

# FIRST NEWS



July 21, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, July 23, 2023  
Eighth 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: "**Peace** of God"  
Scripture: [Galatians 5:22-23](#), [Isaiah 2:2-4](#), [John 14:22-27](#)

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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](http://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.

## July Music

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



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

## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

Time is a crazy thing: Here we are in hot humid sultry July and next Tuesday we are celebrating Christmas. Last Sunday at the Sanctuary service, we sang *Joy to the World!* We had to, you see, because we were talking about the second Fruit of the Spirit; JOY. What does it feel like to be singing about and thinking about Christmas in the summer?

One year in Montreat, at the Worship and Music Conference, one of the presenters was from New Zealand. She reminded us that, in her part of the world, Christmas came in their summer. In fact, they would be feeling winter's cold now, during our hot, humid July. In fact, Elena Murray wrote a number of Christmas hymns for her hemisphere: reflecting on the birth of Christ during the hot time of the year, when there was no snow, no bitter cold, no ice. God is beyond time's restraints anyway. God is there in summer and in winter, in spring and in fall. God is there in times of joy and in times of sorrow, in times of peace and in times of struggle. In the church we have a time we call Ordinary Time\*. That's the season not known as Advent, Christmastide, Lent, or Eastertime. We may call it Ordinary Time, but none of God's times are Ordinary. All times belong to God, just as we belong to God.

Last Sunday at the Connect service, we had a curious one-year-old, Clayton, who was very interested in the Praise Band and their instruments. He was



eager to try out that drum set. Because he was worrying his mother, and because he was so cute, I scooped him up and held him up to watch as the band played their last song. I was thinking about time, about how this little boy would grow and would choose to be a musician or an artist or a scientist. God will turn this child's times from Ordinary to Extraordinary, as God uses Clayton to make a difference in the world. That's what God has done with you and with me. God has called us, through the times of our lives, to know God's amazing love, and to share that love and grace with the world. I give thanks for that, and for each of you. You have made, and are making, a difference.

Thanks be to God.

Blessings,  
Ginny

\*NOTE: Ordinary Time is marked in our worship spaces by the color green, which we are using now.

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## New Member Inquirer's Class This Sunday, July 23, at 10 AM in the Chapel

Whether you have been visiting FPC St. Pete for a brief time or for longer, you will want to join us for a new member inquirer's class. This is your opportunity to learn about what it means to be a Presbyterian, plus hear the answers to all those questions you may have about our church, faith, and what you need to do to become a member. We will meet in the Chapel this coming Sunday, July 23, immediately following the 9 AM worship service, where we will enjoy a great program from Pastor Ginny. Elders will be on-hand should you wish to join the church following the class. This is a great chance to learn about and join downtown's most welcoming church!



### A Crafty Christmas in July!

Please let us know if you are able to join us in Fellowship Hall **this Tuesday, July 25th from 5-7 PM** for a fun filled event – Christmas in July – exactly five months ahead of Christmas in December! RSVP by clicking [HERE](#) or by calling the Church Office so we have plenty of supplies and food on hand! (Please make note of how many adults and children).

There will be delicious a SANDWICH BAR with all the fixin's and an ICE CREAM BAR (think banana splits, sprinkles, and a cherry on top!!) We will be creating kid-friendly Christmas crafts, and teenage and adult-friendly CHRISMONS to help decorate our church this December! (that's the contraction of two words – Christ and Monogram). Lots of fun for all!

There also will be an active area to help do preliminary packing of backpacks (1,000 by the end of the month), so we'll be doing Merry Christmas (in July) gift-giving as well! Hohoho! See you there!

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## Backpacks, Backpacks, and More Backpacks For Our Next Fifth Sunday MissionSunday On July 30, 2023

Our Mission Committee is once again partnering with [Live Love St Pete](#), a non-profit founded by FPC member Melody Proud. Her organization works with local schools to provide much-needed resources to underserved elementary school children in



St. Petersburg. For this month's Fifth Sunday MissionSunday, we will be helping to fill hundreds of backpacks with school supplies, which will be distributed to underprivileged kids the first week of August at the Trop.

This upcoming MissionSunday will be on July 30 in Fellowship Hall. **The time available to help will be from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM.** If you attend the 9 o'clock Connect service or the 11 o'clock Sanctuary service, you may help either before or after your service. Melody and other Mission Committee members will be there to assist.

The work is easy-peasy. (*Do kids still say this?*) The backpacks and school supplies have already been purchased through Live Love St Pete's on-going fundraising efforts. **So all we need to do is fill them!**

*Note: if you would like to sponsor a backpack (or more than one!), the cost is \$15 per backpack, and includes all the school supplies we'll be packing in them! You can click [HERE](#) to donate online, or you can give a check to the church with "backpacks" in the memo line.*



"Our goal is to fill 400 backpacks on MissionSunday," says Melody. "I know that may be aggressive, but it should be easy if we get enough hands to help." She and friends will be filling the other 600 backpacks another time.

And who gets these 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies? And how will they be distributed? "They will be given to schoolkids K-5 in need of a backpack," Melody says. "And we'll distribute these at the Saturday Morning Shoppe at The Trop's parking lot until they're all gone."

Thank you, Melody, for taking the lead on this worthy effort!

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On another front, Beth Houghton, also on the Mission Committee, reports that [CASA](http://CASA.org) (727.895.4912) has a refreshed "Wish List" of needs. All these items should be new unless otherwise indicated, and donations can be taken directly to their office front desk (1011 1st Ave N.):

- Accordion files
- Air mattresses (with pump)
- Bras/sports bras
- Dish soap
- Hairbrushes/combs
- Pack-N-Plays
- Socks
- Strollers
- Umbrellas
- Car seats (new or gently used and unexpired)

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If you have questions about this upcoming MissionSunday, please contact Melody Proud (865-599-6767, [melody@livelovestpete.org](mailto:melody@livelovestpete.org)). Or contact Mission Committee chair Sandi Averitt (727-424-9300, [sanaveritt1@gmail.com](mailto:sanaveritt1@gmail.com)).

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## Join us for a guided tour of the James Western Museum July 30 at 1 PM



It's time for another Fun, Friends and Fellowship group adventure for the St. Pete 1st Explorers! We've booked a Sunday afternoon excursion on July 30th at 1 p.m. at the James Western Museum. A museum guide will take us on a 90-minute tour inside the air-conditioned building ([CLICK HERE](#) for more info about the guided tour). Please reserve your spot by calling Dave Hunt (727-739-6961). We can carpool to the museum from the church (leaving by 12:45 p.m.), or meet at the door at 1:00 p.m. The cost will be \$18 per person at the door.

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## Pizza and Movie Night...

...is coming to FPC on Friday Aug. 4 from 5-7 PM in the cool AC of the Youth Center! Invite your kids and grandkids and come enjoy some hot, gooey pizzas and cold drinks with friends, new and old!

Kids, bring your sleeping bags and pillows if you want to lounge on the floor while watching a beloved kid's movie classic. Grown-ups don't worry, there are plenty of comfy chairs with arms available too! Please [SIGN UP HERE](#) or contact the church office to RSVP so we can properly prepare for the fun! Please make note of how many adults and children. Thanks!

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**FAITH DAY AT THE RAYS - AUGUST 12th**





## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY AT THE RAYS 2023



**SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 12TH**

**START TIME: 4:10 P.M.  
GATES OPEN: 2:10 P.M.**

### Don't Miss Out

FREE Rays Hat

Post-Game: Team Chaplin & Player Testimonies

**Tickets are \$35** (\$70 Value)

Kids 2 years old and younger do not need a ticket

EVENT WRISTBANDS\* AND RAYS HATS CAN BE PICKED UP FROM DAVID AUMACK IN SECTION 137

\*Event wristband is required for entrance to post-game event (down LF line in Sections 127-137).



Deadline to purchase is Sunday, August 6th, 2023.



**- Come enjoy a game at Tropicana Field with the Rays  
and your First Presbyterian Church family!**

**To purchase tickets: Visit **Dave Aumack** after service on  
Sunday, July 30th or Sunday, August 6th from 8:30 am-12:30 pm**

**Questions? Contact **Dave Aumack** at 727.304.3167  
or email [daumack@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:daumack@fpc-stpete.org)**

**--Cash or Check accepted--  
(Make checks payable to FPC; Memo Line: Rays Game)**



### Seeking Church Van Drivers!

If you might be ready, willing, and able to drive the church van one Sunday a month, please reach out to the Church Office (727-822-2031). We are in need of more drivers. Thanks!

**Beach Drive  
FORUMS**

### Don't miss the fall Beach Drive Forum lineup!

Mark your calendars for these exciting community conversations when Beach Drive Forums resume in September. Unless indicated, the Forums occur on the third Wednesday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will fill in more details as they become firm.

**September 20:** Gloria Munoz, *St. Petersburg Poet Laureate*. This award-winning Colombian-American poet (Academy of American Poets Ambroggio Prize and the Gold Medal Florida Book Award for Poetry) will share what it's like to be a poet laureate and may even inspire you to write your own poetry.



October: Date and topic to be announced soon. Watch this space!

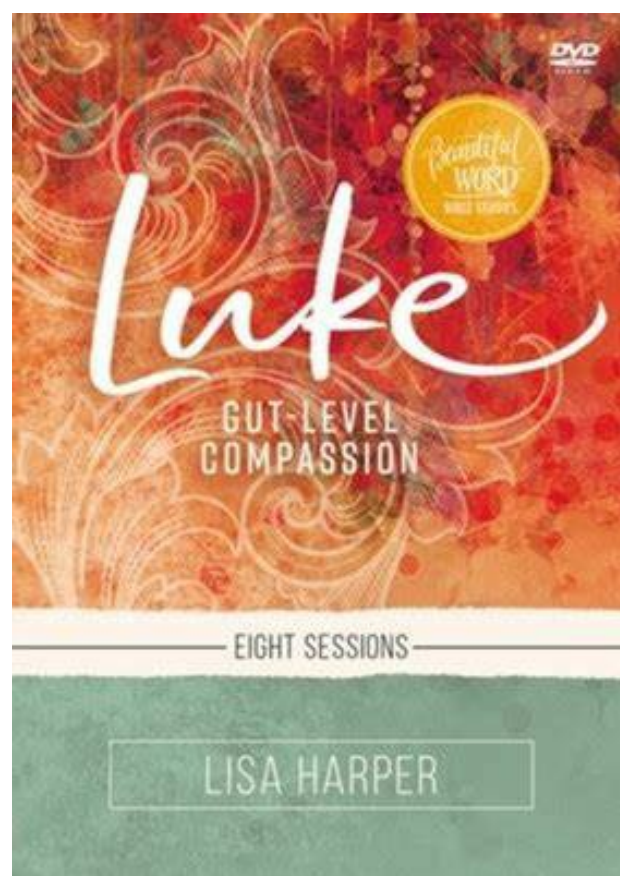
**November 15:** Jenny Gould, MD, *Understanding Transgender Health*. This local psychiatrist has been practicing for more than 25 years, specializing in child and adolescent as well as general psychiatry.

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**Ladies, you are invited to  
Lisa Harper's new Bible Study!  
Luke: Gut-Level Compassion**

We will be studying the humanity and compassion of Jesus shared by Luke. The great news woven throughout the Gospel according to Luke is that perfection is not a prerequisite for deep and personal relationship with Jesus!

Join us on Tuesday mornings  
through August 8  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
in the Youth Center



Workbooks (including streaming video access for all sessions) will be available for \$25. We know it's summer – come when you can! No previous Bible study experience is needed. Bring a friend! Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. Questions? April Hussung: 727-420-1758 or [stapler39@aol.com](mailto:stapler39@aol.com).

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**Save The Date:  
September 17, 4 PM  
"Hope for Ukraine" Concert**

First Presbyterian is hosting a free concert by the women of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. These musicians are touring the southeastern United States to raise funds for their humanitarian relief mission to widows, orphans, and war victims. First News will soon begin to post opportunities for ways you can help make this a successful event.



**Fun Facts**



**Beautiful Flowers,  
Wonderful History**

Sunflowers are the national flower of Ukraine but were actually cultivated by Native Americans in prehistoric North America, then brought to Europe by the Spanish in the 16th century. They became popular in Ukraine in the mid 18th century. Butter was not allowed by the Orthodox Church during Lent, but sunflower oil was. Ukraine is now the largest producer of seeds and oil in the world.



Each flower head contains many florets. In the center brown or yellow “disk flowers” are arranged in a spiral and mature into the seeds. The outer “petals” are sterile “ray flowers” and are usually yellow. A giant sunflower can produce up to 2000 seeds.

After the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in 1986, Ukrainians planted sunflowers in the devastated area. The flowers not only represented renewal and hope, but they helped extract toxins from the soil. In the summer of 1996, sunflowers were planted by officials at the Pervomaysk missile base in southern Ukraine to mark the removal of nuclear weapons from the country.

A viral video in the invasion’s earliest days showed a woman in Henychesk giving seeds to Russian soldiers telling them to put the seeds in their pockets so flowers will grow where they die. Now sunflowers are seen everywhere, a symbol of resistance and hope for Ukraine.

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**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 July 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, (on summer break until September 10)
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina (on summer break until August 14)
- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation (on summer break until August 8)
- **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 (on summer break until September 8)
- **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, July 23, 10 AM**, New Member Inquirer's Class, Chapel
- **Tuesday, July 25, 5-7 PM**, "Christmas in July" event, Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday, July 30, 8 AM - 1 PM**, MissionSunday: Backpack packing (Fellowship Hall) and Crazy Hat Day
- **Monday, July 31, 1:30 PM**, Card Fellowship, N-218
- **Friday, August 4, 5-7 PM**, Pizza and a Movie Night, Fellowship Hall
- **Saturday, August 12, 4 PM**, Faith Day at the Rays

## 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).



701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 822-2031 | [www.fpcstpete.com](http://www.fpcstpete.com)

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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