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, July 20, 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! For the 10:00 a.m. worship in June and July, children are invited to engage in worship through a variety of activity resources. Coloring sheets are available on the tables in the fellowship hall, and a children's activity center is set up in the corner of the room. In the Sanctuary, worship bags with quiet activities are available in the narthex. Feel free to pick one up on your way in.

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.

Summer Worship

Worship continues in the Fellowship Hall for all Sundays in July. Stay after worship each Sunday in July for coffee, doughnuts, and fellowship! Sunday, August 3, we'll return to the Sanctuary for a combined service and potluck lunch; and August 10, our two-service schedule resumes with Rally Day and a Backpack Blessing.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Texas Hill Country Flooding

Catastrophic flash flooding over July 4–5 in Texas Hill Country has claimed over 100 lives, with search and rescue efforts still underway. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with regional partners to assess needs and offer emotional and spiritual care. To support the response, you can write a check to *First Presbyterian Church* with "Texas Flooding" in the memo line or give online through our website. Your gift will be forwarded to PDA.

New Member Class

Join the upcoming class starting today, July 20 at 11:00 in the Parlor. This three-week class is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our church community, beliefs, and how to become an active or affiliate member. We welcome you to come as you are and ask any questions you may have.

Ice Cream Social, TODAY July 20 - For The Whole Church Family

Meet from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. today at **Great Heights Creamery** (1371 Blvd. of the Arts) for a time of sweet treats and even sweeter fellowship. Bring the whole family and come enjoy some cool ice cream and warm community!

Combined Worship & Potluck – August 3

Mark your calendars! On Sunday, August 3, we'll gather for a combined worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. During the service, our youth will share reflections from their Montreat trip.
After worship, head to Fellowship Hall for a church-wide potluck lunch and our Montreat Bake Sale Fundraiser to support future youth trips.
Please bring a dish to share based on your last name:

A–O: Main Dish P–Z: Side or Salad

In addition everyone is invited to bring a dessert to donate to the bake sale fundraiser!
If you have questions or would like to coordinate your donation, please email Eric Robinson.

Sunday School Teachers and Subs Needed This Fall

Our Sunday School ministry plays a vital role in nurturing the faith of our youngest members. Each week, dedicated volunteers share God's love and help children grow in their relationship with Jesus through stories, activities, and prayer. We are looking for adults who feel led to walk alongside our children, on a regular basis or as an occasional substitute. Training, curriculum, and support are all provided. All you need is a willing heart and a love for Jesus and kids! If you are curious or feel a nudge to get involved, we'd love to talk with you. To learn more please reach out to Eric Robinson ERobinson@firstpressarasota.org.

College/Continuing Education/Technical School Scholarships

Interested students should go to the website www.firstpressarasota.org, go to "Grow" tab and select "Young Adult" and print an application. The application and transcripts must be received by Monday, **July 28.** Returning applicants need only to have a current transcript sent in along with any updated contact information. All college and technical school students are encouraged to apply.

Financial Update

June	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$153,828	$ 59,669
Expenditures	97,985	134,319
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	783,800	709,829
Expenditures	$ 582,767	$630,484

The increase in June revenue was due in part to the receipt of several Employee Retention Credit (ERC) refunds totaling $88,000. These refunds were filed by the Business Affairs committee in 2023. The ERC is a refundable tax credit created to help businesses retain employees during times of economic hardship, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. We are incredibly grateful to have received these funds in 2025.

Adult Education Class: "Faith in the Early Church"

This class will be taught on **Tuesdays starting July 22 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom** by Elaine Barnett. See *New@First* for details.

Summer Sundays: Ephesians & 1 John

Please join us Sundays from 9:00-9:45 in room 203 through the summer as we explore the book of I John together. We also have a brand new First Connect / Adult Education Newsletter to share with you! Please sign up to receive the newsletter using this QR code.

Family Ministry Updates

Please join us each Sunday this summer for an engaging time of worship, children's message, and activities. We have worship bulletins for kids and teens and many ways to engage with the Bible in our Family Newsletter.

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