

# FIRST NEWS



October 20, 2023

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

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

this Sunday, October 22, 2023

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost/Kirkin' of the Tartans

CONNECT SERVICE at 9 AM (Youth Center)

or

SANCTUARY SERVICE at 11 AM (Sanctuary)

Rev. Jeanie Barnes

Sermon: "Compelling Visions, Dreams, and Convictions"

Scripture: [Psalm 96:1-10a](#), [I Thessalonians 1:1-2:1](#)

---

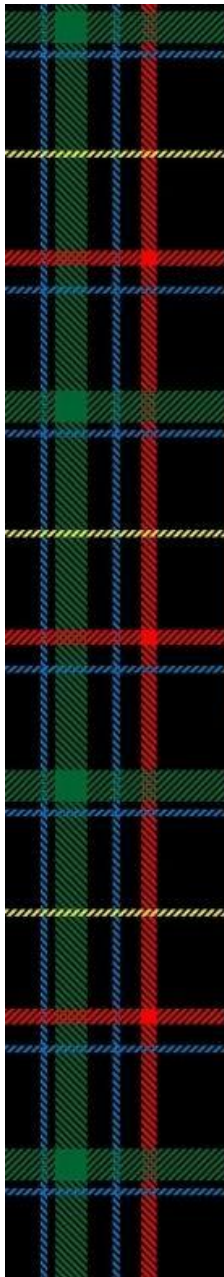
Click [HERE](#) to watch the 9 AM service online.  
Click [HERE](#) to watch the 11 AM service online.

This link may also be found on the home page of the church's website ([www.fpcstpete.com](http://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.

---

The flowers on the chancel this coming Sunday, October 22, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Larry Kirsch, by his sisters, Joan Hetzendorfer and Susan Cummings, and his children, Tiffany, David, Matthew, Linda, and Leslie.



Join us as we celebrate

# PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY

OCTOBER 22, 2023

featuring  
**St. Andrew's Pipes &  
Drums of Tampa Bay**

**9:00 a.m. Connect Service**  
Solo bagpipe player at the conclusion  
of the service

**11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service**  
Pipes and Drums processional during  
the service and a concert on the patio  
at the conclusion of the service



**Don't miss the 23 beautiful tartans and banners on display in the Sanctuary this Sunday!**

Thanks to all who volunteered to carry the tartans as part of the processional music. These exquisite banners were donated by church members over the years to honor loved ones. A special thanks goes to Linda Champion, who has sewn many of the newer tartans, and also to her sister, Irma Duke, who made the embroidered labels. Click [HERE](#) for a list of tartans and their donors.



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 Pfeider, Richard Pfeider, Vivian Ramirez, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke, JB & Marsha Starkey

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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

Well, it finally turned cool. Not cold. Come on...this is Florida. But it is cool, for sure.

I celebrated the coming cool weather by going out to weed my front garden, where the Sunshine Mimosa has grown in so well. It's a Florida native plant, good for birds and bugs and butterflies. I am thrilled it is flourishing from the three small plants I planted under the young live oak tree two years ago. Now Sunshine Mimosa has taken over half of the front circle. No need to mow there, so that's a win. Unfortunately weeds, sticky weeds, like to grow in with the Sunshine Mimosa, and that's a problem. I looked them up: they're called Beggarweeds. The little pods attach themselves to your clothes and take over. Fifteen minutes of productive weeding means two hours in the kitchen picking weeds off my clothes. Gee. It would be better to burn the clothes. Or I could weed in my bathing suit.

I guess I shouldn't have let the weeds get so thick. That would be one lesson to take from this. A garden needs on-going care, just as a church or a family or a pet or a friendship needs to be nurtured. And so does our faith, our friendship with God. We need to pay attention to what we are caring for, and what we might be neglecting. What are we letting grow in our garden when we're not looking? And how do we then get it all straightened out once again?

I'm not sure what my point is from all this chatter about weeds. But I do celebrate the cooler weather and I am glad to be out in the garden, even if I come in with some weeds to pick off.

Meanwhile, congratulations! You have elected a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), a group of really good people. I believe this team will work together well. Please pray for them every day: Bryan, Don, April, Lynne, Chris, Kirby and Annie. Pray for their health, their energy, their insight, their patience. Pray for the work they will do, and for pray for the pastor candidates they will ultimately consider, especially the one God will bring to serve this church in coming years. Your prayers will help the PNC and their work.

Blessings to each and all of you! And welcome back, those of you who have been away. It is so good to see you!

Ginny Ellis

ONE NOTE: The General Presbyter of Tampa Bay Presbytery, Rev. Dr. Holly Dillon, will visit with First Presbyterian Church this coming Sunday, October 22. She will bring greetings at both services, on our Kirkin' of the Tartans Sunday. Greet Holly with a friendly welcome; I am pleased she will be worshiping with us.

## Lectio/Visio Divina

Join us in a Zoom devotion time at 10 a.m. on Mondays for the practice of Lectio/Visio Divina, a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

---



### Halloween Candy Collection

During the month of October, we will be collecting Halloween candy for Trunk or Treat (scheduled for Saturday, October 28 from 4 - 6 PM....more info below!).

Drop off wrapped candy donations on Sunday mornings (both the Youth Center and Sanctuary will have big collection baskets) OR at the Church Office (Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 5 PM). Thanks!

---



**TRUNK OR TREAT Is Coming!**  
**Saturday, Oct. 28 from 4-6 PM**  
Invite family, friends, and neighbors!

Please help us get ready for this super-fun event!  
Use the sign-up links to volunteer in the following categories:

- Donate **CANDY!** See above for details on where/when to drop it off.
- [SIGN UP HERE](#) to **decorate your car trunk** and hand out candy. Let your FUN and CREATIVE juices flow!
- If you can, please help by being a **volunteer Bounce House monitor**. [SIGN UP HERE](#) to volunteer for a 60-minute shift at one of the bounce houses. (You can be seated!)
- Do you have a great **CHILI RECIPE** you'd love to share? [SIGN UP HERE](#) then bring your crockpot filled and we will plug it in!

The Men's Meal Ministry will also be roasting hotdogs and we'll have all the fixings! Questions? Please text or call Kathy Bardin (727-418-4577) or Pastor Jeanie (260-348-4724).

---

### 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** ♥  
**C**  
**O**  
**R**  
**N**  
**E**  
**R**

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](mailto: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](mailto:bethannehoughton@gmail.com); 727.422.6884).

---

MANY THANKS...  
Many Hands Make Light-er Work!  
From Pastor Jeanie

A BIG  
THANK  
YOU

A big THANK YOU to the ladies of PW Circle 12 and other volunteers for stepping up to take the lead on preparing our delicious October Wednesday Night Supper and/or cleaning up afterwards! A good time was had by more than 70 of us who gathered to share the meal! We appreciate the Deacons leaving their centerpieces and bags of candy for us to decorate our tables after their Senior Luncheon.

Thanks, also, to Kyle Brinkman for further teaching us about the Solar Eclipse, which many of us enjoyed watching with him a few days later on Saturday, October 14 (more on that below!).

Another special word of thanks goes out to Barbara Brownlee, Diedra Flora and Carol Riley for leading our *Make a Joyful Noise Music Makers* (Kids' Choir) right after the Wednesday night meal! And thanks to the parents and others for sharing thoughts and ideas about how to make our church even more appealing to young families. Keep them coming. Blessings all around!



## Solar Eclipse Viewing and Picnic last Saturday, October 18

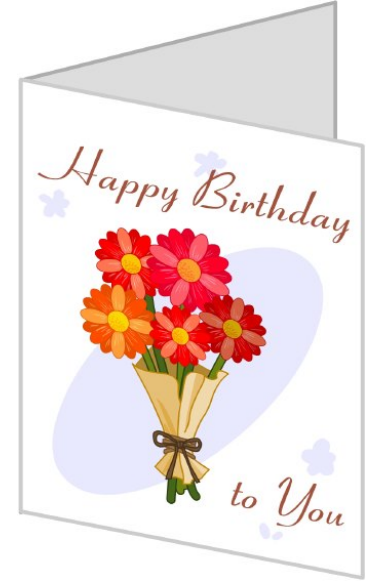
Thanks, Kyle Brinkman,  
for bringing along some of  
your St. Pete Astronomy Club  
buddies and all the big and  
medium size telescopes  
and safe sunglasses for kids  
and adults to use!

See what fun we had  
picnicking, visiting, eclipse  
viewing, and playing on  
the lawn!

## Card Fellowship Ministry

Birthdays! Great celebrations that might diminish a bit as we age. It doesn't matter to your church family as we still care and celebrate each one of you. So...on the last Monday of

every month, a few members gather to send birthday cards to all members who have a birthday in the next coming month. We also try to send get well cards, baby congratulations(!), and cards of encouragement.



What we need are more STAMPS, birthday cards and people! We meet in the conference room in the office from 1:30 - 3:00 PM. Come when you can, stay as long as you can. Can't get out or need a ride? Call Marilyn Mulcahy at (714) 580-5619 and she will work to find someone to pick you up. Want some blank cards to send to friends in the church? Call Marilyn and she can bring some to you. Our next meeting is Monday, October 30, so come to chat and fill out a few cards! This is a very enjoyable and easy mission for anyone.

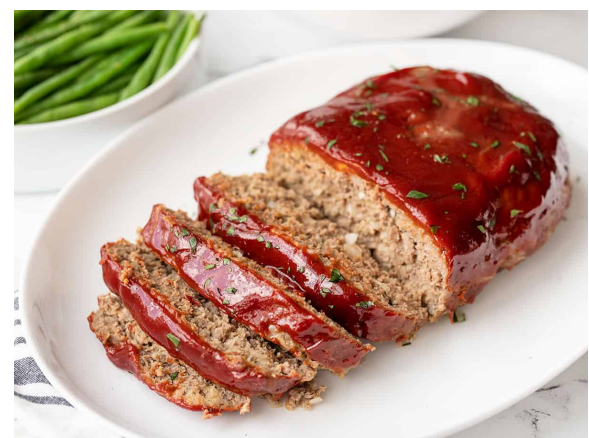


## Teen Confirmation Class

The teen confirmation class will be meeting this Sunday, October 22 at 10 AM in Room S-205. We're using an exciting curriculum which helps students both recognize and recollect ideas about what it means to be a Presbyterian, a Christian, and a child of God! We don't have to have all the answers and solve all the problems, but we will be facilitating the discovery process!

Please invite any teens you know who might be interested in joining us and make some new friends along the way! Thanks ~ Pastor Jeanie

## Coming in November Wednesday Night Dinner: MEATLOAF NIGHT!



Everyone is invited to join us on Wednesday, November 8 at 5:30 PM. After years of practice, the Men's Meatloaf Ministry has perfected their meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and green beans. It will be delish; you won't want to miss it! There will, of course, be other accompaniments, green salad, drinks, and desserts, and yes, all the fixings for PBJ's if you just want a sandwich! Or bring something else you'd like to share! Please sign up [HERE](#) if you plan to attend.

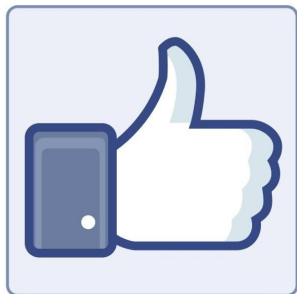
*Make a Joyful Noise Music Makers* (Kids' Choir) will head upstairs to the big choir room at 6:10 PM with Barbara Browlnee, Carol Riley, Cathy Swanson, and Deidra Flora. Your children will be ready for pick-up at 6:40 PM!

Meanwhile, adults will meet Jennifer Gonzalez (Theo and Clarrisa's mom and Fernando's wife) as she takes us through a fascinating tour of her workplace – The U.S. Library of Congress - and answers all our questions about anything we ever wanted to know about what's there and why, and what exactly she does! Greg Barnes has pointed out that Jennifer is an attorney AND a librarian...which means she can sue herself if she reads a banned book! Haha!

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!



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 October 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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

#### Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, October 22, Presbyterian Heritage Sunday
- Saturday, October 28, 4 PM, Trunk or Treat
- Monday, October 30, 1:30 PM, Card Fellowship
- Monday, November 6, 4 PM, Faith & Fiction
- Sunday, November 12, MissionSunday

## 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).

First Presbyterian Church  
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 822-2031 | [www.fpcstpete.com](http://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.



Sent byoffice@fpc-stpete.orgpowered by



Try email marketing for free today!

---