

FIRST NEWS



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

August 12, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM
this Sunday, August 14, 2022
in the Sanctuary or online
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "What God Might Ask: Ruth's Story"
Scriptures: [Ruth 1:1-19a](#)

Click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.
Click [HERE](#) for the worship service bulletin.

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.

If the 10:00 hour on Sundays does not fit your schedule, the service is available
for viewing on [our YouTube channel](#) throughout the week. Feel free to share
the link with family and friends!

**PLEASE NOTE: we have a MASK-OPTIONAL policy
for worship services and on-campus activities.**

Praise Band Preview - His Grace

This week your FPC Praise Band is excited to premier a brand-new tune titled *Grace Greater* by Travis Cottrell. This simple yet beautiful worship tune was released commercially just earlier this year. In addition, we'll be performing *God of Wonders*, an old favorite. Click the links below to hear the music and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Grace Greater](#)
[God of Wonders](#)



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Leah Cutting, John Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Margo Hart, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke

Please keep in prayer all those who have been physically, emotionally, and financially affected by the coronavirus, and join us in praying for an end to this situation.

Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: Marc-Antoni Juliá, USN LT; CPT Taina Specie, USA; CPT Liam Shelton, USA; 1st LT Mallory Wasik, USMC; 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

Friends,

My Connecticut grandsons (aged 8 and 10) just arrived for a few days with us and then some days with their other grandparents who also live in the area. Through their eyes and energy, I am rediscovering Florida. Wow: it's hot out there! But the sun is bright, and the Davis Islands pool sounds so inviting. We'll get there on the golf cart! Fun! And, "GinnyMom, when can we go out for breakfast?" (We have a favorite place, of course, and that's one of our traditions.) It is such fun to treasure the simple things and experience hugs and laughter and joy through these children.

I am grateful that God gives us days with such simple blessings. I hope each of us can be open and receptive to the moments (and wonderful people) that

come. I'm holding on to this delight!

BACKPACKS: Remember to have children and grandchildren bring their backpacks to church this Sunday. We'll lift them up for God's blessing! We'll also remember teachers, administrators, students and families in prayer.

Blessings, Ginny Ellis

Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 14



As hard as it is to believe, the end of summer is right around the corner! As kids get ready to return to school, we would like to send them off to the new school year with a blessing! This Sunday, August 14, Pastor Ginny will be blessing backpacks as a part of the Moment for All Ages. So be sure to encourage the school-age kids in your life to join us in the Sanctuary or tune in to our online service that weekend!

Lectio Divina on Monday mornings

We would love for you to join us on Monday mornings at 10 AM via Zoom for Lectio Divina, when we reflect on scriptures that will be used in the coming Sunday's worship service. To join, just click the link: [HERE](#).



Stephen Ministry

A loss, a longing to return to what you had in the past, and 'if only I knew' are words expressing a reality that touches each of our lives. However, loneliness is your choice. You need not travel this path alone; there are people willing to come alongside to remind you that God is able to do what we cannot. God has provided Stephen Ministry leaders to surround you and help you through this time, and they're as close as a phone call away! Contact Ginger McCoy (727-804-2494, gingermccoy7@gmail.com).

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School Bells Are Ringing

School bells are ringing, and that means First Presbyterian's partnership with Lakewood Elementary is coming back to life after a summer's rest. [The Giving Tree](#) continues to bloom with a variety of needs from Lakewood and our other partners where you can help if interested...

- Via our member contributions, current and former, your Mission Committee is able to donate \$800 to Lakewood Elementary to buy 80 school uniforms for those students unable to buy their own—40 uniforms for girls, 40 for boys.

- **Here's a major need:** Volunteers to read to pre-K and Kindergarten children. One hour a week is ideal, and you set your time. Think about doing this with a friend to make it even more fun. Contact Mary-Linda Armacost if you're interested in doing this (cell: 727-465-8108; email: mlsma@cs.com). Mary-Linda will put you in touch with the right person at Lakewood.
- School items that can be purchased and left in the bin under our Giving Tree. These are not available via the school budget:
 1. **Breakfast bars**—WITHOUT peanuts or peanut butter due to allergies.
 2. **Laundry detergent**—the school has a washer/dryer but needs the detergent to clean the children's uniforms when they come in dirty.
 3. **Backpacks.**
 4. **Bunches of little things for the teachers' incentive boxes:** stickers, squishy erasers, key chains, pencil grippers, scented pencils, pencils with fun things on top. (Target, Walmart, Dollar Store).
 5. For the upcoming winter months, the school would like to have **winter jackets** to pass out to children who come to school with no coat or jacket. Kid sizes in S,M,L. Children's sizes in S,M,L.



Please remember to return the Giving Tree card with the item you purchase. Thank you for your willingness to give and serve!!

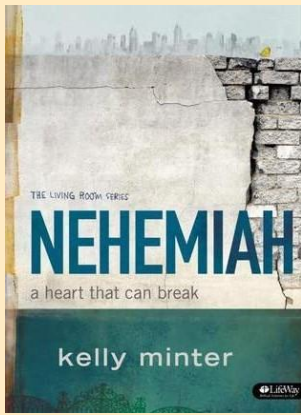
Our Afghan refugee neighbors update:

On Sunday, July 31, the *Tampa Bay Times* published a wonderful front-page story on what our Afghan friends have endured in leaving their home country and resettling in this country. Can you even imagine? Because of circumstances beyond your control, you and your family must leave the USA with all your belongings in one suitcase and hope to start a new life in a country you may or may not have heard of. The *Times'* story obviously focuses on those resettling in our community and region. Interesting side note: The largest newspaper in Japan, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, somehow learned of the story and will be visiting next week to do its own story, says Mary Klein, Chief Human Resources Officer with Westminster Communities who oversees this refugee program for Westminster statewide. With a daily print circulation of over 9-million, *Yomiuri Shimbun* also is the largest newspaper worldwide.

You may remember that our church members and friends partnered with Westminster Communities by helping provide retrofitted laptops and iPads; making available new bicycle helmets for children and adults; and offering transportation for errands and getting to schools. If you didn't see the Times story ("How Afghan Refugees Found Stability in Tampa Bay Senior Communities"), you can access it [HERE](#).

If you have any questions about the Mission Committee's partners or activities, please contact Moderator Sandi Averitt (cell: 727-424-9300; email: sanaveritt1@gmail.com).

Ladies, you are invited to a Summer Bible Study: "Nehemiah – a heart that can break"



Nehemiah's heart was so broken for those in need that he left the comfort of his Persian palace to help them. This study challenges women to let God break their hearts for a hurting, lost world and move them in compassion to lead people to Jesus. This study was written by author, speaker, songwriter, and worship leader, Kelly Minter.

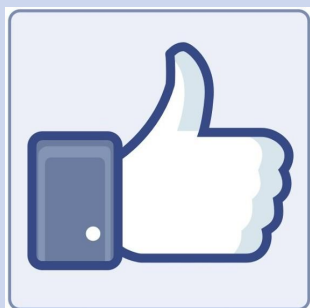
Join us on Tuesday mornings through August 23, 2022
in the Youth Center from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is required. Workbooks will be available for \$20. Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. Questions? Contact April Hussung: (727) 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.



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!



During this season, we are especially thankful for the generosity of all of the people who continue to financially contribute to the church.

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**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 9 AM**, No Power Hour Sunday School Class, taking a break for the summer
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)
- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies Bible Study on Nehemiah, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)
- **Wednesdays, 7:30 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, No Chancel Choir Rehearsal, taking a break for the summer
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, No Men's Bible Study, Room N-123, taking a break for the summer.
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, August 14**, Blessing of the Backpacks

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.

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

[Contact Us](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

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

