

FIRST NEWS



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

May 27, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM
in the Fellowship Hall
this Sunday, May 29, 2022
Seventh Sunday of Easter / Mission Sunday

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "What We're Here For: Worship"
Scriptures: [Isaiah 6:1-8](#), [Acts 16:11-15](#)

This Sunday:

- Contemporary Worship Service in the Fellowship Hall at 10 AM (park in the back parking lot if you are able)
- On-site Congregational Mission Project at 11 AM (we will be packing condiment kits for the Missio Dei Community)
- Lunch to follow in 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 this Sunday! For any questions, please contact Pastor Megan (727-822-2031, meganm@fpc-stpete.org).

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 - Fellowship Hall This Sunday

Your FPC Praise Band is especially excited about this coming Sunday. For the first time in over two years, we will be having a full contemporary service down in Fellowship Hall at 10 AM. We've got five great tunes lined up that you will likely be familiar with. However, the preview is only 2 tunes, so you've got to show up or login on Sunday to hear them all. See you then!

[Rising
God Is Great](#)



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Leah Cutting, 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, Sarita Lastrapes, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfeider, Richard Pfeider, Janet Poling, Dick Oliver, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke



Joined the Church Triumphant

Jane Pruitt
May 23, 2022

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,

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

First Church Friends,

I heard about the elementary school shooting in Texas as I was preparing my prayer of blessing for students finishing kindergarten at St. Petersburg Primary School here at FPC. I cannot imagine the pain and horror affecting those parents, families, school, and community. This news makes me want to gather all those I love close and tight. I know that you join me in praying that these shootings will end, that we will find ways to focus on life and hope, not hate and harm. Give us, Lord, hearts for peace.

This Sunday we will be worshiping in the Fellowship Hall for our Fifth Sunday Mission Project: with worship, a mission project, and a delicious meal. I hope you will come, even if your favorite form of worship is the more traditional. This is a time for celebration, for service, and for fellowship. I hope you will be surprised by how comfortable you will feel at the service, and how uplifting it will be. Drive to the back parking lot and enter from the door under the spiral staircase, or you can use the ramp to the left of the stairs.

Also remember that there will be a CONGREGATIONAL MEETING after worship on June 12, as the congregation votes to dissolve the relationship between Rev. Megan McMillan and First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg, so that Megan can begin a new call as pastor of Mills River Presbyterian Church in North Carolina. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary, but there will be a reception honoring Megan in the Chapel after the worship service and congregational meeting.

Love to each of you,
Ginny Ellis



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*, 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. Thank you!

Congregational Meeting - June 12

There will be a congregational meeting directly following the worship service in the Sanctuary on Sunday, June 12. The congregation will vote to dissolve the relationship between Rev. Megan McMillan and First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg, so that Megan can begin a new call as pastor of Mills River Presbyterian Church in North Carolina.



Reception for Pastor Megan on June 12

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 in just a few weeks. 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, on Sundays, 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!

Deacon Card Fellowship

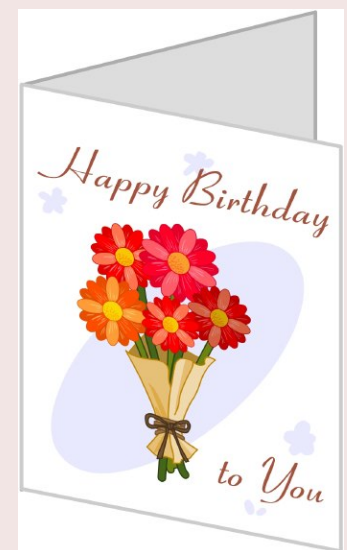
Your deacons have accepted the Card Ministry (now called Card Fellowship) that Lillian Harris has so graciously and faithfully done for many years. Now this ministry has been passed to us and we could use your help!

The Deacons usually meet the last Monday every month from 1:30 - 3:00 PM up in the Church Office Conference Room.

This month, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, May 30 for Memorial Day, so we will meet on Tuesday, May 31.

Here's how YOU can help! We need:

- **Helpers!** If you would like to help on a regular or intermittent basis, please come! You don't have to be a deacon to write a friendly note!
- **Birthday Cards!** We send a card to everyone on the monthly birthday list you see in First News (near the bottom, under FPC Calendar at a Glance).
- **Stamps!** We send out about 40 cards each month and will probably increase in number.



For more info, please call or text Marilyn Mulcahy at 714-580-5619.

**Faith Day
with the Tampa Bay Rays**



Join fellow FPC friends for a day of fun at the Ballpark! Tampa Bay Rays vs. Pittsburgh Pirates on Saturday, June 25. Game time is 1:10 PM, and doors open at 11:40 AM. Lower-level tickets are only \$35 per person (a \$65 value). Each ticket includes a Rays hat. A Post-Game Event features Rays players speaking about the role their faith plays in their daily lives.

The above rates are for a group of 10 people or more. The church will make the arrangements to secure the tickets if enough people are interested in participating. Please contact Amy in the Church Office (727-822-2031 or amym@fpc-stpete.org) no later than June 14 to let us know you are interested.

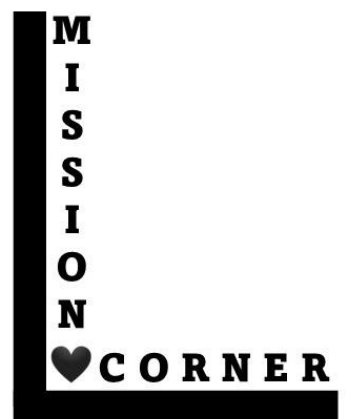
Meet the newest addition to the FPC Family!



Dale Russell Fineran was born on Easter Sunday (April 17, 2022). He is the son of Dale and Megan Fineran, and named after his Dad.

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.

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).

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) or Pastor Megan (727-822-2031, 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!

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



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!

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, 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 **June 14**, 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. **Not meeting June 3**; last meeting before summer break will be June 24. 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 5**, Pentecost Sunday
- **Sunday, June 12**, Congregational meeting to dissolve Pastor Megan's call, reception to follow in the Chapel.
- **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.

