

FIRST NEWS



May 12, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, May 14, 2023
Sixth Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day

CONNECT SERVICE at 9 AM (Youth Center)
or
SANCTUARY SERVICE at 11 AM (Sanctuary)

Rev. Jeanie Barnes
Sermon: "Is This the Time?"
Scripture: [John 14:15-21](#), [Acts 1:1-9](#)

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 - 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 11 AM worship service bulletin.

We have a **MASK-OPTIONAL** policy for worship services and on-campus activities.



The flowers on the chancel this coming Sunday were donated to the glory of God and in honor of Mother's Day by Al May.

Music in May

Click [HERE](#) to see the exciting line-up of music we have for our 11 AM Sanctuary Service in May!



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, Alan Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke

Pray for our Honduras Mission Team, leaving in early June.

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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

A few of our folks have begun to say their seasonal good-byes as they head off to North Carolina, Pennsylvania, or Montana. I am reminded of a church with a ritual for when children leave the sanctuary after a Children's Sermon. The pastor or other leader says: *Now we go our separate ways.* The children then say to the congregation: *God be with you here.* And the people staying in the sanctuary respond: *God be with you there.* It is a precious moment, reminding us of God's grace being with us wherever we go.

In the same way: for those of you who are leaving or have left: I assure you of our love and prayers, our commendation: *God be with you in the places where you go, until you return to us here.* We pray that you also hold us in your hearts as we remain here, engaged in the ministry to which God has called us in St. Petersburg and in Florida. We treasure your love and support even from afar.

For those of you staying here, I want to ask you to be as faithful in attendance at worship as you can be. We'll be here at worship at 9:00 and at 11:00. Both our sense of connection and our confidence get a valuable boost when we see each other, when we sing together, and pray together, and smile at one another. Your presence counts!

Some years ago, after serving a church for 14 years, I was given a sabbatical leave, four precious months to renew my heart, mind, and spirit. We asked the congregation to keep attending, to continue to support the church even though I was away. When I got back, I made a point to visiting church members and asking, "How did the Sabbatical go for you?" One of our older members was Verna G, who was not an officer, not in the choir, not part of a class or Women's circle, not even very well known in the church. When I visited Verna and asked about the sabbatical, she said, *Ginny, I went to church every Sunday you were away!* She was clearly proud to report that. I'm not sure I believed she had been there every one of those 16 Sundays, but I loved that Verna knew her presence counted. She had done her best to support the church, and me, by being there, by attending.

So, I just say to each of you: The long hot summer is before us. We'll each have things to do, and we'll be in and out of town. But your presence counts. It helps. It makes a difference. So come to worship when you are in St. Pete. Let's sing and pray together. Let's smile. It counts more than you might guess.

I appreciate you! Each of you. AND: God be with you wherever you are!
Blessings,
Ginny

A warm welcome to our newest FPC members!



Michelle Heinsimer



Chris & Cameron Blair

Lectio Divina

Lectio/Visio Divina is a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. We meet Mondays at 10 a.m. via Zoom. If you haven't experienced this devotion practice yet, try it out this week! Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

**Our Next Beach Drive Forum
will be next Wednesday, May 17,
from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

Science, Faith, and Reality: The View from the Cosmos

**Beach Drive
FORUMS**

Get ready now for our second Beach Drive Forum on Wednesday, May 17 at 6 PM, to be presented by Eckerd College professor emeritus Harry Ellis as he takes us into our galaxy and beyond exploring science, faith and the universe. (And, yes, Harry is the husband of Pastor Ginny!) Refreshments promise to be out of this world!

Beach Drive Forums are a series of conversations for congregation and community on thought-provoking topics. The monthly (or so) conversations with intriguing guest speakers and subject matter are open to our members and the public and will take place on Wednesdays from about 6-8 p.m. (presentation from 6-7, followed by a time for Q & A and refreshments). Everyone is welcome!

Congregational Meetings to Elect Deacons - Sunday, May 21

The meetings will be conducted after each worship service. The committee will nominate the following: Kathy Arsenault, Lynne Mormino, Nancy Ogden. Please plan to attend!



Don't Miss Our SUMMER FUN COOKOUT

Can you feel the summer breeze? It's coming...and we are going to celebrate! Join us at noon, after the 11 AM Worship on **Sunday, May 21** for a Summer Fun Cookout in Fellowship Hall. Chef Dave and anyone who'd like to help, will be grilling burgers, hot dogs, onions and anything else you may bring along! We'll have all the fixings and any sides you may like to share! There will be tall, cool drinks, and an ice-cold desserts provided. After we eat we will head outside to blow bubbles galore... giant ones and little ones. There will be outdoor games and races...and if it's really hot...maybe even some water squirting! Come enjoy the fun as we welcome family, friends and neighbors to Summer Fun at FPC. All ages are warmly invited!

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by clicking [HERE](#) or call the Church Office - thanks!

Staff Matters

Five Questions for Dave Aumack

"I was flying a plane solo at 16 and a certified Pilot before I even got my driver's license," says Dave Aumack. "And I was sailing while still in my diapers." And he's followed both interests well into adulthood and through his military career.

As you know by now, our Personnel & Administration Committee is profiling our staffers the week of their birthdays. Dave's birthday is today, May 12th. He's our Director of Media, the guy sitting up in the balcony of the Sanctuary and in the back of the Youth Center, working several computers and multiple dials—along with his A-teams—to flash songs and words up on the screens for the congregation to see. All while now streaming both services online.

Dave was born in Miami and moved with his family when in the third grade to

Melbourne. His father had been with Eastern Airlines before taking a job with Lockheed Martin, a major contractor on the space shuttle. As a teenager, Dave crisscrossed Florida, flying in and out of the Merritt Island Airport hitting as many malls as he could. "I would shop and get something to eat, then go back home." Say what?! "Yeah. I had to get my flying hours in and that was the best way I knew."

Dave graduated from Florida State in 1999 on a meteorology scholarship. While there he put in four years with the Air Force ROTC on their scholarship program, coming out of school as a Second Lieutenant. He entered the Air Force the day after graduating.

He and wife Kendra and daughters Carrie and Becky, both still in their teens, live on a Catamaran with 900 square feet of living space in the St. Petersburg Marina; it's 38 feet long and 25 feet wide. While Dave works with us at FPC, Kendra is a pastoral assistant at First United Methodist in St. Pete and their daughters work there as well in the Audio-Video department.



Thanks for talking with us, Dave. We have 5 questions for you...

Q1: How long were you in the Air Force?

Dave: Retiring after 16 years, from 1999 to 2015, I had fun and did more than most but being away from home so much put a good bit of stress on our marriage. We married in 1999, moving 16 times during my service career. It was not until I retired that I really got to know our daughters, and they me, when they were 9 and 11.

Q2: Exactly what did you do in the Air Force?

Dave: I flew most of the time, piloting and commanding a Lockheed C-5 Galaxy cargo plane. In fact, I was the Air Force's eighth Lieutenant to command a C-5. If you don't know what this plane is, it's among the largest military aircrafts in the world. The cargo bay is one foot longer than the Wright brothers' first flight. It could carry 16 Greyhound buses, if necessary. It holds up to 80 passengers, up to 20 crew members, and over 100 tons of air cargo. I also was an instructor pilot for the C-5, T-37, T-6. Our crew often would fly 50,000 miles a week. Among other things, we carried bombs, flew earthquake equipment into Iran, and moved in relief supplies for victims of Hurricane Sandy. I mentioned being away from home...from 2002 to 2013, I average 303 days a year away. Between flights I was at home no more than 15 hours every 23 days or more.

Q3: You had two tours in Afghanistan. What were your most dangerous assignments?

Dave: I had many. When I wasn't flying into the combat environments every week-sometimes daily, I served as Safety Officer and Advisor to the Afghan and Iraqi Air Forces, liaising to the UN Mission regarding airspace, and plus a tour in Iraq. I had a lot of fun in the Air Force. But yeah, a lot of dangerous work, too, a lot of cloak-and-dagger stuff, walking around downtown Kabul and other areas in Afghanistan or Iraq. Frankly, I was shot at so often either in mid-air or on the ground, that I should be dead seven times over by now. And on one occasion, I was leading a convoy between bases that accidentally forgot to call out the correct exit in a turn circle. Reminiscent of a slap-stick comedy, we continued circling until I called for a different exit and as we left the circle, a bomb went off behind us.

Fun stuff but overall, I really enjoyed training and leading others. Putting myself and others in harm's way seemed just par for the course. I was offered and accepted early retirement as a Major in 2015, out of Special Operations Command South, in Homestead, FL. From there, we bought a boat and began sailing around.

Q4: You've gone to seminary. What led you from carrying bombs to feeling called to ministry?

Dave: This was my ninth time being called to ministry, but God is patient. On my journey to be a minister, I graduated in May of 2020 with my Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary, studying Greek and Hebrew and specializing in Counseling. While there, I kept praying and for some way to get started in ministry, aside from music leader as I cannot carry a tune. I came to First Presbyterian when I saw a posting for a youth minister here. That's now evolved into this full-fledged media position using all of the skills I've learned over the years, including expertise in computers, photo/videography, audio acoustics, leadership, safety and marketing.

Q5: What's your aspiration at this point, Dave?

Dave: While I'm working toward ordination, I guess you could sum up my aspiration as wanting to serve, lead, and teach. That's what I did all through my military career, as well as pre- and post-retirement. And I like to think that's what I'm doing here at First Presbyterian. Where this sense of mission leads me next, I don't know what door God will open next, but I know God has carried me thus far.

Thanks for sharing a slice of your life with us, Dave. We wish you a happy birthday!

Fun Finders of First Pres for friends, fellowship, and fun! OR SAIL = Social Adventure Inspired Life group

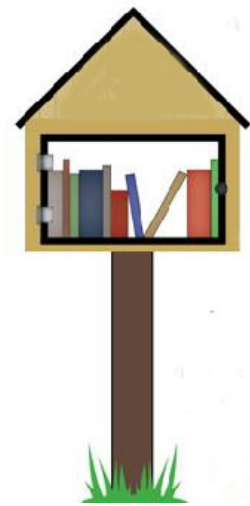
A few of the members of our church are looking to explore things around St. Petersburg, and we want to make our monthly adventures available to others in the congregation. We are not doing anything outrageous, nor expensive, nor dangerous, just some friends having some fun fellowship. Some proposed ideas have included: visiting Sunken Garden, the Imagine Museum, maybe a "behind the scenes" tour of the Palladium or Mahaffey, or tour of St. Pete Free Clinic, etc.. If you are interested in going to any of these, or if you're interested in the brainstorming process, please contact Dave Hunt, or the church office for getting onto the e-mail list. Other ideas and suggestions are also welcome!

Your Books Are Needed!

The Little Free Library is so successful that it is in need of good books again. We are thankful that this project is feeding the neighborhood, intellectually.

Please help with your current books of all genres.

-The Librarians



All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.

A logo with the word "Stay" in a large, blue, cursive font and the word "CONNECTED" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. The background is a light blue, textured wash.

- 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!

A blue rectangular banner with the text "Online Giving" in white. To the right of the text is a small illustration of a green sprout with two leaves growing out of a mound of dark soil.

Online Giving

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 –

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 May 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, 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, Youth Center
- Sundays, 11 AM, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- Mondays, 10 AM, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)
- Tuesdays, 7 PM, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)
- Wednesdays, 7 PM, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center
- Thursdays, 7 PM, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study, Room N-123
- Fridays, 12 PM, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, May 14, 2 PM, Men's Meal Ministry cooking for Pinellas Hope
- Wednesday, May 17, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum: "Science, Faith, and Reality: The View from the Cosmos"
- Sunday, May 21, 10 AM and 12 PM, Congregational Meetings following both worship services
- Sunday, May 21, 12:15 PM, FPC Cookout
- Monday, May 22, 1:30 PM, Card Fellowship

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.



First Presbyterian Church | 701 Beach Drive N.E. , St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2618

[Unsubscribe amyg@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@fpc-stpete.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!