages in the courtyard!

Easter Sunday Hospitality

Next Sunday is Easter, a special day when we welcome many worship guests—some familiar, others new. Please remember to wear your FPC name tag and take a moment to look around for those you don't yet know. Don't worry about whether they're members—just introduce yourself, offer a warm welcome, and, if possible, introduce them to your family and friends.

During the Passing of the Peace, be especially intentional about greeting those you haven't met. Feel free to cross the center aisle—it's a small gesture that makes a big difference.

And let's not stop there—extend that same warmth the following Sunday, too. Together, we can make every guest feel truly at home in our fellowship.

Take Me Out to the Ballgame!

Join us for **Faith and Family Night** at the ballpark! You are invited to a fun-filled evening as we cheer on the **Bradenton Marauders** against the **Lakeland Flying Tigers** on **Friday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m.**

Tickets: $15 (includes a Marauders hat and a Pepsi drink voucher!)

Location: LECOM Park, Bradenton

Get your tickets now! Scan the QR code to purchase.

Enjoy a night of baseball, community, and faith-filled fun! Don't miss out!

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

We will be receiving OGHS contrubutions **TODAY.** OGHS of Sharing aids in combating hunger via the Presbyterian Hunger Program, foster development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and support disaster relief efforts through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Each of these programs serves individuals and communities in unique ways. From disaster response to sustained community development, their efforts combine to offer safety, sustenance and hope to those in need.

Presbyterian Women Bible Study

As we read the Bible from Genesis forward, we learn that God's people experienced many ups and downs. God's people experienced struggle, conflict, disappointment, celebration, redemption and joy. It is important to remember that God cares for all people in all places, times, and generations. The eighth lesson of the *PW Horizons Bible Study*, Let Justice Roll Down is "Intergenerational Justice." All are invited to join us for this Bible study. It is held via Zoom the third Wednesday of each month.

The lesson on Wednesday, April 16 at 10:00 a.m. will be lead by Colleen Forristall. We look forward to meaningful discussions about how both the younger and older generations can work to protect our earth. Please reach out to Elaine Barnett at ewbarnet@me.com for the Zoom information and a copy of the lesson.

Honoring Our Preschool Teachers, Sunday, April 27

We joyfully invite our church family to celebrate the incredible ministry of our preschool teachers! These devoted educators pour their hearts into nurturing, teaching, and loving the children in our community each and every day.

With patience, creativity, and grace, they walk alongside families—supporting them in their parenting journey and planting seeds of faith, wonder, and love in young hearts.

Let's come together to give thanks, lift them up in prayer, and honor the vital role they play in shaping both minds and souls. Join us for Preschool Sunday—your presence means the world!

First Connect Adult Education Update

On April 27, our new adult Bible Study on Ecclesiastes will begin at 10:05 in Room 203. Eric Robinson and Doug DeCelle will be leading. Our parent small group will also meet that day at 10:10 in the Parlor.

Financial Update

March	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$102,095	$ 75,950
Expenditures	107,351	105,630
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	490,803	472,754
Expenditures	$285,755	$299,235

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

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