

# FIRST NEWS



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

**October 22, 2021**

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY**

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary  
for an In-Person or Online Worship Service  
this Sunday, October 24  
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Megan H. McMillan  
Sermon: "Be Curious, Not Judgmental"  
Scriptures: [Job 42:1-6, 10-17](#), [Mark 10:46-52](#)

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If you feel uncomfortable or are unable to worship with us in person, you can  
click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

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## **Praise Band Preview - Praise Singers Are Back!**

This week we are excited for the return of two of our Praise Singers, Cathy Swanson & Gretchen Letterman. Cathy and Gretchen are long-time members of the Praise Team, but they haven't performed with us since pre-COVID. You won't see them every week, but when you do, you'll be in for a treat! Click the links below to learn this week's tunes & we'll see you on Sunday!

[You Are My All In All](#)  
[God Is Great](#)

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## Meet and Greet

Pastor Ginny Ellis will gladly meet to visit with members and friends of the church at 11:15 AM this Sunday (October 24). Wear your mask and come along! Or contact her using her cell phone (813) 404-6723 or (new!) e-mail at [GinnyE@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:GinnyE@fpc-stpete.org).

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## Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with chancel flowers, please fill out a green envelope, available in the church pew. Enclose your donation of \$45 with the memo "Chancel flowers." Flower envelopes may be dropped in the offering plate or delivered to the church office.



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*As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM, so please plan to arrive a few minutes early!*

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## FPC Mask Policy

Reminder: in response to rising cases of COVID-19 and in conjunction with updated CDC guidelines, FPC St. Pete has re-implemented a **mandatory mask policy indoors** during worship and all other indoor campus activities.



**Please remember in prayer:** Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Pat Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, 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, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, Jim White

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; 1st LT. 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 Grossenbacher at [amyg@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org).



### **FROM THE CORNER OFFICE:**

Thank you, my friends, for your encouragement and your welcome, both in September when I came as your Temporary Stated Supply and then in mid-October when I was chosen to stay on as your ongoing Transitional Pastor. That means we will be working together for approximately two years, as we resolve issues and restore community and collaboration here at First Presbyterian. I have already come to appreciate the quality of your excellent staff, the joy of your worship, and the eagerness you show to be about the work of Jesus Christ here in St. Petersburg. Please know that I want to hear what you have to say; I want to be your partner in both worship and in the work of discipleship. And, yes, you should call me Ginny!

### **OFFICE HOURS:**

Megan McMillan and I have decided to keep regular office hours. We are well aware that there will be variations to this schedule, as we juggle meetings here and on Zoom and other necessary appointments, but you might find it helpful to know when we expect to be at the church:

- I, Pastor Ginny, will work from home on Mondays and will plan to be at the church on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM, more or less. I will take Fridays off.
- Pastor Megan will be at the church on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 10:30 AM. She will work from home on Thursday. She will take Fridays off.
- Feel free to make appointments. Call or e-mail so that we can be available to you as needed.

### **CHANGES FOR CONTACTING GINNY ELLIS:**

My mobile phone is still (813) 404-6723. I have begun using the church e-mail system, so my e-mail is changing to [GinnyE@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:GinnyE@fpc-stpete.org) (the trick is to spell Ginny right (like gin, scotch and rum, but with 2 n's), and E for Ellis, and then you get the address pretty well).

## **UPDATE from the Officer Nominating Committee**

A little "Presbyterian-ese": Elders and Deacons are "ordered ministries" in the Presbyterian church. They are elected by the congregations where they are members and where they will serve. They are then trained for their work, and ordained (set apart) at worship and installed to their office. Currently First Presbyterian has a number of vacancies on the Session (the group of elders) and on the Board of Deacons. In fact, the reason the church has an Administrative Commission from Presbytery is that our Session currently (with 5 elders) does not have a quorum to do business. Presbytery is helping and supporting us with the AC until we can elect, train, and install new elders and regain our quorum.

For this purpose, the Officer Nominating Committee is continuing its work, first to develop a slate of elders, then a second slate for deacons. When ready with either slate, the committee will request the Session and Administrative Commission to call a congregational meeting for the election. We have hopes that (at least) the meeting to elect elders will be scheduled soon. Please



continue to hold our work in your prayers.

*Members of the Officer Nominating Committee: Brad Hussung, Karen Mossman, Marilyn Mulcahy, Sally Lyle, and Taina Specie.*



## Next Sunday, October 31 is Heritage Sunday!

The music of the bagpipes will ring out at 10:00 worship on October 31. The tartan banners will be carried in as remember the Scottish heritage of the Presbyterian church. A new and unusual NON-TARTAN banner has been added to the Kirkin' of the Tartan collection. This new banner displays an African fabric donated to the church by Rev. Norm and Phyllis Hatter and created by Pastor Ginny Ellis. It signifies that the Presbyterian church welcomes people of every heritage.

### "PIPE SCREAMS"

Tuesday, October 26, at 6 p.m.  
at Christ United Methodist Church (467 1st Ave N, St. Petersburg)

Our own Jack Rain will be performing a scary piece by Olivier Messiaen, along with other local organists at the annual Halloween concert sponsored by the St. Petersburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Children AND adults are encouraged to attend in costume. There will be a sing-along featuring "pumpkin" carols.

**THE ST. PETERSBURG CHAPTER OF THE  
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS PRESENTS:**

# Pipe Screams

**OCTOBER 26, 6:00 PM**  
CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
467 FIRST AVE NORTH  
ST. PETERSBURG, FL

THIS FRIGHTFUL EVENT FEATURES:

- ❖ SING-ALONG "PUMPKIN" CAROLS.
- ❖ FEARSOME SELECTIONS PLAYED BY AREA PIPE ORGAN VIRTUOSOS

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND  
WEAR YOUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN COSTUME!**

**TRUNK OR TREAT**



## Saturday, October 30th from 2:30-4:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church and St. Pete Primary School are excited to collaborate together to offer games, music, hot dogs, and, of course, a trick-or-treat opportunity for the young and young at heart. We hope that you will make an effort to drop by and munch on a "dog," grab a piece of candy, or just enjoy seeing those dressed up in their spookiest, most creative costumes. We encourage you to invite your neighbors, family, and friends to participate in this event!

A box will be left in the back of the Sanctuary for candy donations for the next few Sundays and we also need some volunteers to help coordinate games, help with the cooking, and/or decorate the trunk of their car and pass out candy. If you are interested in helping with any of these things, please use the Sign-Up Genius link below, call the Church Office, or contact either [Kathy Bardin](#) or [Carol Riley](#) to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B45ADA72FA4FD0-trunk>



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AND  
ST. PETE PRIMARY  
SCHOOL  
PRESENTS

Trunk  
or  
Treat



• CANDY • HOT DOGS •  
• GAMES • COSTUMES • FUN •  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021  
2:30PM TO 4:30PM  
701 BEACH DRIVE NE  
IN THE BACK PARKING LOT  
• ALL ARE WELCOME •

FPC Concert Series  
VOCES8  
October 30, 2021

Mark your calendar for our next  
Concert: VOCES8 on Saturday,  
October 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM in the  
Sanctuary.



Our headliner performance of this year's concert series features London-based international choral sensations VOCES8 singing "After Silence." The choral works in this program are exalted, vital, and are distinguishable by their



inexhaustible capacity to express the inexpressible. This is a free, non-ticketed event, meaning that seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Plan to arrive early to get a good seat! Doors will open at 6:00 PM. A free-will offering will be taken for First Presbyterian Church Concert Series. This concert will not be recorded or livestreamed.

## Deacons' Corner

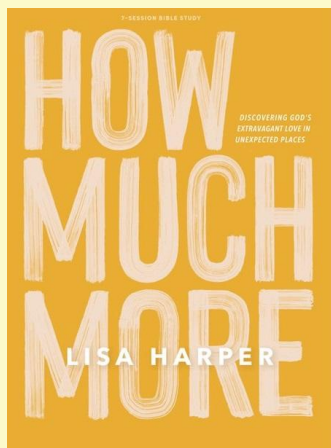
Submitted by Marilyn Mulcahy



I thought this year would drag by as we edged into "Pandemic II" (as I call it), but now time is zipping by. One of the ways I can tell is that we are almost out of small vases.....oh no! Your Deacons deliver flowers in small vases to 3-5 people every Sunday, just to perk up their day and let them know that they are in our hearts. So if you could take 3 minutes and check under your kitchen sink, pantry, garage, or wherever and bring us any smaller vase that you can part with, we would appreciate it. You can bring them with you to church on Sunday morning, or drop them off at the church office during the week. If that isn't convenient, I can come pick up the vases from you. And, if you know anyone who would appreciate a visit and some flowers, please call me (Marilyn) at 714-580-5619. Thanks!

Also, you have probably guessed (correctly!) that there is no Senior Luncheon again this year. Lynne Mormino and Linda Santoro have great ideas for entertaining all of you over 70, but sit tight and be ready to have a great time together in 2022!

Lastly, your Deacons have tried to stay in frequent touch with you through calls, cards, emails, texts, and/or visits, just to let you know how much we care for each of you. Any time you are ready to talk or have an issue or need a prayer, please call me, Marilyn Mulcahy (714-580-5619) or Linda Santoro (727-897-9543), or your personal Deacon. You are never bothering us and, honestly, we want to hear from you! You are prayed for daily.



**Ladies, you are invited to  
a new Lisa Harper Bible Study:**

***How Much More*  
Discovering God's Extravagant Love  
in Unexpected Places**

This 7-week study will tackle some overlooked or misunderstood passages in Scripture, uncovering how they amplify the love and goodness of God.

**Join us on Tuesday mornings through November 30, 2021  
9:15 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center**

Workbooks will be available for \$20. No previous Bible study experience is needed. Bring a friend! Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available.



## Grieving? Know someone who is?

GriefShare begins Sunday, November 14 at 4 PM and will be 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.**



Christopher Girardeau, who some of you may remember as a staff singer at FPC (2012-2015), will be getting ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on November 13, 2021 at 4:30 PM at Christ Chapel on the campus of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC. Christopher will serve as Pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church in Lancaster, SC.

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!



## Pastoral Emergency Number

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call (561) 805-1514.

During this season, we are especially thankful for the generosity of all of the people who continue to

Online Giving





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 October Birthdays



Some groups are continuing to meet 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.

- **Sundays, 8:30 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, meeting in-person, Chapel.
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, In-Person Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#).
- **Tuesdays, 9:15 AM**, Ladies Bible Study, Youth Center.
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting every other week in the Chapel at 7 PM (next in-person meeting is **Oct. 26**). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).
- **Thursdays, 6 PM**, Handbell Choir rehearsal, Choir Room
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Choir rehearsal, Choir Room
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, in-person, Room N-123. For more information, please contact Ken Young ([youngkd1492@comcast.net](mailto:youngkd1492@comcast.net)).
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study; the last Friday of the month is in-person in Room N-123 (next in-person meeting will be **Oct. 29**). For more information, contact John Underwood ([pjfwon@gmail.com](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))
- **Monday, October 25, 7 PM**, Stated Session meeting
- **Saturday, October 30**
  - Trunk or Treat, 2:30 - 4:30 PM in the back parking lot
  - VOCES8 "After Silence" Concert, 7 PM, Sanctuary

**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 Grossenbacher](#).

First Presbyterian Church  
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A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.

