

FIRST NEWS



August 11, 2023

Your **Weekly News** from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, August 13, 2023
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

CONNECT SERVICE at 9 AM (Youth Center)
or
SANCTUARY SERVICE at 11 AM (Sanctuary)

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon Series: **Fruits of the Spirit**
Sermon: "Embodying **Goodness**"
Scripture: [Galatians 5:22-23](#), [Psalm 1](#), [Titus 2:1, 11-13](#), [3:1-5](#)

Click [HERE](#) to watch the 9 AM service online.
Click [HERE](#) to watch the 11 AM service online.

This link may also be found on the home page of the church's website (www.fpcstpete.com - click the "Watch Here" button) as well as on the church's Facebook page. The service is also available for viewing on [our YouTube channel](#) throughout the week. Feel free to share the link with family and friends!

Click [HERE](#) for the 9 AM worship service bulletin.

Click [HERE](#) for the 11 AM worship service bulletin.

August Music

Click [HERE](#) to see the exciting music line-up for our 11 AM Sanctuary Service in the month of August.



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Ginger McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, Ann Murray's parents (Gloria & Edson), Nancy Ogden, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke

Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: LT Marc-Antoni Juliá, USN; CPT Taina Specie, USA; CPT Liam Shelton, USA; CPT Robert Wilson, USAF. *Please provide us with mailing addresses for our card ministry.*

Thank you for choosing to use your time to give this important gift of prayer to our church family. *The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.* - James 5:16

If you have any additions, deletions, or updates to the weekly prayer concerns, please contact Amy McCutcheon at amym@fpc-stpete.org.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

I hope you read my message from last week, with the news that we are starting our pastor search. The first step is for the Nominating Committee to do its work to find the right people for the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Please begin NOW to pray for God's guidance and blessing on this whole process. If your prayers lead you to names you want to suggest for the PNC, you may pass those names along to one of the following: Jo Anne Malone, Bill Shelton, Marilyn Mulcahy, Dottie Young, Peter Bardin, Jim Garnett, Susan Schlecht. This group is our Congregational Nominating Committee.

By the way, if you missed last week's post you can go to our website [HERE](#) (First News, August 4). In that post, I tried to answer ALL your questions about pastor searches.

We are halfway through the sermon series of the Fruit of the Spirit. I am pondering whether focusing on Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness etc., gives us a happy view of life, without paying enough attention to the harder things; the "works of the flesh," as the Apostle Paul calls them. The truth is that living the hopeful, peaceful life of faith does not remove us from the challenges, sorrows, and frustrations of the world and life in general. Followers of Jesus

struggle as everyone does. We just have the resources of the Holy Spirit within us, to help see us through. That's my take on the Christian Life. After all, Jesus says: *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.*

Tell me what you think!
Blessings and love,
Ginny Ellis

Lectio/Visio Divina Resumes Monday, August 14

Join us in a Zoom devotion time at 10 a.m. on Mondays for the practice of Lectio/Visio Divina, a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

Blessing of the Backpacks Next Sunday, August 20

Next Sunday, Aug. 20, at both the 9 AM and 11 AM services, school backpacks will be blessed.



Please invite your children or grandchildren, your friends, neighbors, and acquaintances from preschool, primary school, middle school, high school, college, and trade schools to come have special prayers prayed for a safe and blessed new school year, not only for backpacks, but for students, teachers, staff, and schools as well. Let us bathe our community in prayer at the start of a new school year!



Congratulations to Henry Zuercher, who graduated *magna cum laude* from the University of North Florida with a degree in Exercise Science. He will be attending the University of Florida in the fall to pursue a Doctorate in Physical Therapy.



[Sunday School Helpers Needed](#)

Volunteers are needed to assist Diane Zuercher in a new children's Sunday School class (starting Sept. 10) from 10 – 10:40 AM. This position may be rotated among 2-4 people.

[Kitchen Volunteers Needed](#)

Starting Sept. 13, once or twice a month (usually Wednesday evenings) we will need kitchen volunteers when food is served for church events, to help with set

up and/or clean up. Thanks!

If you are able to help with any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Pastor Jeanie Barnes (jbarnes@fpc-stpete.org) or Amy McCutcheon in the Church Office (727-822-2031).

Pizza and Movie Night was a delicious blast!

Many thanks to all the families who came, and especially to the Helcks, Aumacks, Barnes, Bardins, Brinkmans, the CE Committee, Johnny Miller, and Amy McCutcheon for helping plan, set up, clean up and run Pizza and Movie Night.



Not only was there plenty of pizza, there was hot popcorn, movie candy, chips, cool drinks, ice cream and juice bars and more! Kids brought their sleeping bags, blankies, pillows and stuffed animals for a cuddly evening watching *Cloudy with A Chance of Meatballs!* Stay tuned for our next movie night attraction coming in November!

Scenes from last weekend's LiveLoveStPete backpack pack-up (Friday) and giveaway (Saturday)!





Beach Drive Forums Are Back!

Your Beach Drive Forum planning team is excited to welcome you to our fall season. Please mark your calendars to join in these community conversations at 6 p.m. Sept. 20, Oct. 18 and Nov. 15 in Fellowship Hall. Light delectable bites will be served.

Beach Drive
FORUMS

September 20: *What Makes a Poem*, by St. Petersburg Poet Laureate Gloria Muñoz. Gloria Muñoz, an award-winning Colombian-American writer, translator, and advocate for multilingual literacy, will talk about her career, read from her work and lead the audience in some poetry writing. One lucky person will win a copy of one of her books.



**Get Involved in Plans
for the September 17 Kyiv
Symphony Orchestra &
Chorus Concert at FPC**

Thank you for being part of the excitement of KickOff Sunday! Once again, the First Pres spirit of giving and caring was everywhere. This Sunday, you will again have the opportunity to sign up to get

involved as we host the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra & Chorus (KSOC) Concert. A sign-up table will be provided after each worship service.

As you know, we will provide housing for the 32 KSOC musicians. We also will provide 2 meals at church, and 2 sack lunches. Multiply all these meals, prep and clean-up for 32 people, and you can appreciate the magnitude of help we are requesting!

Housing:

Sixteen total homes are needed for housing the KSOC musicians. Currently we need 6 more. Each home will provide 2 separate beds for two women. Also needed are folks to provide transportation for the musicians on Sept. 17 & 18. Sign-up sheets for housing and for transportation will be available on Sunday. Questions, contact Ronn Johnson (727-822 5055 or rjohnson632@tampabay.rr.com).

Hospitality:

1. ***Food and packaged items*** are needed for musicians' meals: cases of bottled water; granola bars; cans of Coke or Pepsi; fruit salad; pies; etc. Sign-up sheets designate quantity of each being requested.
2. ***Delivery of items:*** Task Force members will be at the church from noon until 4 PM on Saturday, Sep 16 to receive donated items. Arrangements will be made if you need to deliver items at another time.
3. ***Service Needed:*** A MUST-HAVE is help for setting up, serving, and cleaning up. Times are designated on sign-up sheets for the Sunday (Sept. 17) mid-afternoon meal, a Monday (Sept. 18) evening BBQ dinner, as well Monday (Sept. 18) and Tuesday (Sept. 19) sack lunches.

Donations:

Want to donate to KSOC's humanitarian aid mission? We have committed to donating \$20,000 for their mission of humanitarian aid to women, orphans, war victims, and anyone in need of hope and physical comfort. Here are 2 ways you can give, and whichever you choose, **be sure to write *Hope for Ukraine* in the memo line:**

1. Write a check to First Presbyterian Church, and write Hope for Ukraine in the memo line (Important!). Send or give it to the church: 701 Beach Drive, St Petersburg, FL 33701 OR
2. Go online to fpcstpete.com/give and click the "Give Now," button, then, scroll down to *Hope for Ukraine* OR you can type *Hope for Ukraine* in the memo box.

As of this date, we have already raised \$6,009 for KSOC's humanitarian aid. Your gift will help us to reach our commitment of \$20,000!

The key to having a successful event is for each of us to SPREAD THE WORD - Hope for Ukraine Concert - Sunday, September 17 - 4 PM!

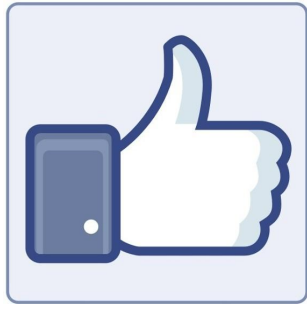
All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.



- If you need anything – a phone call, a prayer, a friendly conversation, or a

few errands run – PLEASE call the Church Office at 727-822-2031! Our staff and volunteers are happy to help.

- Help us stay connected by sending us your pictures and prayer requests!



Have you friended us on Facebook or Instagram?

If you haven't, please do so! Also, be sure to SHARE our Facebook and Instagram posts as much as you can! That can help us increase numbers of followers of the church Facebook and Instagram pages. Thank you for helping us be more visible!



We continue to be thankful for the generosity of all who contribute financially to our church, along with the other contributions they bring to our ministry.

For your convenience, there are several ways which you can give:

- (1) Give online using a credit card or bank transfer ([click here](#) for the link). For assistance using the online system, please call the Church Office or
- (2) Send a check through the U.S. mail or
- (3) Drop by the Church Office and slip an envelope through the mail slot in the front door.

Thank you for the many ways you support the work of God's church at FPC – St. Petersburg!

FPC Calendar At A Glance

- [Click HERE](#) to view the full church calendar online. *Groups may not appear on the online church calendar. Please contact the Church Office if you would like to update our online calendar with your meeting.*
- [Click HERE](#) for August Birthdays



Some groups are still meeting virtually (online). If you need help navigating the Zoom conference call technology, we will be happy to help you with it so that you can join meetings and/or stay better connected. Please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031) for more information.

Regularly Scheduled Events:

- Sundays, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM, childcare is available, Room 203
- Sundays, 9 AM, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center or [Online](#)
- Sundays, 10 AM, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Room S-202
- Sundays, 10 AM, Power Hour Sunday School Class, (resumes September 10)
- Sundays, 11 AM, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- Mondays, 10 AM, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)

- Tuesdays, 9 AM, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center (resumes Sept. 12)
- Tuesdays, 7 PM, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)
- Wednesdays, 7 PM, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center
- Thursdays, 6 PM, Bell Choir Rehearsal (on summer break)
- Thursdays, 7 PM, Chancel Choir Rehearsal (on summer break)
- Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study (resumes September 8)
- Fridays, 12 PM, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events:

- Tomorrow, August 12, 4 PM, Faith Day at the Rays
- Sunday, August 13, 2 PM, Men's Meal Ministry cooking for Pinellas Hope
- Sunday, August 20, Blessing of the Backpacks
- Monday, September 4, Church Office closed for Labor Day
- Wednesday, September 13, 5:30 PM, Wednesday Night Dinner and Kids' Choir
- Sunday, September 17, 4 PM, "Hope for Ukraine" Concert
- Wednesday, September 20, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum

Deadline For "First News"

Items for "First News" should be submitted as early as possible with a cut-off for any Friday's "First News" being end of day the Tuesday before publication. Please submit copy which is as concise as possible. Send copy to Amy McCutcheon at amym@fpc-stpete.org.

First Presbyterian Church
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Church Office Hours: Mon-Thur. 9 AM - 5 PM; closed Fridays

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.





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