

# FIRST NEWS



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

**May 20, 2022**

## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon: "What We're Here For: Growing"  
Scriptures: [Genesis 1:24-31](#), [Matthew 19:13-15](#)

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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 - Come Sunday**

This Sunday, your FPC Praise Band is excited to play two of our favorite tunes. First up is *His Mercy Is More*, featuring nice vocal harmonies. Our second tune, *Friend of God*, is an exciting singalong you're sure to enjoy. Click below to preview the tunes and we'll see you on Sunday!

[His Mercy Is More](#)  
[Friend of God](#)

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## Remember to wear your name tag on Sundays!



It is a big help to all -- longtime members, new members, and visitors alike -- if we wear name tags at Sunday worship. 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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Friends,

I am just back from the Leadership in Ministry workshop in Boston (actually in

North Andover). This has been a good experience for me, rich in ideas for me to ponder and use in my ministry here at First Pres.

Meanwhile, I know the church has been learning about Megan's new call. You will have several weeks to enjoy her presence and her gifts. We will be celebrating her ministry on June 12, as she says goodbye. I join you in being thankful for the 18 months Megan has served this church so well. She has been a blessing.

See you on Sunday,  
Ginny Ellis

PER CAPITA -- As a "connectional" denomination, we both receive and give support to our regional governing body: Tampa Bay Presbytery. Our support for Presbytery comes through Mission giving (that supports Beth-El Mission and Cedarkirk for example) and through the Per Capita that supports annual expenses of the Presbytery (their staff, website, etc). The per capita assessment, which our church pays for each active member of the church, is \$33.48 this year. First Presbyterian pays the per capita in full but you are invited to cover that charge yourself, if you are able to, by including the \$33.48 in your church giving. Every little bit helps! Thank you!



## Pentecost Readers Needed

It tells us in Acts 2:4: "*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.*"

The Day of Pentecost (June 5th) is almost upon us, and Pastor Megan and Dave Aumack are cooking up some creative ideas for our worship service. We are looking for folks to read Acts 2:1-21 in a language other than English. So far, we have found speakers of Spanish, French, and Dutch to help us out. We are especially looking for someone to sign in American Sign Language. *We would like to pre-record these readings here at the church in the next week or two*, so that we have consistent audio quality for all.

If you are able and willing to help, please contact Pastor Megan at [meganm@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:meganm@fpc-stpete.org). Thank you!

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



## Reception for Pastor Megan on June 12

As you probably heard earlier this week, Rev. Megan McMillan has accepted a new call as Pastor to Mills River Presbyterian Church in Mills River, North Carolina, and will be moving there at the end of June. (If you missed the email with Megan's letter, you can read it [HERE](#)). This is sad news for us, but wonderful news for Megan!

Pastor Ginny and the Christian Education Committee would like to honor her with a reception in the Chapel after service on her last day in worship with us, June 12th. If you would like to give Megan a card, gift, or love offering, we will have a box available at the back of the Sanctuary, starting this Sunday (through June 12). If a check is included, please make it out directly to Megan, not FPC.

Megan has demonstrated grace, integrity, and faith during these past very difficult months, and we are sure she will shine as a solo pastor in her next call. Congratulations Megan!



### PLEASE NOTE:

The final concert in this year's concert series, which was scheduled for today, May 20, has been cancelled. The Marywood University Chamber

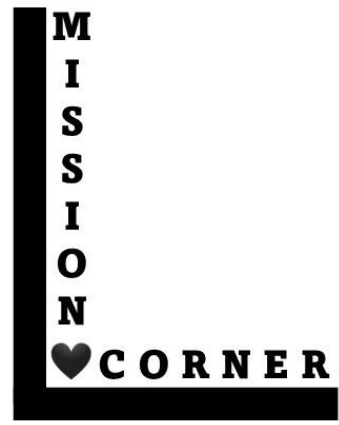
Singers are unable to travel due to COVID. To hear a sample of their music, you can click [HERE](#). If you would like to know more about the group, visit their website by clicking [HERE](#). The Marywood University Chamber Singers, an ensemble of about 20-25 singers, is featured on an annual PBS broadcast and has performed on music series throughout the United States.

## The Tree that Keeps on Giving

Our church's Giving Tree has been up for a couple of weeks now, and many are responding with interest and gifts. It stands at the entrance to our Sanctuary. As you may know,

this is a community Tree now with requests from several non-profit organizations rather than from just one at a time.

As a reminder, our Mission Committee's regular partners are: 1) CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse); 2) St. Pete Free Clinic; and 3) Lakewood Elementary School. However, the needs of other groups will also trim our Giving Tree from time to time.



*Mary-Linda Armacost trims the Giving Tree while Susan Schlecht and others look on.*

Here are the requested items you'll find hanging on the Giving Tree when you stop to look it over:

- **From CASA:** air mattresses (with pump); blankets; bras/sports bras; hairbrushes/combs; socks (men, women, children); trash bags (30-gallon or 55-gallon preferred); umbrellas; underwear (men, women, children); women's body wash.
- **From St. Pete Free Clinic:** jumbo packs of toilet paper; multiple packs of toothpaste; and multiple packs of no-scent deodorant. Also, if you have the time, please think about being a volunteer. The Free Clinic has big changes ahead for its We Help FRESH Pantry. It's returning to an indoor-choice option and opening TWO new drive-thru sites for a total of THREE locations to make available FREE FRESH groceries. To do that means they will need more volunteers than ever. The Free Clinic will be offering information sessions for potential new volunteers on Wednesday, May 25, and Tuesday, June 7. For more details, [CLICK HERE](#) for the clinic's website.
- **From the R Club,** which administers *Happy Workers* and *Edible Peace Patch*: Happy Workers' needs include: PJs, 2T-5T (T = Toddler); pull-ups, 2T-3T; underwear, 2T-5T; toothpaste/toothbrushes for children; socks, 2T-5T; T-shirts and shorts, 2T-5T. Edible Peace Patch's needs include: 10 boxes of Crayola markers; 10 rainbow sharpies; 8 pencil boxes; 5 pairs of adult gardening gloves; a white board (to use when teaching volunteers in the gardens).
- **Lakewood Elementary School** is closed for the summer, so none of its needs will be dangling from our tree until school re-opens.

*PLEASE NOTE: When you pick a card from the Giving Tree, please return the card attached with your gift.*



## Who Should I Contact with Questions or Concerns?

Please contact Sandi Averitt, the Mission Committee Chair (727-424-9300, [sanaveritt1@gmail.com](mailto:sanaveritt1@gmail.com)). Sandi, however, will be out of the country this month, so during this time please contact Co-Chair Beth Houghton (727-422-6864, [bethannehoughton@gmail.com](mailto:bethannehoughton@gmail.com)) or Pastor Megan (727-822-2031, [meganm@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:meganm@fpc-stpete.org)).

As mentioned a couple of weeks ago, there's always a tension between asking too much and not asking enough, so the Mission Committee is trying its best to be mindful of your resources and the church's as we replenish the FPC Giving Tree.

Many thanks to you for working with your Mission Committee in helping our Giving Tree to grow and grow and grow with community opportunities!

## The Northeast Journal features THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Northeast Journal, which reaches the residents of neighborhoods throughout the Old Northeast, Snell Isle, Venetian Isles, and Crescent Heights, featured the First Presbyterian Little Free Library in its May/June edition. We are proud to be included in a publication which reaches our target audience! Our goal is to interact with the community and bring attention to the work at FPC.

Be a part of this mission: Take a book, share a book (or two)!

### AROUND THE BLOCK

## New Little Free Library Comes to the Northeast



Artist Ronn Johnson and Pastor Ginny Simmons Ellis open the Little Free Library at First Presbyterian

Photos courtesy of Ronn Johnson

First Presbyterian Church is bringing books to the people with a new Little Free Library for neighbors and friends in the northeast area of St. Pete. Located near the public sidewalk at Beach Drive and 8th Avenue NE, the library features architectural elements inspired by those of the First Presbyterian Church building. Artist and church member Ronn Johnson oversaw the project from early design, to working with the builder, Dimitri Gruszka, and finally to painting the intricate artwork on the exterior of the library.

True community treasures, Little Free Libraries have become wildly popular, with scores of them sprouting up in the Bay area over the past few years. To find more places where you can take a book, or leave one, check out [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org).

See more about the making of FPC's library at [ronnjartist.weebly.com/blog](http://ronnjartist.weebly.com/blog).



Little Free Library stewards Ronn Johnson and Mary Johnson

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the complete May/June issue of the Northeast Journal. Our article appears on page 26.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 5**, Pentecost Sunday
- **Sunday, June 12**, Pastor Megan's last Sunday; reception after worship
- **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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

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(727) 822-2031 | [www.fpcstpete.com](http://www.fpcstpete.com)

New 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.

