

# FIRST NEWS



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

**May 6, 2022**

## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM  
this Sunday, May 8, 2022

Rev. Megan McMillan  
Sermon: "Good Works and Acts of Charity"  
Scriptures: [Revelation 7:9-17](#), [Acts 9:36-43](#)



Happy Mother's Day



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 - Happy Mother's Day!**

This Mother's Day, your FPC Praise Band is presenting two beautiful tunes with some Celtic flair. First is *Christ Is Risen, He is Risen Indeed*. You'll recognize this one if you made the early Easter service this year. Our second tune is our newly re-vamped version of *Jesus Paid It All*. Click below to hear the tunes and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed](#)  
[Jesus Paid It All](#)



**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**

First Friends,

I am headed out for a vacation weekend, leaving you in the capable, faithful hands of Pastor Megan McMillan. Harry and I will be spending the weekend in Blue Ridge, GA with his cousins and their spouses. I'll be back next Tuesday.

Let me say again how excited I am at things happening here at First Pres. The computer work, the clean-out of downstairs classrooms, Stephen Ministers being available to the congregation every week after worship (they have on the blue stoles), the deacons taking flowers to homebound every week, the choir and Praise Band and handbells being ready week after week. The amazing and

beautiful Little Free Library offering books and welcoming the community. The men cooking meatloaf and green bean casserole every month for the homeless. You keep me smiling! :)

Now here's what I want you to do: tell your family, friends, and neighbors to come see what is happening at First Presbyterian Church. Bring your children and grandchildren with you when you come. Spread the word! Everyone should have a church as vibrant, as engaged, as alive as this one! A church that is smiling!

See you next week!  
Ginny Ellis

**Lectio Devina is taking a break for the summer**  
starting this coming Monday, May 9.

**A big THANK YOU to all our volunteers last Saturday!**

FPC, in partnership with Westminster communities, refurbished donated laptops for 27 resettling Afghan adults and children here in St Pete. These laptops will be donated to Afghan families to help them with education, job search, and connecting with others. They are an essential tool in today's society. By formatting them and giving these laptops a fresh operating system, with the latest security updates, we are helping these families have a fresh start. Thanks to all who donated laptops, and thanks to those volunteers who worked on them last Saturday, for their time.



Thanks also to the volunteers who helped to clear out rooms so that St.

Petersburg Primary School can move ahead with their expansion plans!



## THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH is 2 months old today!

The library is staying stocked with interesting reading material for all ages, the inventory is ever-changing and there is excitement in the church and neighborhood. Four Bibles have found new homes, most being themed Bibles. The Children's section is growing, and new materials are seen at each visit.

The next time you are at the church, be sure to check out the collection and take a book you would like to read and leave a book (or 2) you would like to share with others.

From Ronn Johnson, Steward

## FPC's Giving Tree

Unlike The Giving Tree in Shel Silverstein's children's book, First Presbyterian's Giving Tree will keep on keeping on...keep on flourishing with opportunities for our members, friends, and neighbors to help respond to the needs of three local organizations your Mission Committee has chosen to partner with. Those organizations are 1) CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse); 2) St. Pete Free Clinic; and 3) Lakewood Elementary School.

Our Giving Tree is now back up and will remain standing. Going forward, it will be a community tree. In other words, it will have requests from all three of our partnering organizations, not just from one as it has been in the past. Opportunities also will be hanging on the tree from time to time from other

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organizations as significant needs surface.

The needs may be for physical items or for volunteer involvement, either one-time or ongoing. Your Mission Committee will stay in close touch with our partner organizations, and others, and make you—our members, friends, and neighbors—aware of opportunities as they arise out in the community. We also will sponsor in-church workdays scattered throughout the year.

*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 First Presbyterian's Giving Tree.*

### What will the Giving Tree's cards be for?

The best way to answer that is with an example: Our most recent Giving Tree was for Lakewood Elementary students and families. Lakewood's 30 cards included such items as bath towels, dinnerware, and flatware. Ten of the cards also were for Publix gift cards—half for \$25 and half for \$50. All these items were directed to homeless families only.

And as mentioned above, there will also be volunteer opportunities.

### What do I do when I pick a card from the Giving Tree?

When you pick a card from the Tree and return with the designated item, please attach the card to that item. A box will be available in the Sanctuary for you to leave the items. If you want to volunteer, that card will give you a specific organization's contact information (that way you won't have to go through a third party).

### Who should I contact with questions or concerns?

Please contact Sandi Averitt, the Mission Committee chair: (727.424.9300 or [sanaveritt1@gmail.com](mailto:sanaveritt1@gmail.com)). Sandi, however, will be out of the country during May, so, during that time please contact co-chair Beth Houghton (727.422.6864 or [bethannehoughton@gmail.com](mailto:bethannehoughton@gmail.com)) or Pastor Megan (727.822.2031 or [meganm@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:meganm@fpc-stpete.org)).

Please join your Mission Committee in helping First Presbyterian's Giving Tree to grow and grow and grow with community opportunities. 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)).

## Deacons Corner

Your deacons have accepted the Card Ministry (now called Card Fellowship) that Lillian Harris has so graciously and faithfully done for many years, and we could use your help! We meet the last Monday every month from 1:30 - 3:00 PM up in the Church Office Conference Room.



Deacons'  
Corner

Ways YOU can help:

- **Stamps!** We send out about 40 cards each month and will probably increase in number.
- **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).
- **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! (Thanks to Mary Johnson for joining us yesterday.)

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

## 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. 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. Both pastors generally take Friday as their day off.

**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 –

## 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 10**, 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 8**, Mother's Day
- **Sunday, May 29**, 5th Sunday Mission; worship in the Fellowship Hall, followed by a mission project, followed by lunch!

## 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).



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.

