

FIRST NEWS



November 10, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, November 12, 2023
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost/Mission Sunday

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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Sam Picard
Sermon: "Called to Welcome and Adventure"
Scripture: [Genesis 12:1-4](#), [Matthew 9:9-13](#), [Romans 4:13-25](#)

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 9 AM worship service bulletin.
Click [HERE](#) for the 11 AM worship service bulletin.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

I made a very quick trip to Montreat, NC, leaving Florida on Monday morning, and planning to come back on Friday as you download this message. There are fall colors on the trees up here, and my fingers and toes are feeling the cool air. It's a nice change. I am not here for vacation, but to focus on sermon and worship planning by "clearing the decks" so I can focus on the task without too many distractions. I will be home for the weekend before heading out next week for three days at the Leadership in Ministry conference I attend twice a year.

This Sunday we have two very important things going on: FIRST, it is our Mission Sunday, so we will worship at 9:00 and 11:00 as usual, but there will be a Mission project underway in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 to 11:00 (or whenever we get finished). We'll be assembling hygiene kits for women and for children at CASA (200 kits for each group). [CASA](#) is St. Petersburg's safe shelter for women and families experiencing abuse; there is a real need for these hygiene kits. Choose your worship time and join folks downstairs to help with the Mission project. WE NEED YOU! Besides it's fun to work together, making new friends, knowing that we are making a difference in our community.

ALSO, PLEASE REMEMBER: for Connect service at 9:00 Sunday Nov 12, park out in the grass lot by Beach Drive or in the front circle. Parking should be good in the North Shore lot for 11:00, as the half-marathon finishes.

SECOND: This Sunday, we have a chance to say a good-bye to our Parish Associate Jeanie Barnes. Please keep reading to learn more about that!

SEE YOU ON SUNDAY!
Ginny

Farewell Reception for Pastor Jeanie

This Sunday, we have a chance to say a good-bye to our Parish Associate Jeanie Barnes. Jeanie has served this church wonderfully for 14 months. Jeanie brought energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to her work here at First St. Pete. She also brought Greg Barnes, who has made many friends and helped in so many ways. We appreciate both Pastor Jeanie and her Greg and will miss them. So, this Sunday, in the Fellowship Hall at about 10:15, we'll cut a cake and say *Thank You* to Jeanie. We hope you'll come offer your thanks, bring a card, a hug, a smile. Bryan Bardin is going to take a picture of the whole group with Jeanie and the cake!

MAY THE LORD
BLESS YOU
AND
KEEP YOU
THE LORD MAKE
HIS FACE TO
SHINE UPON
YOU
Numbers 6: 24-25



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Will Catul, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, friends and family of Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Ginger McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, Gloria & Edson Murray, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Vivian Ramirez, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey, Denny Zuercher

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.*



Veteran's Day is tomorrow (Saturday, November 11). Our thanks to all who have served.

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 CARE ABOUT CASA

"Stand Up to Silence" is the mantra of CASA in St. Petersburg. And First Presbyterian is designating our next Mission Sunday to help CASA fight and protect and comfort women and families who've been trapped in abusive situations. **November 12 is the date of our next Mission Sunday.** (We no longer call it "Fifth Sunday Mission" because of too many conflicting dates at our church.)

MISSION ♥
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We need two main things from our membership: 1) Many hands to help pack items for CASA to distribute to their clients and 2) Items to put into these packs or to give separately.

To pack these items, we will meet in Fellowship Hall on November 12, between 9 and 11 AM. So come when it's convenient for you. Members of the Mission Committee will be there to let you know what needs to be done. Light refreshments will be available. (Thank you, Fellowship Committee!)

CASA has approved the below items for adults and for children. If you bring these items in advance of November 12, buckets marked "For CASA" will be by the Giving Trees in each of the worship services. We will then pack the items below in hygiene bags on November 12.

ITEMS FOR WOMEN:

- Hairbrushes and combs
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Deodorant

ITEMS FOR CHILDREN:

- Hairbrushes and combs
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash
- Kids' toothbrushes and toothpaste

Other items not for packing but which are a Wish List of CASA's are shown below. If interested in getting any of these, you may bring them on November 12 or if in advance place them by the CASA buckets. (All should be new unless indicated otherwise):

- Air mattresses with pumps
- Blankets
- Bras/sports bras
- Socks for women and children
- Car seats (new or gently used and unexpired)

- Pack `n Plays
- Strollers
- Umbrellas
- Accordion files
- Dish soap



If you're unfamiliar with **CASA**, its mission statement should help you understand what they do: "Challenging the societal acceptance of all forms of domestic violence, **CASA** stands up to silence through advocacy, prevention,

intervention, and support services. Our Vision: A society free from domestic violence."

According to [CASA's website](#), some facts you may not realize:

- 1 in 3 women are victims of domestic violence.
- 1 in 4 men are victims of domestic violence.
- 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.
- 7 in 10 survivors reported that their abusers also targeted pets.

Thank each of you for the many ways you help our church's missions. If you have any questions, please contact Mission Committee Chair Sandi Averitt (sanaveritt1@gmail.com; 727.424.9300) or Beth Houghton, who's on the Mission Committee and is CEO of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County (bethannehoughton@gmail.com; 727.422.6884).

Lectio/Visio Divina on Recess

Our Monday morning zoom devotion time is taking a short break. We'll resume Monday Nov. 27. Join us for a great hour of prayer, Bible reading and discussion about the following Sunday's scripture passages.

Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church (434 90th Ave N) is hosting its 43rd **Ukrainian Autumnfest Nov. 11-12**. They advertised our recent hosting of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and several of their members attended the concert. Last year some of our First Pres members enjoyed their Autumnfest and they have invited us to go again this year.

Beach Drive Forum

This Wednesday, Nov. 15, 6 PM

Understanding Mental Health Challenges Faced by Transgender Youth
by Jenny Gould, M.D.



Jenny Gould, MD will explore mental health issues experienced by

transgender youth, and why it is often to a disproportionately greater degree in comparison to the 'general population.' Dr. Gould will also provide an overview of the growing restrictions related to provision of gender-affirming health care, in Florida and nationwide.

Bio: Jenny Gould, M.D.

Dr. Gould, Board Certified in both General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, has worked in private practice, community mental health centers, academic psychiatry, and as Medical Director of a non-profit mental health agency in Atlanta. Dr. Gould served as adjunct faculty at Emory University in Atlanta for many years. She is currently in solo private practice in St. Petersburg, focusing on children, adolescents, and young adults. Dr. Gould spent much of her childhood and adolescence in the Upper Keys and was an honor graduate at Eckerd College. Dr. Gould lived in the Atlanta area for nearly 30 years. Because of their love for St. Petersburg and the natural beauty of this area, Dr. Gould and her wife Robin moved to St. Pete in 2017.

Childcare will be provided with advance reservations only. Please call the Church Office.



Friendsgiving! Nov. 18

It's time to give thanks for all of our blessings, especially for our church friends and staff. Join us for a

Thanksgiving potluck dinner under the stars on Saturday, November 18 at 6:00 PM at the Mossmans' home in Tierra Verde. Turkey and mashed potatoes will be provided. Please bring a side, salad, appetizer or dessert. Please RSVP to Karen (727-400-5079 or karenamossman@gmail.com) and let her know what you're bringing. Come and give thanks!



The Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24.

Put on your Santa hat and walking shoes and join us as we walk along the Christmas themed decorated church bus in the **downtown Santa parade on Saturday, November 28 at 6 PM.**

There are a few seats available in the bus, but the windows are covered (you can look out the front window). The golf cart shuttle will run between the church parking lot and the parade route between 4 and 5 PM on November 28. Walkers may also meet at the parade lineup. Please RSVP to the Church Office no later than 11/22.



**Blue Christmas
Comfort Service
Thursday, Nov. 30,
5 PM**

We plan to hold a Blue Christmas Comfort Service this year, at 5:00 in the afternoon on Thursday, November 30. The

Blue Christmas



service is meant to provide comfort, especially for those feeling sadness this holiday season. Perhaps a loved one is missing this year, due to death, divorce, travel, or even service overseas. Perhaps the holidays are always hard for you, because of painful situations in your past. We are planning this to be a quiet service in the Sanctuary, with candles and music. You are welcome to bring pictures of those you will

especially miss this year, or to lift up a word or phrase for our prayers together.

Jesus said: *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.* In this Blue Christmas Comfort service, we will acknowledge our sorrows and claim the comfort and peace we find in the Prince of Peace. Family and friends are welcome to attend this service.

All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.

Stay
CONNECTED

- 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



We continue to be thankful for the generosity of all who contribute financially to our church, along with the other contributions they bring to our ministry. 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 November 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-12:30 PM, childcare is available, Room S-203
- Sundays, 9 AM, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center or [Online](#)
- Sundays, 9:45 AM, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Room S-202
- Sundays, 10 AM, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- Sundays, 10 AM, Young Adults/Parents Sunday School Class, Room S-206
- Sundays, 10 AM, Teens' Sunday School Class, Room S-205 (meets every other week)
- Sundays, 11 AM, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)

- Mondays, 10 AM, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)

- Tuesdays, 9 AM, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- 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, 6 PM, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- Thursdays, 7 PM, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite

- Fridays, 8:00 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, November 12, MissionSunday, packing hygiene bags for CASA; St. Pete Fun Run
- Wednesday, November 15, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum
- Saturday, November 18, 6 PM, Friendsgiving at the Mossmans'
- Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24, Church Office closed for Thanksgiving
- Saturday, November 25, FPC participates in the downtown St. Pete Santa Parade
- Thursday, November 30, 5 PM, Blue Christmas Comfort Service

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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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.



First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg, Florida



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