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 1, 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.

Today ~ NEW First Connect Class: Lost Christianities – the Forgotten Background of the Middle East

The history of Christianity in the Middle East helps us understand today's religious conflicts in Israel, Iraq, Syria, and Egypt. Join Dent Davis retired minister and former Columbia Seminary faculty member, for a three -week class exploring this rich and complex history. The class will meet in room 203, March 1, 8 and 15, 10:05—10:55 a.m.

Inquirers' Class Starts Next Sunday

Curious about First Presbyterian Church or considering membership? Join us for our next Inquirers' Class on Sundays, March 8, 15, and 22, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. in the parlor. It's a welcoming space to ask questions, explore our faith, and learn how we follow Jesus together as a church family. New members will be recognized in worship on Palm Sunday, March 29, at our combined 10:00 a.m. service.
To register or learn more, call the church office at (941) 955-8119 or contact
Janet Olshewsky at (941) 376-4431.

Lenten Devotional are Available

Are you looking to grow closer to God this Lenten season? We're offering two devotional options for adults and one for families.
Adults can choose *Discipleship in a Divided Age*, exploring faithful living in a complex world, or *The Work of Imagination*, an invitation to encounter God through creativity and wonder. Families can journey together with *Reflections on the Heart*, an interactive guide to spark meaningful conversations about God's love. You can pick up a copy in the Fellowship Hall or Narthex.

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

The Final Word Class Resumes March 1 – Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation It's not too late to jump into "The Final Word," our collaborative exploration of the mysteries of Revelation. We are unpacking "wild imagery" in a safe, open space that favors mutual learning over traditional lectures. Come discover how this "horrifying, but also so comforting" book offers enduring relevance and a call to bold living for our world today.
Dates: Ongoing
Location: the Library
Facilitators: Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick

Wonders of Worship Parent Group TODAY
How can we help our children truly engage with God during worship? Join our "Wonders of Worship" group where we'll share simple, sustainable ways to involve our kids in the prayers and music of the church. These 40-minute conversational sessions are designed to fit your busy life while providing deep encouragement for your family's faith journey.
Dates: March 1, 15, & 22
Time/Location: 10:15-10:55 | Hospitality Suite

NEW Lent First Connect Class: Stewards of Living Water

Join us this Lenten season for "Stewards of Living Water: Co-Laboring for the World's Flourishing," a new study written by Eric Robinson. We will explore how God interrupts our spiritual dryness and invites us to become active partners in bringing life-giving water to a thirsty world. The class will meet on **Wednesdays** at 12:15 p.m. offering a meaningful midday pause to connect your faith with tangible action. Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25, April 1 in Room 203 and Zoom 12:15-1:15 p.m. the leaders are Eric Robinson and Susan DeWyngaert.

Volunteers Needed - Sunday Coffee Fellowship

Enjoy welcoming others? Help us offer simple hospitality between services by serving as a Fellowship Host for one Sunday!
• Before the 9:00 a.m. service: Set out snacks and refreshments (about 20 minutes)
• Around 10:45 a.m.: Light cleanup and kitchen reset (about 20 minutes)
Signing up for just one Sunday—one or both shifts—makes a big difference and is greatly appreciated. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall kitchen or contact Kim Whitford at 941-413-8796 (call or text).

Caritas Food Pantry—The End of an Era

For more than 45 years, First Presbyterian Church has partnered with four other downtown churches to provide financial support and volunteers for the Caritas Food Pantry. Together, we have shared in Christ's call to feed the hungry and care for our neighbors in need.

This longstanding mission is scheduled to conclude at its current location on March 5, 2026.

In recent years, Caritas has provided bag lunches five days a week to unhoused individuals who have no cooking facilities and who walk or bike to the downtown site. Approximately 270 different individuals are served each month who are among the most vulnerable members of our community.

We are now facing the urgent challenge of identifying a new location where food can be stored and distributed so that this vital ministry may continue.

We ask you to prayerfully consider any connections, resources, or ideas that might help sustain this mission of serving the hungry in our community. If you have suggestions or would like additional information, please contact Susan Sanderson at susan@sandersonmn.com.

Thank you for being part of this important ministry.

Ring Sarasota Concert – Sunday, March 15

We are hosting Ring Sarasota in our sanctuary for an afternoon of music as they present *Ocean Vibes: Cruisin' with Ring Sarasota!* on Sunday, March 15 at 4:00 p.m. Experience an exciting handbell concert featuring more than 200 bells and a musical journey filled with energy and fun. Tickets are $20 and may be purchased at the door, on the church website, or by contacting Rick Holdsworth. We hope you'll join us for this wonderful afternoon of music!

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