

FIRST NEWS



May 26, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, May 28, 2023
Day of Pentecost

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "The Wind in Our Sails"
Scripture: [Romans 8:22-27](#), [Acts 2:1-13](#)

PENTECOST -- MAY 28 -- WEAR RED!

Pentecost is this Sunday, May 28. We invite folks to wear **RED** for worship on that day, because red is our Pentecost color: recognizing the flames of the Holy Spirit.

Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. - Acts 2:3-4

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.

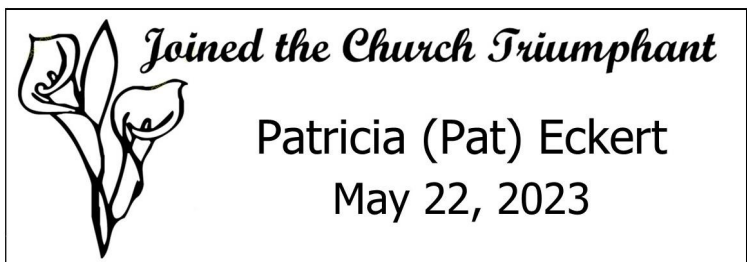
We have a **MASK-OPTIONAL** policy for worship services and on-campus activities.

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, Nina Glover, 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, Richard Pfleider, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke



Patricia (Pat) Eckert
May 22, 2023

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.



We remember and honor our fallen vets this Memorial Day, May 29. The Church Office will be closed in observance.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

*First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg
welcomes and affirms the gifts of all people.*

The Session approved the statement above at its May meeting. It is an affirmation for us to ponder and to declare, every Sunday and every day.

I remember stories of how the American church struggled with integration, especially in the South, back in the 50's and 60's. One story I remember was when the Session of a "white church," after long and serious debate, voted that African Americans were welcome to worship at their church "as long as there was room." When that was announced at worship the next Sunday, one of the beloved older members stood as said, *Well, if there isn't room, they can have my seat.*

I imagine that dear, courageous, outspoken woman looking around that sanctuary, catching the eyes of people who respected and loved her. If she would give up her seat, others would give up theirs as well. All would be made welcome in that church. It was a hard time, a time of change, but that Christ follower made it plain: all were welcome.

The welcome we offer at church, the way we include people, not just in worship, but in all our events and in leadership roles, that is not our welcome to extend, but God's. In the sight of God all are welcome. All are called. I don't know that any of us disagree about this, but it is still important to declare. Not one of us deserves a particular place. We are in the church, and even in the world, by God's invitation. So it is important for us to welcome all, just as the Session has said. To welcome and affirm their gifts, their needs, their place. *This church welcomes and affirms the gifts of all people.*

Whatever color, whatever language, whether young or old, gay or straight, whatever educational level, whatever financial status... all are welcome here. I hope we can all reach out to others and show that this is true.

Blessings,
Ginny

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*.

**Sunken Gardens Outing
This Thursday, June 1
10 AM - 12 PM**

We have lined up a guided tour of the Sunken



Gardens (1825 4th St N) for 10-14 people from 10 AM until noon on Thursday, June 1. We will be on ADA-accessible trails, and we got a group rate of just \$12.00/per person! The church bus will be available if you would like to carpool from the church. We are planning grab some lunch after the tour (restaurant to be determined). Please RSVP by calling the Church Office or by clicking [HERE](#).

This is the first of what we hope will be monthly adventures to explore things around St. Petersburg, and we want to make more events like this available to our FPC members and friends! We are not doing anything outrageous, nor expensive, nor dangerous, just some friends having some fun fellowship. If you are interested in the brainstorming and/or planning process, please contact Dave Hunt, or the church office for getting onto the e-mail list. Ideas and suggestions are encouraged!

First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg welcomes and affirms the gifts of all people. Throughout the month of June, we invite you to join us as we celebrate love, inclusion, and diversity.



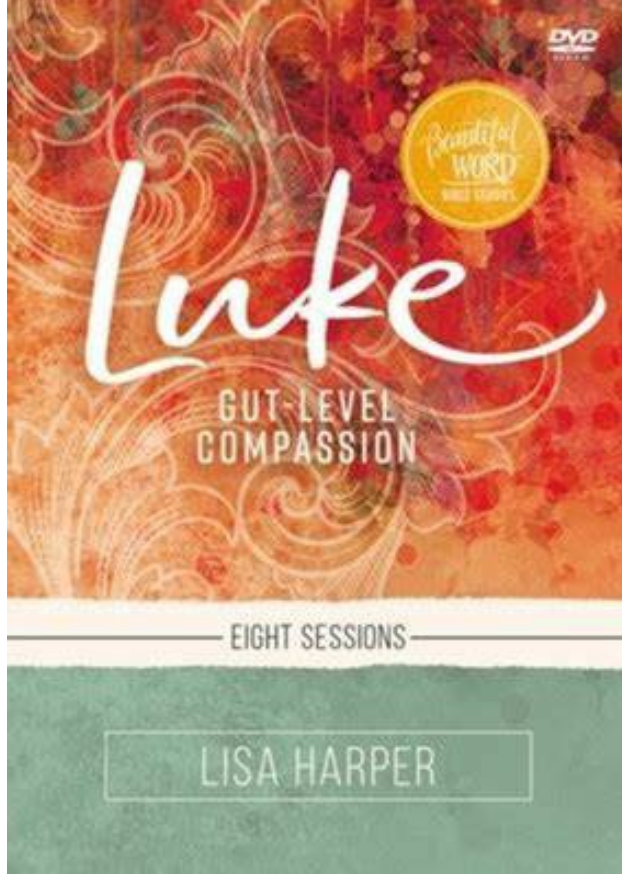
Every Sunday in June, experience uplifting worship services filled with relevant sermons and special musical guests. Together, we will explore meaningful ways to embrace our diverse community and foster a spirit of acceptance. To kick off this special month, we are hosting a Pride reception on June 4th, following both the 9 AM and 11 AM worship services. Join us for refreshments as we create a space of warmth and acceptance. All are welcome, including those who have been hurt by previous church experiences.

Save the date for **Saturday, June 24th**, when First Presbyterian Church will participate in the downtown St. Pete Pride Parade. Our church van will serve as our float, offering a cool and comfortable respite from the heat as we walk in support of the LGBTQIA+ community. If you're interested in joining us, please contact the Church Office (office@fpc-stpete.org or 727-822-2031).

We look forward to celebrating the beauty of diversity and standing in solidarity with you this June. Let us join together as a loving and inclusive community, spreading God's message of acceptance and compassion. #FPCSTPETE #LoveInclusionDiversity #PrideMonth #WeWelcomeAll

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

For 8 weeks we will study 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
June 6th – July 25th, 2023
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.

You are cordially invited
to our next
Beach Drive Forum
at First Presbyterian Church:
"Food Is Medicine"
with Dr. Kelli Cross
Wed. June 14 at 6 PM



Have you ever wondered if red dye affects you or your children...or whether there is a field of study called Nutritional Psychiatry? Does an apple a day really keep the doctor away?

Come meet Dr. Kelli Cross, with 26 years' experience in our community, who will enlighten us on how what we eat affects the physical, mental, and emotional health of us, our children, and our grandchildren!

Following her presentation, you are welcome to stay for refreshments and time for Q & A.

Childcare is available, but space is limited, so please register in advance by clicking [HERE](#) or by calling the Church Office (727-822-2031).

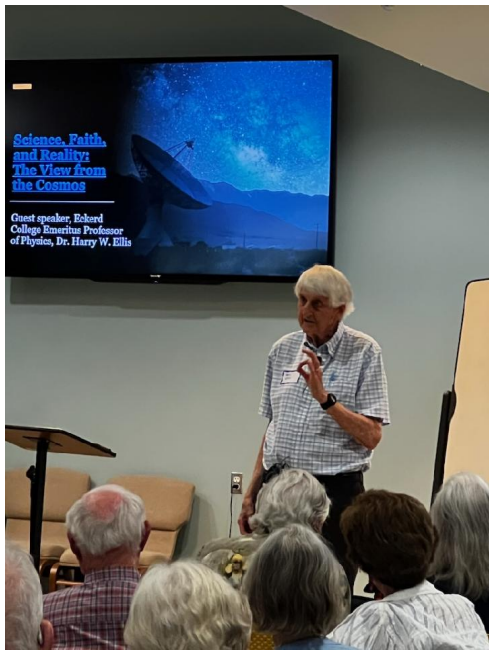


Beach Drive Forums are a series of conversations at FPC for our congregation and community on thought-provoking topics. The monthly (or so) forums, with intriguing guest speakers and refreshments, are open to our members and the public and will take place on Wednesday evenings

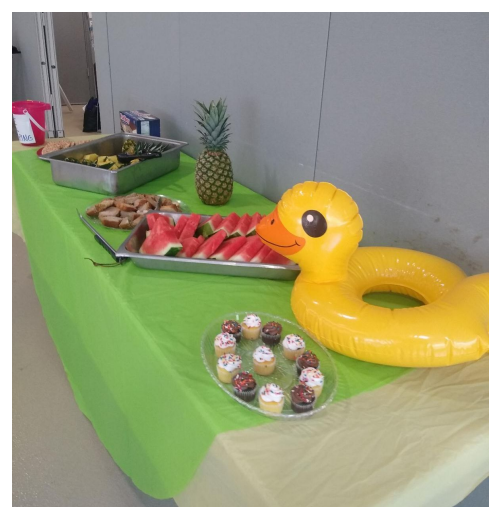
from 6-8 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 with presentation from 6-7, followed by a time for Q & A) in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!

From Pastor Jeanie
BIG Thank-You's Are in Order!

First, the Beach Drive Forums Committee thanks Dr. Harry Ellis for his mind-expanding Beach Drive Forum lecture last Wednesday on *Science, Faith, and Reality: A View from the Cosmos*, as well as the over 100 who attended and asked equally provocative questions! Many people worked behind the scenes to make it such a success...from planning, advertising, tech support, set-up and clean-up, and all the delicious, out-of-this-world refreshments! (You know who you are!). To God (though we cannot scientifically prove this) be the glory!



Second, many thanks to all who came and those who helped with all aspects of the Summer Fun Cookout and Games last Sunday. "Chef Dave" Hunt grilled up a hamburger and hotdog storm complete with mushrooms and onions and all the fixings. Susan Luehrs' deviled eggs were one hot item! Set designer Karen Brooks transported us to the beach, remarkably, as Pastor Ginny commented, "where there was no sand or water!" Kids had a blast blowing giant bubbles, doing sidewalk chalk art and trike racing around the course outside, while others joined the inside hoola-hooping, bean bag and beach ball tossing, bumble bee and ladybug flitting, and giant Connect Four-ing! Just about 60 of us enjoyed the company and cooling off with watermelon, ice cream bars and lemonade! What fun! Thanks be to God...and to all who came, shared food or helped with clean up! Bless you.





Faith & Fiction 2023-2024

Faithful Readers -

Wishing you a wonderful summer, with lots of good books! The 2023-2024 reading list (which includes the name of the book, author, meeting date, and discussion leader) can be found [HERE](#) so that you can do a little reading ahead if you wish, but we all know that sometimes if we do that, then the details are forgotten by the time we discuss it, so take a few notes!

The big news is that we will be changing our meeting time. Starting this fall, we will be meeting at 4:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month (October - April).

This coming year, you will find a focus on "banned books," in an effort to figure out what all the fuss is about. Not all books are ones that have been banned -- years ago or currently, in Florida -- but as you read, give some thought to what it was (or is) which would lead to this happening.

See you on October 2nd at 4:00 p.m. in Room N-123! The October book is not a banned book. but a return to a favorite author, Geraldine Brooks and her newest book, *Horse*. Al May will be leading that discussion.

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!

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 – 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 June 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](#) (meeting on Memorial Day)

- **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

- **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:

- **Monday, May 29**, Church Office will be closed for Memorial Day

- Thursday, June 1, 10 AM, Sunken Gardens tour
- Sunday, June 4, Commissioning our Honduras Mission Team
- Sunday, June 4, Pride Month Reception after each worship service
- Sunday, June 11, 2 PM, Men's Meal Ministry cooking for Pinellas Hope
- Wednesday, June 14, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum
- Monday, June 26, 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.

First Presbyterian Church
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 822-2031 | 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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