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, September 22, 2024

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.

October 6, World Communion Sunday - Combined Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. There will be a brief congregational meeting immediately after worship on Sunday, October 6. The purpose of the meeting is to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and elect the 2028 class of elders and deacons.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

On World Communion Sunday, we will share communion with Christian around the world. In a colorful combined service at 10:00 a.m., all worshipers are invited to wear clothing that represents their native country or a country they have visited. You will feel Christs love as part of the celebration here and around the world in this year's special service. During lunch we will have on each table through-provoking questions for discussion time led by Pastor Tim.

Suggested assignments for potluck dishes:
Last names beginning with A-M-main dishes, N-R sides dishes or salads, S-Z desserts

Please deliver items to fellowship hall no later than 9:30 a.m. cleanup help after lunch will be welcomed!

RISE AGAINST HUNGER®

Congratulations!! Last Sunday over 100 volunteers of all ages helped pack 20,000 meals! Visit https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/ to learn more.



Centering Prayer Class

Sometimes we feel a dissatisfaction in our spiritual life which is in fact an invitation to deepen our relationship with God. Centering Prayer is a spiritual practice that asks us to make silence a part of our daily lives so we can go there. In October there will be an opportunity to learn about this practice through a video teaching by Thomas Keating, the former Abbott of Gethsemane Monastery and author of the book *The Path of Centering Prayer* restoring the practice of silence to spiritual life.
The class will be held in the library Sundays, October 13, 20 and 27 at 10:00 to 10:50 a.m. between services. Please contact Pat Higgins (patriciahiggins@ymail.com or text 941-993-9221) for more information.

Cuba Partnership Update and 2025 Mission Trips

Plans are underway for our March 14-18, 2025, mission trip to Juan G. Hall Presbyterian Church in Cárdenas, Cuba. If you are interested in experiencing our partnership firsthand through the sharing of ministries, exchange of worship experiences, and the sharing of cultural offerings, please contact Carol Papa, carolpapasrq@gmail.com, by October 7.

Adult Education Class - Continues

"Everyone Matters" explores a fundamental value that addresses this issue: the idea that every person is precious and important. This principle is strongly supported by the Bible, which emphasizes the inherent worth of every individual. The class's content and conclusions are based on Joshua Berman's book, Created Equal: How the Bible Broke with Ancient Political Thought (Oxford University Press, 2008). It will be taught by Rev. Doug DeCelle and continues this Sunday and next. 10:00 a.m. in room 203.

Creation - Adult Education Class, Tuesdays on Zoom, Starting October 1

In scripture we are introduced to different ways of picturing God and the creation God made. This class will consider these diverse images through biblical perspectives on creation - celebrating creation in Psalms and Genesis; reflecting on the "wilds" of creation in Proverbs; and anticipating the hope of the new creation in Romans and Revelation. This class will be held via Zoom beginning Tuesday, October 1 at 11:30 a.m. for 6 Tuesdays. The class will be led by Elaine Barnett, a member of First Presbyterian, an ordained Elder, and a Certified Christian Educator. Sign up by emailing Elaine. ewbarnet@icloud.com

Informational meeting on a mission to bring fresh water to Othon P. Blanco Village, Yucatan, Mexico

Wednesday September 25, at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom: Join Zoom meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83463943001 **Meeting ID:** 834 6394 3001. Things are steadily coming together for our Living Waters for the World Joint mission trip to the Yucatan. At least one volunteer from Sarasota has joined us, and many others have asked about the trip and how they might support it. Please join our Zoom meeting hosted by the Rev. Kirk Miller, First Presbyterian, Holt, MI, to learn more and ask questions of the project's leaders.

New Church Management Software Conversion

The church is in the midst of a church management software conversion, and there is a database housekeeping item we would appreciate your help with. We have learned that your birth date will not be converted if you did not supply the year with your month and date when you joined the church.

Please view your profile either via our website (www.firstpressarasota.org and select member login) or the Church Life app. If you notice there is no birthdate showing in your profile and you would like the church to have your full birthdate, please call the church office (941-955-8119) and we will be happy to make that update for you. FYI, duplicate email addresses (like spouses with the same email address, etc.) will be removed, leaving one email address per family.

Financial Update

August	**Actual**	**Budget**
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	$ 75,410	$ 74,104
Expenditures	80,894	87,335
Year-to-date		
Revenues (pledge, non-pledge, and other receipts)	861,594	755,805
Expenditures	$637,231	$722,190

Thank you for your generous gifts and pledge fulfillment, especially during the summer months.

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