

# FIRST NEWS



July 7, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, July 9, 2023  
Sixth 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: "Beautiful, Costly **Love**"  
Scripture: [Galatians 5:22-23](#), [Matthew 22:36-40](#),  
[I Corinthians 13](#)

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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 in 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,

Home sweet home! I am glad to be back from my family vacation in Montreat, NC. I have to say it was nice to be in a place with cool mornings! But it's nice to be home and back here with you at First Pres. Here are some things I thought I might share with you as I return.

- I loved watching the videos of the services you had here. Pastor Jeanie provided wonderful leadership at worship on June 25 and July 2. Thank you, Jeanie!
- Preacher Tony Winter's presence, sermon and prayer on July 25 were really powerful, as he talked about the man whose sight Jesus restored. I noticed that at both services that day, the congregation applauded Rev. Winter. That kind of response is rare but heartfelt. It says to the preacher: "you have spoken to our hearts." Thank you for welcoming Tony, and I am glad we could put that handicap "lift" to use for him in the Sanctuary. Yay!
- On my first Sunday away, I drove down to Mills River, NC to worship with Megan McMillan at her church. Megan is doing well, and her church is wonderful. Megan sent her love to all of you. I wanted to tell you two things about Mills River PC. One: Probably 10 people came up to introduce themselves and welcome me. That was really impressive; it felt

good to be welcomed so personally. Second, and not unconnected: the people at Mills River PC all had on nametags, which was helpful, and the nametags had the first name printed out REALLY BIG. We could do that, and probably should.

- Finally: I love this church. I love the talented, committed people with leadership strengths here at First Presbyterian. But. But. But. We need more of our men to serve as liturgists and communion servers and ushers. Especially with two women ministers serving on staff, you men need to balance us out. Way back when I was young, before women were as visible in leadership, it was always men “up there” doing things. I yearned to see women as readers, as leaders. Now let’s be sure to include both men and women in leadership roles. Let’s keep the balance: We are all made in God’s image: male and female. If you men out there are comfortable with public speaking, and are not yet on our liturgist lists, please let me know (or Amy in the office) and we’ll put you on the schedule. Once I heard that the biggest factor in children growing up to attend church was whether the men in their lives attended church. Let’s keep that in mind.

## SUMMER NEWS

### NEW SERIES

This week, I’m starting a sermon series on the Fruits of the Spirit. You can read the passage in Galatians 5:22-23. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Let’s start thinking about those fruits in our lives.

### A CHANGE

Friends, because of people traveling and people away for the season, we are moving to a less formal and more intimate service at 11 AM. We are bringing the preacher down to the floor, using stoles but not robes, singing some “favorite” hymns (have you requested yours yet? Forms are in the entry!). If you would like to move a bit closer to the front for July and August, you are welcome to do so. I promise we will save your back row seating for the fall at no extra charge! Just kidding; no charge at all....Let’s just come and praise God at worship!

Blessings,  
Ginny Ellis



## 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 - 11:30 AM. 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!

On another front, Beth Houghton, also on the Mission Committee, reports that [CASA](#) (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)

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)).



## 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!

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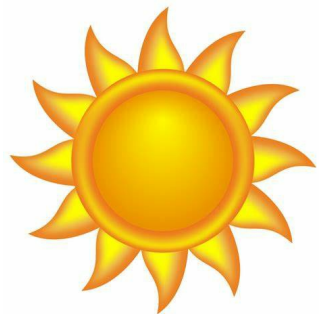
## The Little Free Library at FPC has a new landing pad!

No more muddy shoes in front of the Little Free Library (LFL) thanks to the WONDERFUL Johnny Miller. Where there was once a worn patch of grass from all the visitors to the LFL, we now have a concrete platform gracing the entrance.

Recycled pavers from another area of the church property have found a new home, and we are proud to welcome them to our ministry. Thank you, Johnny, for helping us improve the LFL@FPC.



***TAKE A BOOK, LEAVE A BOOK!***



## Save the Dates for Summer Family Fun at FPC!

Come beat the heat in cool air conditioning with your family and friends!

**Tues. July 25, 5 -7 p.m.**  
**Christmas in July**

*Sandwich & Ice Cream Bar*  
Come make your own classic sandwich, sundae, and some special Christmas ornaments!



**Sun. July 30**  
**8 - 11:30 a.m.**  
**Mission Sunday:**  
**Backpack PACK**  
**AND Crazy Hat Day!**

**Fri. Aug. 4, 5-7 p.m.**  
**Pizza & A Movie**

Bring your sleeping bag, teddy bear, and pillow if you want to lounge on the floor during a movie in the Youth Center!



**LOOKING FORWARD to fall...**

Starting in September, every 2nd Wednesday. Forget the cooking and bring your gang! 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

- Sept. 13 - Kyle's World-Famous BBQ and Mac Night
- Oct. 11 - Mothers' Home Cooking Night
- Nov. 8 - Men's Meatloaf & Mashed Potato Night
- Dec. 13 - Hohoho Holiday Special



**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 Poet's 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.

## Red, White & Blue Sunday - July 2 Celebrating God's Gift of Freedom in Christ

A big THANK YOU to everyone who attended and helped with our Red, White, and Blue Sunday last week, and a very special thanks to Sarah Helck for providing so much of the reception food and decor for both the Connect and Sanctuary services!



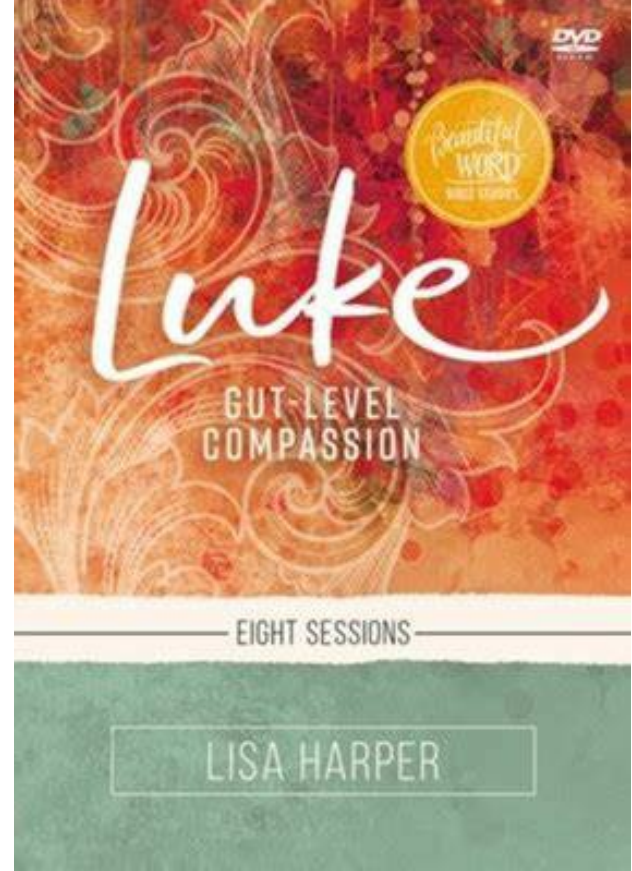
### Ladies, you are invited to Lisa Harper's new Bible Study! **Luke: Gut-Level Compassion**

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 (not meeting July 4)

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).



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

The "Hope for Ukraine" concert tour will be performed by the women of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus ([click HERE](#) for more information). Currently men are not allowed to leave the country due to the war.

The tour will help fund their humanitarian mission to aid widows, orphans, and war victims. There are a variety of ways you can help make this event a huge success. First News will soon begin to post those opportunities.

## Fun Facts **Inventors from Ukraine**

- When you sit down at your computer and your hard disc drive whirs, remember its developer, *Lubomyr Romankiw*, who was born in 1931, in the Lviv region.
- *George Gamow* from Odesa, born in 1904, not only is considered a father of The Big Bang Theory of the origin of the universe but also was an early developer of the genetic code.
- The Kharkiv region gave us *Elie Metchnikoff* in 1845. He was a father of immunology.
- *Igor Sikorsky*, who was born in Kyiv in 1889, designed the first commercial helicopter.

Look at all the things that have enhanced our lives, and you're likely to find an invention by a Ukrainian.

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:

- Today, July 7, 9:30 AM, Church "Shine" Day
- Sunday, July 9, 2 PM, Men's Meatloaf Ministry cooking (volunteers welcome!)
- Tuesday, July 25, 5-7 PM, "Christmas in July" event, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, July 30, MissionSunday: Backpack packing and Crazy Hat Day

## 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).

First Presbyterian Church  
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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