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, January 11, 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.

Third Annual Chili Cook-Off & Youth Fundraiser Today

Join us today, following the combined 10:00 a.m. worship service, in the Fellowship Hall for our Third Annual Chili Cook-Off! Sample a variety of chilis and vote for your favorite by placing dollar bills next to each pot of chili and the one with the most dollars wins! All proceeds support our youth attending Montreat.
We will have plenty, even if you didn't bring a dish please come enjoy the fun and support our youth.

Lisa Garcia's 20-Year Anniversary

Since joining FPC on December 1, 2005, Lisa Garcia has been instrumental in securing grants for the church, organizing annual stewardship campaigns and the budgeting process behind the scenes, and managing monthly expenses. Lisa has also edited various versions of the church newsletter, prepared the weekly bulletin, and has kept Realm up to date, all with warmth and friendliness to her coworkers and church members. We will recognize Lisa today during service and at the chili cook-off that follows. There will be a gift basket for those who wish to give Lisa cards and thank you notes.

Children and Youth Sunday School Resumes January 18

Mark your calendars for the kick-off of our 2026 Sunday School season! If you have any questions about Sunday School, please reach out to Eric Robinson or Leah Cotter.

LIFT and Middle School & High School Youth Group

On Sunday, January 18, we will have a special night for our LIFT Kids (Love is First Tweens, our 4th and 5th graders) and Youth. Come out for fun, games, a Bible study, and dinner. Location: Fellowship Hall

- 5:00-6:00 LIFT Youth Group with games and a Bible Study
- 6:00-6:30 LIFT and MS/HS youth enjoy dinner together
- 6:30-8:00 MS/HS Youth Group

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

The Final Word - continues today
– Unpacking the Mysteries of Revelation
Join us NEXT WEEK for "The Final Word," a new study that unpacks the mysteries of Revelation through facilitated discussion, focusing on its rich symbolism and original first-century context. Together, we will move beyond literal predictions to grasp its core message of hope and find enduring relevance for our lives today. In our next class, Paul will lead us in an engaging discussion about Revelation 11.
Dates: Ongoing
Facilitators: Eric Robinson, Doug DeCelle, Richard Cole, Paul Urbanick
Location: The Library

First Connect Class continues next week:
Screwtape Letters with Stephen McConnell
Come view human vulnerability through the eyes of a devil in our four-week study of C.S. Lewis's *The Screwtape Letters*. Pick up your copy today to read along as we discuss this brilliant and humorous work. You won't want to miss it!
Dates: January 18, 25 & February 1
Leader: Stephen McConnell, retired pastor from Church of the Palms and author of *Take Me to Aslan: C.S. Lewis and the Art of Trusting*.

Brentwood Volunteer Opportunities
If you're looking for a meaningful way to invest in the lives of children, consider volunteering at Brentwood. You can assist the art teacher in the classroom, or—if art isn't your thing—help is always appreciated in the workroom with tasks such as making copies and laminating. Please contact Lorraine Foltz lmfoltz@me.com or (215) 589-3237 if you are interested in these or other classroom volunteer opportunities.

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our identity in Jesus Christ
This month we will study the fifth lesson, "The Gift of the Woman Who was Poor." Joy in giving is sometimes difficult depending if one is struggling. It is also important to realize that regardless of how much or little we have, we derive joy from the act of giving. This passage from Mark 12:41-44 reminds us that it is not how much we give but if we give it with a cheerful heart. We welcome all to join us in our discussions about gratitude and Christian joy. We will meet via Zoom on Wednesday, January 21 at 10:00. Our lesson will be lead by Colleen Forristall. Please reach out to Jinny Miller at jinnyron@gmail.com for the Zoom information and a copy of the lesson if needed.

The Perlman Music Program Extends Its Sincere Thanks to First Presbyterian Church for Hosting the Winter Residency
Everything exceeded expectations—the planning, the hospitality, and the experience as a whole.
The facility has been fantastic, providing the students with wonderful spaces to practice, rehearse, perform, and receive lessons. Events open to the public were exceptionally well attended, and the warmth and enthusiasm of the audiences made the residency even more meaningful.
We are deeply grateful to First Presbyterian Church for creating such a welcoming and inspiring environment for our students and faculty.

Hope Seeds Event Thursday, February 5
Start the new year by serving others in a fun and meaningful way! Presbyterian Women is sponsoring a **Seed Packing Event with Hope Seeds** on **February 5 from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.** Together, we will pack seeds that will help provide food and hope to communities in need.
Come for all or part of the time—everyone is welcome. Light refreshments will be available, and no prior experience is needed. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship while making a tangible difference.

Year-End Giving Statements
This year, your giving statement will be sent electronically, so please watch your inbox in the coming weeks. If we don't have an email address on file for you, your statement will be mailed instead.

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

