

# FIRST NEWS



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

**August 26, 2022**

## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM  
this Sunday, August 28, 2022  
in the Sanctuary or online  
*Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost*

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon: "How We Answer the Call: Peter's Story"  
Scriptures: [Matthew 14:22-33](#), [Acts 3:1-8](#)

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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](http://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.**

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## Praise Band Preview - His Grace Revisited

This week your FPC Praise Band is bringing back our new tune from two weeks ago: *Grace Greater*. We received some nice compliments as folks found it easy to learn and sing along to. In addition, we'll be performing *Take My Life*, another favorite. Click the links below to hear the tunes and we'll see, and hear, you on Sunday!

[Take My Life](#)  
[Grace Greater](#)



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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

### From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

My Dear First Prez Friends,

We are now just TWO WEEKS AWAY from beginning the important conversation: *THE ROAD AHEAD*. We will begin *The Road Ahead* on Sunday, September 11.

Are you ready? Have you begun packing? This journey is so important for the church, the participation of each of us is vital. And YES: that means YOU! YOU, YOU, and YOU.

You see, each week, during the four weeks of *The Road Ahead*, we will look at a topic about *The Road Ahead* for First Presbyterian Church. Each week, small conversation groups will discuss that topic. We want you to join in one of the groups each of the four weeks. You can come in person, or you can meet with

a Zoom group. You can wear masks, or you can come "as you are." For the four weeks, you can choose to stay in the same group, or move around as you need to because of your schedule. You have lots of freedom in this, because duh, we are Presbyterians! Freedom, but responsibility too: to join is to sign up!

Here's a preview: the first topic is "The Good Old Days." What do YOU remember about the Good Old Days? ... whatever days those were for you ... wherever you were. We'll talk about that on Sunday, September 11. Then we will explore that topic in the small groups meeting that next week, in person, or on ZOOM. I am asking you to sign up for one of the conversation groups (keep reading for how to do that!).

### WHEN ARE THE GROUPS?

Below is the initial schedule. I hope there will be enough opportunity for each and all of you. If not, I can add groups. If too few sign up for a group, we may need to close out that time. We'll see how it goes and we will keep you posted.

GROUP DAYS AND TIMES, which will meet each of the four weeks, beginning Sunday Sept 11:

1. **SUNDAYS** at 11:15 a.m. in the Chapel (2nd group in Youth Center if needed)
2. **SUNDAYS** at 11:30 a.m. ON ZOOM (join in from wherever you are!)
3. **MONDAYS** at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel
4. **TUESDAYS** at 4:30 p.m. on ZOOM
5. **WEDNESDAYS** at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center
6. **WEDNESDAYS** at 7:00 p.m. on ZOOM
7. **THURSDAYS** at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

If these times don't include a time you need, please let me or the Church Office know. Do we need more evening groups? Do we need a Saturday? I want to offer the times needed so everyone can participate. Your ideas and feedback are really important as we look at *The Road Ahead* for the church!

### HOW DO YOU SIGN UP?

You can sign up for a group electronically by [CLICKING HERE](#). Please note that you can choose options for all four weeks right now, or you can just sign up for one now, and other weeks later (using the same link), as you know your schedule. Or there will be a table in the back of the church every Sunday, starting this Sunday, with a paper sign-up sheet so you can select the group that works best for you.

### CAN YOU GATHER YOUR FRIENDS FOR A GROUP?

Sure! Why not? We want everyone to join in, as they are best able.

I am getting really excited about looking with you at *The Road Ahead*. Please do all you can to participate as fully as you are able.

Blessings, Ginny Ellis

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## 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](#).

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## Power Hour Sunday School class resumes Sept. 11th *Curriculum: Animate* All Are Welcome!

Whether you are already a class member or new, all are welcomed back to Sunday school class. We will continue to animate or "give life to" our faith & community, the Bible, and our core faith practices.. We will hear perspectives from some of the best contemporary voices with this DVD-based program. There will be lively, relevant conversation starters that will spur on great conversations as we grow in our faith. For more info about the curriculum, click [HERE](#). Set your alarm and join us every Sunday @ 8:30 AM in the Youth Center where we'll have coffee and fellowship. Class begins at 9 AM. You won't want to miss it! Any questions, call Karen Mossman at 727-400-5079.

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### Deacons' Corner

As summer humidity continues and familiar pew faces disappear for cooler temperatures, your deacons faithfully deliver at least three vases of flowers to church members who can't get to church. These are made from the floral arrangement that you see up at the altar each week. (Please call Amy in the Church Office if you would like to donate the arrangement in honor or celebration of a loved one). Our dilemma? We are almost out of MID-SIZED vases. This is the best size for members still in their homes. No more bud vases at this time. ☺ Bring them to the Welcome Center or call Marilyn Mulcahy for pick up @ 714-580-5619.



### Email and Text Scam Reminder - PLEASE TAKE NOTE

Occasionally FPC members and friends will let us know they have gotten an email or text message that LOOKS like it is from a member of our staff or church group, which sounds a little strange or is asking them to send something (money or gift cards). **THIS IS A SCAM; PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND IN ANY WAY.** No matter what the wording on the message implies, our church groups and staff will NEVER personally solicit money, gift cards, or bank transactions in this manner. Also, ALWAYS double-check the email address of the sender; oftentimes, they have changed the email address to make it *look* like it's from someone you know.

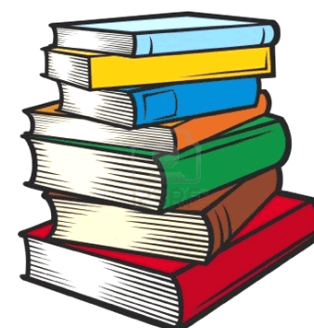
If you ever encounter any suspicious texts or emails, or if you have any questions, please call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.

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### Little Free Library Request

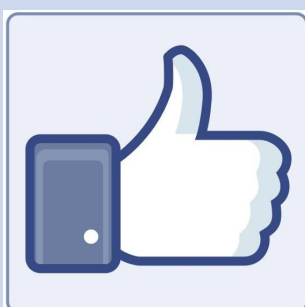
A family member is searching for two books that were

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, 8:30 AM**, No Power Hour Sunday School Class, resumes September 11
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
  
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)
  
- **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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

### Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, September 11**, *The Road Ahead* series and groups start

## 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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

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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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