

FIRST NEWS



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

May 13, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM
this Sunday, May 15, 2022
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "*What We're Here For. Telling*"
Scriptures: [John 4:5-30, 39-42](#), [John 10:7-10](#)

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 - Sing Out Loud!

One of the best things about leading worship is the sound of a congregation singing! Nothing quite warms my heart each Sunday like sound of your voices and the smiles on your faces. This Sunday we have two great tunes for you to sing along to: *Take My Life* and *Firm Foundation (He Won't)*. Click the links below to hear the music and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Take My Life](#)
[Firm Foundation \(He Won't\)](#)

Who ARE you? Please wear a name tag!



Overheard at the name tag carousels:

"Oh, I don't like name tags."

"I'll take mine, but my wife won't wear hers."

"I always forget to take it off after church, so I have three at home, don't make me another one."

As much as we would like to think we know the names of our church friends, it is a big help to all -- longtime members, new members, and visitors -- if we wear name tags at Sunday worship. Scripture tells us God calls us by our names, so shouldn't we call each other by the same? Name tags are essential to help newcomers feel welcome, and they also ease those moments of unease when we know we've met someone before but gosh, we've forgotten who they are!

If you have not had a reusable tag made, stop by the Welcome Center to fill out a temporary tag and request a permanent one, which you will find on the carousel the next time you're in church.



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, John Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Lillian Harris, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet

Poling, Jane Pruitt, 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; 1st LT Mallory Wasik, USMC; 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

Greetings in Christ, First Pres Friends!

Here's an update on my travels: Blue Ridge, Georgia is truly lovely and refreshingly cool. Harry's cousins make wonderful companions, and we had a great time being with them. Unfortunately, after we got back, one of the cousins tested positive for COVID, so now, having been exposed, I'm isolating. My first test was negative. Vaccinated and boosted, I'm hopeful about staying well. Please keep Harry and me in your prayers.

I wanted to ask for some help as we relocate the library of the church. We have two tall shelves of commentaries and other good church resources which need to be boxed up for a move to the office area. Please call the Church Office (727-822-2031) if you would be willing to help with this.

And let me tell this story: One church has a children's sermon which ends with the children going out to another space. The children say to the congregation: *God be with you here*. And the congregation responds: *God be with you there*. So, if you are preparing to be away for some of the hot season, I want to say: God be with you there. We will see you when you return. Be safe!

Ginny

AfghanTech, Bike Helmets, and Rides

What a good day, what a group effort!

Twenty-seven members and friends of First Presbyterian offered their various resources Saturday, April 30, to provide and retrofit 18 laptops/iPads, to contribute 24 bike helmets, and to offer transportation for the families resettling in St. Pete from Afghanistan.

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In this picture Noman Raoufi (center left), a former emissary and interpreter for the U.S. generals in Afghanistan, and his friend Mohammad Hakim Kohdamani receive the computers and helmets from FPC media director Dave Aumack and Carlen Maddux, representing our Mission Committee. These will be distributed among the 28 members of the four families resettling in St. Pete's Pinellas Point area. To make this happen, FPC and our Mission Committee partnered with Lutheran Services and Westminster Communities.

The retrofitted computers will be used by our new neighbors to stay in touch with family and friends in Afghanistan and to help with their English-speaking and education skills, along with whatever else.

You may be unaware, but our church has at least one direct link with Afghanistan: Dave Aumack served several tours of duty there 2002-2013 as a pilot and safety mentor before retiring as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. He now is working hard to get his interpreter and family out of the country. (If you have any contacts, political or otherwise, who might be of help, please contact Dave through the church office.)

This four-hour project on April 30 was led by Dave and his IT buddy Mike Kelzer. There was considerable down-time as computers went through their slow recycling, so this gave friendships a chance to rekindle: "I saw folks I haven't seen in a long time." "I'm not sure how much my few skills were needed, but I enjoyed catching up with friends." A lot of hands made short order in readying these computers.



Shhh ... tech geniuses at work

Other members and friends of First Presbyterian who contributed their time, energy, computers, and finances to make these many gifts happen include: Dick and Sandi Averitt; Bryan Bardin; Mike Davenport; Don and Jeannie Doddridge; Royce Haiman; Chrissy Harazin-Pettit; Mary and Ronn Johnson; Robin Lyle; Carlen Maddux and son David and his son Nelson; Tony McCoy; John Mulvihill (an attorney with two children in our day school); Linda Michael; Gene and Sherry Oliver; John Sims; Betsy and Cliff Smith; Bob Stewart

(Westminster board member and former county commissioner); Bill Wanless; and Ken Young. (Our apology if any contributors were overlooked.)

First Presbyterian, our Mission Committee, and Westminster Communities thank each and every one of you for your many gifts.



Welcoming our new neighbors at Westminster's recent Open House

Westminster is employing 10 Afghan adults in St. Pete; is helping these families enroll in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes; is helping several attain professional certifications; and is setting up transportation, among many other tasks. It also is helping families resettle in Bradenton and Orlando.

Sunday May 29 - 5th Sunday Mission **Mark your calendar and join us!!**

- Contemporary Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall at 10 AM
- On-site Congregational Mission Project at 11 AM
- Lunch to follow in Fellowship Hall



We are excited to begin a new 5th Sunday Mission tradition here at First Presbyterian Church! Every month that has a 5th Sunday, starting on **Sunday, May 29th**, we will have a Contemporary Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall at 10 AM where the FPC Praise Band will lead us in worship (this will be in place of the blended service that usually takes place in the Sanctuary at 10 AM).

At 11 AM, we will begin our on-site congregational mission project. This month, we will engage in packing condiment kits for the [Missio Dei](#) Community. [Missio Dei](#) is a worshipping community for unhoused folks in Pinellas County that covers a myriad of services: worship, food, laundry, advocacy and more.

Then, following the mission project, (around 12 PM), we will eat and fellowship

with one another in the Fellowship Hall. Kyle Brinkman, along with the CE& Fellowship Committee, will cook up some meats for us to enjoy. We ask that folks bring a covered dish of salads, sides and/or desserts to share. We hope to see you there! For any questions, please contact Pastor Megan (727-822-2031, meganm@fpc-stpete.org).

Communion, delivered to you at home!

If you, or a family member or other church member or friend are unable to attend worship service in person on Communion Sundays and would like to have this Holy Sacrament administered to you by one of our pastors, please contact the Church Office.

Although those worshipping online for Communion Sundays are encouraged to gather their own elements and participate as the pastors lead the sacrament during the service, our Presbyterian Book of Order provides for communion to be served to people in their homes at other times, as long as it is served by an ordained minister and a representative of the congregation, or a team of church officers who have been trained and authorized for home communion.

Call 727-822-2031 Monday-Thursday to request personal home communion.

Hiring Nursery Staff

We are looking to hire two good people to staff a nursery for young children on Sunday mornings, from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. If you are interested, or know someone to suggest, please call the Church Office (727-822-2031). A background check will be required.



Grieving? Know someone who is?

GriefShare is every Sunday at 4 PM, meeting virtually (via Zoom).

Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, you will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The 13-week DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. This is a great opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Need more information? Want to sign up? Call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.

NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Amy McCutcheon will be working from home on Fridays (9:00 AM to noon) and will check phone messages regularly. Johnny Miller will continue to be on campus on Fridays, keeping his regular hours.

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 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, 8:30 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 9 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- **Sundays, 4 PM**, GriefShare, via Zoom

- **Tuesdays, 1 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting in-person on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month (next in-person meeting is **May 24**, in the Chapel). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com)

- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal

- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, Room N-123. Please contact Ken Young at 207-841-8562 for more information.
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, May 29**, 5th Sunday Mission; worship in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a mission project, followed by lunch!
- **Sunday, June 19**, Rev. Dr. Art Ross, pastor of First Presbyterian Church for ten years in the 1980's and 90's, will be our guest preacher. There will be a reception after worship so our congregation can greet Art and Jan Ross personally.

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.

First Presbyterian Church
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New 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.

