

FIRST NEWS



May 5, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, May 7, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Easter / Lord's Supper

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "More than Enough Room"
Scripture: [John 10:14-16](#), [John 14:1-7](#)



COMMUNION SUNDAY: We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this Sunday during our worship service. If you are joining us online, please gather bread, crackers, or rolls and something to drink (juice, wine, milk, water) ahead of time for all in your home who will be participating.

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, 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

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

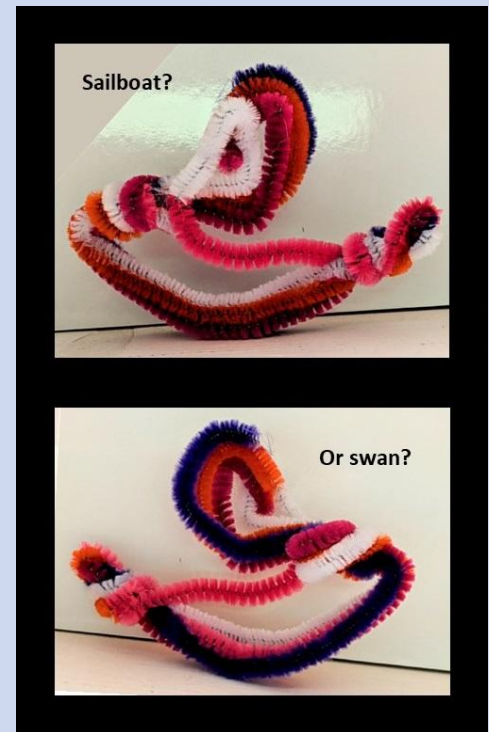
Dear Friends,

Last weekend, we had four opportunities to meet with Joan Gray, author of Sailboat Church, as well as a church retreat at Cedarkirk. It was a fun and busy weekend, rich with ideas to reflect upon. I find myself still metaphorically "out on the water," sailing in wind and sun, wet with sea spray, lifted by the calls of birds and the voices of people. Here are some of the things I find myself wondering:

- What does it mean for us to experience and relate to the world God created, from our viewpoint on the sailing vessel of this church? Do we see the world, the community of St. Petersburg, opportunities for service from a unique point of view because we follow Jesus?

- Do we feel the wind in a fresh way, because it represents God's Spirit at work among us? Are we open to new ways of doing ministry and engaging in mission?
- What about direction? You sailors know that to get to your destination sometimes you have to "tack," to sail across the wind, away from your planned arrival point, and then tack the other way, to get where you hope to go. How might our ministry be like that? Sometimes we might have to get to our anticipated destination by tacking, coming at our goal in shorter stages. How would we adjust to that idea?

At Sunday worship at Cedarkirk, Rev. Jeanie Barnes invited us to make something out of pipe cleaners. I twisted about 6 color-coordinated pipe cleaners to make my [primitive] version of a sailboat. When I told the group what it was, they said it looked more like a swan, or perhaps a duck. Of course I was dismayed, until I turned the creation around to look at it from the other side, and guess what? It looked more like a swan, or maybe a duck!



We may not know what our ministry will look like from God's point of view. Sailboat or swan? Church, school, home or hospital: Let's just be ready for the Spirit's wind to blow, and let's be ready to hoist the sails, follow the Skipper's voice, and embark on the next stage of this voyage.

Blessings,
Ginny Ellis

SUGGESTION/ INVITATION

Some of you have been part of this church for a long time, maybe years, but have never become a member. I invite you to consider talking the next step, for yourself, for the church, perhaps even more, as an affirmation with God. You are welcome here, and you are more than welcome in God's family. There's nothing to earn, no legal contract to sign; it's a step of faith, of trust, of connection. We have an Inquirer's Class this Sunday in the Chapel at 10:00; feel free to come. Or you can speak with me or any of our elders at any time to address your questions and even your hopes.



FPC Jewelry Workshop - postponed

Our Jewelry Workshop, originally scheduled for Saturday morning, May 6, has unfortunately been cancelled. Stay tuned, as we will try to reschedule it for the future.

New Member Inquirer's Class This Sunday, May 7, at 10 AM in the Chapel

Whether you have been visiting FPC St. Pete for a brief time or for longer, you will want to join us for a new member inquirer's class. This is your opportunity to learn about what it means to be a Presbyterian, plus hear the answers to all

those questions you may have about our church, faith, and what you need to do to become a member. We will meet in the Chapel on May 7, immediately following the 9 AM worship service, where we will enjoy a great program from Pastor Ginny. Elders will be on-hand should you wish to join the church following the class. This is a great chance to learn about and join downtown's most welcoming church!

Lectio Divina Continues in May

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*.

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!



Our first Beach Drive Forum was a huge success! Over 100 neighbors, friends and members attended the fascinating histories of Tampa and St. Petersburg as masterfully presented by history professors Gary Mormino and Ray Arsenault. Delicious refreshments were served and consumed with enthusiastic relish!



**Our Next Beach Drive Forum will be
Wednesday, May 17, from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Science, Faith, and Reality: The View from the Cosmos**

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!

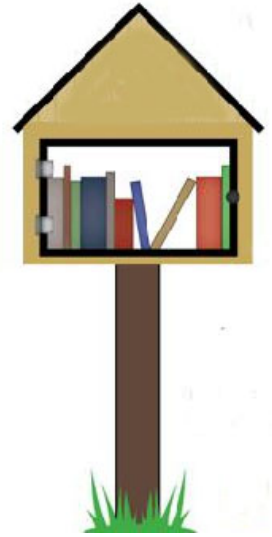
Beach Drive Forums are a series of conversations for congregation and community on thought-provoking topics. The monthly (or so) conversations with intriguing guest speakers and subject matter are open to our members and the public and will take place on Wednesdays from about 6-8 p.m. (presentation from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

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



Cedarkirk Retreat 2023



Many, many thanks to all who helped plan, set up, run, attend, and clean up after our annual FPC Retreat at Cedarkirk, a little slice of heaven on earth! What fun it was! And what a blessing! Joan Gray's keynote and heart-felt talks grounded us in prayer and thanksgiving as we hoisted our sails to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, both individually, and in groups large and small. The snacks and meals at Cedarkirk are always a hit, from the chocolate chip cookies to BBQ pulled pork and meatloaf dinners, and especially the Sunday morning hot cinnamon rolls (one of which had a 3 year-old's birthday candle in it!) and scrambled eggs! There was singing, yes, lots of singing and music, nature walks, quiet talks in the rocking chairs and on beds, arts and crafts, picture-taking, swimming, shark tooth hunting, and even a hayride (followed by a

drone!), an indoor campfire, complete with s-mores! The kids had a blast. Adults played Outburst with a lot of laughing going on! Chirping birds and the windy Holy Spirit were blowing more than gently around us during outdoor worship on Sunday morning. And a few people were even given a glimpse of a doe followed by her tiny little fawn! Praise God from whom all blessings flow! For any who missed the joy of our 2023 Cedarkirk retreat, plan now to be there next year!



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!

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!
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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, 9 AM**, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center
- **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 7, 10 AM**, New Member Inquirer's class
- **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, 12 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.

First Presbyterian Church
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(727) 822-2031 | www.fpcstpete.com

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

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