

FIRST NEWS



October 27, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, October 29, 2023
Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost / Reformation Sunday

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "Living Stones"
Scripture: [Matthew 11:27-30](#), [I Peter 2:4-10](#)

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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

This First News is really full. So many things going on!

We are coming up on the first Sunday of November (Nov 5), when we celebrate All Saints Day and remember all who have passed into eternity in the last year. We will read those names at worship and give thanks for their lives, for "all in them that was good and kind and faithful." That is perhaps my favorite prayer: it offers such gratitude to God for those we have loved and lost. If there is a name you would like for us to read in that service, please send it to the Church Office (office@fpc-stpete.org). Of course, we do have the names of church members who have recently died, but if you have family members or dear friends to mention, please let us know. We will join you in honoring them at worship on that day.

Love and blessings to all,
Ginny Ellis



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.*

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.

Humanitarian response in Israel/Palestine

"Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children
of God."
(Matthew 5:9)



Through PDA, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of neighbors and strangers in their midst, no matter their religious beliefs, political views or nationality. We are called to care for all of God's children, especially those in war-torn communities, by responding to the urgent needs of those directly affected by the current conflict. The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — [GIVE](#). [ACT](#). [PRAY](#). (click each word to learn more!)



Congratulations to Julianne (Michael) Saltis and Jonathan Saltis on the birth of their son, Dutch Wilder Saltis. He was born on October 10, 2023 and 8 lbs. 3 oz. They currently reside in Milledgeville, Georgia.

Also congrats to grandmother, Linda Michael (1st grandchild) and great-grandmother, Gail Michael.

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*.



TRUNK OR TREAT IS TOMORROW!

Saturday, Oct. 28 from 4-6 PM

Invite family, friends, and neighbors!

We'll have fun for everyone!! Candy, games, and bounce houses, food, and fun for kids (and the kids-at-heart!) of all ages!! If you would like to participate, there are still sign-up opportunities below!

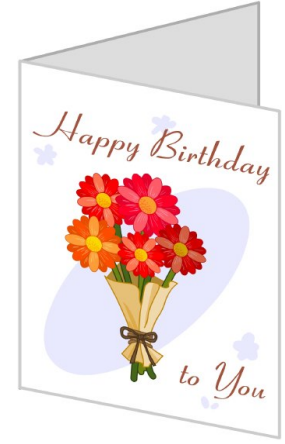
- [SIGN UP HERE](#) to **decorate your car trunk** and hand out candy. Let your FUN and CREATIVE juices flow!
- Please help us supervise the fun by being a **volunteer Bounce House monitor**. [SIGN UP HERE](#) to volunteer for a 60-minute shift at one of the bounce houses. (You can be seated!)
- Do you have a great **CHILI RECIPE** you'd love to share? [SIGN UP HERE](#) then bring your crockpot filled and we will plug it in!

Questions? Please text or call Kathy Bardin (727-418-4577) or Pastor Jeanie (260-348-4724).

Card Fellowship Ministry

On the last Monday of every month, a few FPC 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. **We need more STAMPS, birthday cards, and people!** We meet in the conference room in the office from 1:30 - 3:00 PM. **Our next meeting is October 30.** Come when you can, stay as long as you can! Questions? Call Marilyn Mulcahy at 714-580-5619.



You are invited to an amazing FREE concert on Monday night, October 30, 2023, at 7 PM in the Grande Theater at Gibbs High School. The top US Navy Jazz Band, *The Commodores*, will give a clinic for Gibbs' students in the afternoon, then perform a free community concert at 7 PM. You can get up to 4 free tickets for you and your friends and family [HERE](#).




St. Pete Primary School will be having a give-away for local flood victims of Hurricane Idalia next Saturday, November 4, and they're asking for donations (please see below for details). They will have a moving truck in the back parking lot of FPC on Friday (11/3) and Saturday morning (11/4, 9 AM-noon) so people can drop off donations, then the "give-away" hours will be from noon until 5 PM. If you have any questions, please call the school office (727-894-5889).

ATTENTION:
CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER!

DONATIONS NEEDED!

GENTLY USED FURNITURE AND TOY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO HELP LOCAL FLOOD VICTIMS OF HURRICANE IDALIA.

DONATION HOURS:
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD 10AM-4PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH 9AM-12PM
DROP OFF IN ST PETE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARKING LOT
700 N SHORE DR NE

Questions about MEDICARE?
Join us on Tuesday, November 7 at 6:30 PM

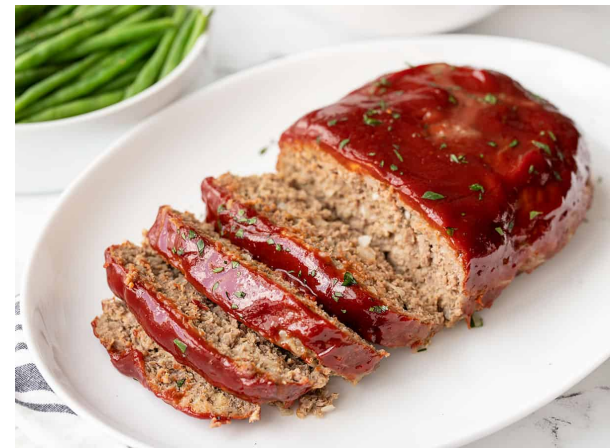
On Tuesday, November 7th at 6:30 PM in the



Youth Center, our very own Bill and Marianne Ferrari will be sharing answers to basic Medicare coverage questions. Bill and Marianne are SHINE volunteers who have asked to help the congregation by hosting a question/answer seminar on the MEDICARE BASICS. Please register online, sign-up on the sign-up sheets

after worship services, or contact Dave Hunt (513-604-6090), or leave a message at the Church Office.

Wednesday Night Dinner November 8 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 6:15 PM with Barbara Brownee, Carol Riley, Cathy Swanson, and Deidra Flora.

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!



Sally Lyle, Jill Whepley and Rachel Bowron from the Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team visited with Lakewood Elementary's Volunteer Liaison, Madeline Minier, Wednesday, October 18th to deliver gift cards for students needing uniforms. Jill also provided 500 stickers which she designed and printed for the children to be used to enhance school spirit and for use in special recognition. In sharing the needs of their students this year, Ms. Minor said this year, as in the past, **they need**

volunteers to help with reading with students. If you are interested in reading with a student, please contact her at 727-893-2196, ext. 2001 to find out the details.

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.)

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):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air mattresses with pumps • Blankets • Bras/sports bras • Socks for women and children • Car seats (new or gently used and unexpired) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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).

Epiphany of Our Lord Ukrainian Catholic Church is hosting its 43rd Ukrainian Autumnfest, November 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. Please see the flyer to the right for more information.



Beach Drive Forum
Wednesday, November 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

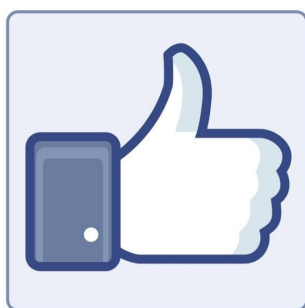
It's time to give thanks for all of our blessings, especially for our church friends and staff. Join us for a

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!

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!



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:

- **Saturday, October 28, 4 PM**, Trunk or Treat
- **Monday, October 30, 1:30 PM**, Card Fellowship
- **Friday & Saturday, November 3-4**, St. Pete Primary School's collection for hurricane victims
- **Monday, November 6, 4 PM**, Faith & Fiction
- **Tuesday, November 7, 6:30 PM**, Medicare Presentation
- **Wednesday, November 8, 5:30 PM**, Wednesday Night Dinner, 6:15 PM, Kids' Choir
- **Sunday, November 12**, MissionSunday, packing hygiene bags for CASA

- Wednesday, November 15, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum
- Saturday, November 18, 6 PM, Friendsgiving

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
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(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.



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