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 2, 2025

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.

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting, TODAY March 2, at 10:05 a.m.

The session has called a congregational meeting for **Sunday, March 2 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 2025 operating budget, and to present the 2024 annual report, and hear the annual report from The Foundation.

New Member Class - Continues NEXT Sunday

You are warmly invited to join the new member class continuing next Sunday, March 9 at 10:05 a.m. in room 203, even if you missed the earlier classes. This is an excellent opportunity to learn more about our church community, beliefs, and how to become an active member or affiliate member. We welcome you to come as you are and ask any questions you may have. **March 2** - Annual Congregational meeting summarizing the previous year. **March 9** - Tour the facilities and meet with the Session. **March 16** - During worship, be recognized as a new member of First Presbyterian Church. For more information or to RSVP call the church office (941) 955-8119.

Daylight Saving Time will begin Sunday, March 9, don't forget to Spring Forward next week.



Ash Wednesday, Intergenerational Meal and Worship March 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

We will come together for an intergenerational meal, a time of reflection and worship. The supper and service will occur in the fellowship hall, ending in the labyrinth.
There will be soup, bread, cut-up veggies, and mac & cheese.
We are looking for volunteers for more crock pots of soup, two veggie trays, large pans of mac and cheese. The church will provide the bread. Please get in touch with Kim Schmiets at schmeitshk@icloud.com if you can help with the food.

Egg Cartons - No More, Thank-you

Over 100 empty egg cartons were delivered by Jay Swick to Immokalee on March 1. The Mission and Justice Committee says, "thank-you" to everyone for your donations.

Creation in Exodus - Adult Education Class, continues March 9, 16 at 10:05 a.m. in the Parlor.

Discussion leaders: Eric Robinson and Doug DeCelle. Discussions of Creation often begin and end with the first two chapters of Genesis. However, the Bible is replete with themes of God's continued creative work throughout, which tells us much about God and ourselves. This creative work is also invitational, inviting us to take part in God's work in the world. From the stories of the ten plagues to the parting of the Red Sea to the building of the Tabernacle, the book of Exodus continues the theme of the God who is continually creating and involved in God's own creation. This class will explore these important creation themes from passages in the book of Exodus.

Covenants of God Bible Study via Zoom continues on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m through April 1.

Covenants are essential in the biblical story. God relates to creation, chooses a people, establishes a law for the nation of Israel, promises a Messiah and enacts a new covenant in Jesus Christ. The Christian church then becomes part of God's covenant people. The following study enhances our understanding of the covenant theme in the Bible. We will also always seek what it means to be God's covenant people.

Elaine Barnett will teach the class via Zoom. Elaine is a member of FPC, an ordained Elder, and a PC(USA) Certified Christian Educator. Sign up for the class by emailing Elaine: ewbarnet@icloud.com.

Realm and Opting into the Online Directory

At the last session meeting, on February 25, the elders approved for the administrative staff to "opt-in" all members, affiliate members, and retired clergy to the Realm online directory.

In two weeks, on Monday, March 10, the administrative staff will "opt-in" those members and retired clergy. You will receive an email from Realm regarding the change IF there is an email address listed on the profile. If an email is not listed, there is no way for you to be notified that you are in the online directory.

If you need assistance with any aspect of our new cloud-based membership platform, please call the church office (941) 955-8119, we are here to help.

Realm and Online Giving

The wait is over; members and affiliate members are now able to access Realm! What are you waiting for? Please call the church office and we will be happy to assist you (941) 955-8119.

For on-line givers, please use the QR code or enter https://onrealm.org/fpcsrq/give/now into your favorite browser. Text "FPC2050" to 73256 to give, using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP.

Office Help Needed.

The church office is looking for help at the reception desk answering the phone and helping visitors on Friday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - noon. If you are interested in helping out or finding out more, contact Rachel Martin at RMartin@FirstPresSarasota.org or (941) 955-8119.

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