

FIRST NEWS



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

August 19, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM
this Sunday, August 21, 2022
in the Sanctuary or online
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "How Call Changes Us: Paul's Story"
Scriptures: [Acts 9:1-22](#)

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 - Blast From The Past

This week, your FPC Praise Band is pulling out one from the archives. We're presenting a new version of a tune we haven't done since 2019. It's titled *10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)*, and I'm sure many of you are familiar with it. In addition, we'll be doing a personal favorite, *His Mercy Is More*. Click the links below to hear the tunes and we'll see you on Sunday. Enjoy!

[His Mercy Is More](#)
[10,000 Reasons \(Bless The Lord\)](#)



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; 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 Church,

HERE IS IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

In September, I begin my second year of ministry with you. We have faced and worked on much of the really hard conflict of the last year or two. There is still some brokenness, still some reconciliation needed, but I am sensing a spirit of openness, forgiveness, and welcome among us. I am feeling good about the progress we have made; I hope you are too. If you want to talk with me about this, please give me a call.

NOW the Session and I are preparing to move into a new stage of our work together. We are going to look at THE ROAD AHEAD. Beginning soon, on Sunday, September 11, we will focus on the forward journey of First

Presbyterian Church. For four Sundays, at worship and in scheduled conversations during the week, we will look at what the Bible tells us about the journey God might be calling us to travel together as a church. Doing this, we will honor the past and look to the future, recognizing changes in the church, the community and the world and how those changes affect the life and work of the church.

I will offer more specific information on this next week (dates for in-person and Zoom conversation groups, for example), but for now I want to say that this conversation is REALLY IMPORTANT for the church as it looks ahead. WE NEED YOU to be part of this conversation, and YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS THE CHANCE to participate. All our voices are needed; all our thoughts and hopes and prayers are significant in shaping the future of the church.

So: more information next week, but plan for the four weeks after Labor Day, beginning on September 11. Pack your bags, get your tickets in order, let's start looking toward The Road Ahead for First Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg.

Blessings, today and always,
Pastor Ginny Ellis

Blessing of the Backpacks

What a sweet time we had with the children in last Sunday's service.
We wish them all the best at the start this new school year!



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](#).

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.

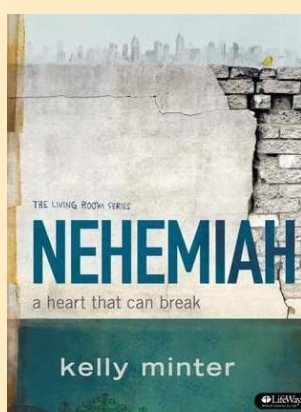


- School items that can be purchased and left in the bin under our Giving Tree. These are not available via the school budget:
 1. **Breakfast bars**—WITHOUT peanuts or peanut butter due to allergies.
 2. **Laundry detergent**—the school has a washer/dryer but needs the detergent to clean the children's 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!!

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"



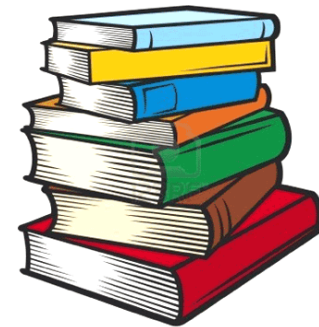
Nehemiah's heart was so broken for those in need that he left the comfort of his Persian palace to help them. This study challenges women to let God break their hearts for a hurting, lost world and move them in compassion to lead people to Jesus. This study was written by author, speaker, songwriter,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

This will be the last Tuesday morning of this study (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.

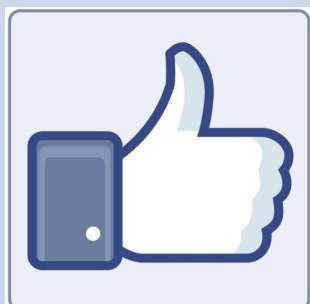
Little Free Library Request

A family member is searching for two books that were donated by accident to our Little Free Library. The books were both older photo/history books of St. Petersburg and Pinellas County. There are family names hand-written on the inside cover of the books. If you have these books or know of where they might be, please call the Church Office at 727-822-2031. Thank you!



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 (last meeting for the summer will be this Tuesday, August 23)
- **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; group will resume September 9.
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

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.

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

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St. Petersburg, Florida

