

FIRST NEWS



October 6, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, October 8, 2023
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon Series: Preparing to Sail
Sermon: "Sailing Crew: Working Together"
Scripture: [Genesis 45:4-10](#), [Ephesians 4:1-7](#)

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.

This Sunday, October 8, is Pastor Appreciation Day!



Clergy members, pastors, and church leaders play a vital role in the spiritual well-being of their communities. Pastor

Appreciation Day was created as an opportunity for churches to show honor, gratitude, and appreciation towards those hardworking leaders who make it all possible! Below are a few easy ideas of ways to express your appreciation, not just this Sunday, but throughout the year!

- Give them a word, note, email, or card of thanks and/or encouragement
- Extend them an invitation to share a coffee or a meal
- Pray for the pastors and leaders in your life, as well as their families

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. 1 Timothy 5:17



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, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke

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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

We started our *Preparing to Sail* conversations last Sunday afternoon. These conversations will continue for the next two weeks: Sunday, October 8 and Sunday, October 15, from 4:00 to 5:30 PM. Even if you missed the first one, please join us for this important visioning work.

And what fun we had Sunday afternoon! Forty or so came to engage about the future of the church, and they came with energy and great spirits. I put everyone to work, placing sticker-dots on boards to give us a "snapshot" of who we were at this moment. We spent some time just interacting as friends: I

wanted to know everybody's favorite kind of ice cream, sherbet, or frozen yogurt. My long-ago friend Jim McCall always answered: "I prefer pie." As for me: I like both pie and ice-cream. I like sherbet and frozen yogurt as well!

In table groups, we discussed two questions: 1) what are the things you value about his church in its ministry right now? and then 2) What would you like to see happening here in the next five years? If you want to add your thoughts to this discussion, feel free to email your ideas to me: ginnye@fpc-stpete.org.

This coming Sunday, we will discuss St. Petersburg and what we know about the community in which this church does its ministry. How do we fit with the community? How do we experience God's call to serve in this place?

By the way, I have started posting a devotional each week (Tuesday or Wednesday) on the church Facebook page. I hope you will let me know what you think. I'm trying for 3-4 minutes of reflections on faith and life and then a prayer. I light two candles: one to represent our prayers for ourselves and those we know, the other to represent our prayers for the world. Does this speak to your heart as it does mine?

In October, we offer a new Fellowship supper, another wonderful Beach Drive Forum, a bring-your-own Saturday picnic on the front lawn to watch the solar eclipse, and Kirking of the Tartans! So much to celebrate and plan for.

Blessings to each and all of you,
Ginny Ellis, your interim pastor

A Congregational Meeting is called for October 15 at the close of each service



**PLEASE
NOTE:**

This meeting is called for the purpose of hearing a report from the Nominating Committee and for election of a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Being nominated for the committee of 7 are the following church members:

Bryan Bardin, Don Doddridge, April Hussung, Lynne Mormino, Chris Mossman, Kirby Volz, and Annie Zuercher. We hope you will be able to attend one of these meetings.

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!

Teen Confirmation Class Starts!

A new teen confirmation class starts this Sunday, October 8 at 10 AM in Room S-205, with an exciting curriculum that uses punchy infographics in video and in workbooks and includes fun

activities which will help 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 teenagers you know who **might** be interested in joining us and make some new friends along the way!

Pastor Jeanie

Senior Luncheon Wednesday, October 11, 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall



Reminder: the Deacons are giving our annual Seniors Luncheon on Wednesday, October 11 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Great food and fellowship for seniors and friends!

A Yummy, Spooky, and Informative Wednesday Night Dinner October 11, 5:30 PM Fellowship Hall



You won't want to miss another delicious meal on Wednesday, October 11 at 5:30 PM. The women of PW Circle 12 are serving luscious lasagna, spooky spaghetti (with gluten-free option), hot vampire-resistant bread, goblin's green salad (as in we'll be goblin' it up!), and ghostly desserts. Kyle Brinkman will be back with "out of this world" information to help us get ready for the solar eclipse taking place just a few days later (Oct. 14).

Meanwhile, after eating, The Joyful Noise Music Makers (Kids' Choir) will meet up in the Choir Room at 6:15 PM, with parent pick-up at 7:40 PM.

Please [SIGN UP HERE](#) for this delicious dinner and fun! Thanks.

Save the Date - October 14!

Did you know there will be a partial solar eclipse during the middle of the day on Saturday, October 14? Gather your family and friends, pack a picnic, and bring a blanket or lawn chairs to the front lawn at



church for an Eclipse Viewing Picnic from noon to 3 pm! Eclipse viewing glasses will be provided in both kid and adult sizes. Kyle Brinkman and other members of the St. Petersburg Astronomy Club are bringing some big telescopes for our eclipse viewing pleasure and will be on hand to enlighten us about eclipses, astronomy, and maybe even answer other questions about other mysteries of the universe! A live feed from one of the telescopes will be streamed onto a

screen in the Chapel for any who need the comfort of air conditioning. Come see how "the heavens are telling the glory of God!"



Fall Fun Day at Cedarkirk Camp
Sunday, October 15 from 1:00-7:00 PM

A day of fall festivities, outdoor activities, and dinner at camp. \$20/person for the whole day. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more!

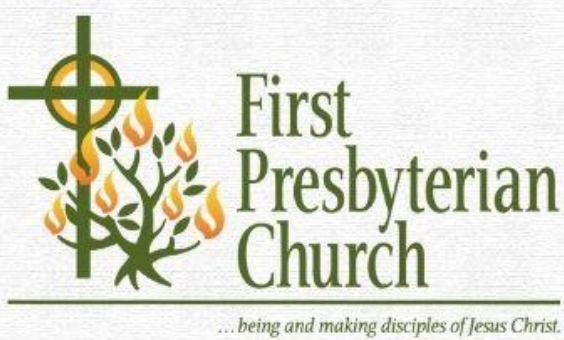
Please mark your calendars to join in this community conversations at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Light delectable bites will be served.

Wednesday, October 18
***An Untold Story of World War II:
Tuskegee Airmen Nurses***



Why were some nurses initially stopped from serving their country in World War II? Compiled for the first time, recollections of United States Army Nurses who served alongside the famous Tuskegee Airmen as told by the daughter of one of these heroic women, author and journalist, Pia Jordan.

Childcare will be provided with advance reservations only.
[CLICK HERE to RSVP](#) for childcare on October 18.



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



Would you like to be an important part of our Presbyterian Heritage Sunday? Contact the Church Office if you would like to be a tartan/banner carrier during the procession at the 11 AM service on Oct. 22!



TRUNK OR TREAT Is Coming! Saturday, Oct. 28 from 4-6 PM

Please help us get ready! 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!

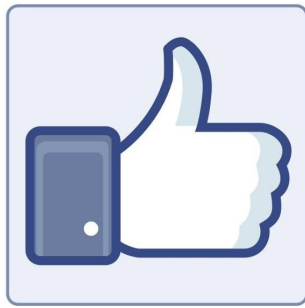
The Men's Meal Ministry will also be roasting hotdogs and fixings! Questions? Please text or call Kathy Bardin (727-418-4577) or Pastor Jeanie (260-348-4724).

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 September 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
- 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, October 8, 4:30 PM, "Preparing to Sail" Visioning Conversation
- Wednesday, October 11, 11:30 AM, Senior Luncheon
- Wednesday, October 11, Wednesday Night Dinner & Kids' Choir
- Saturday, October 14, 11:30 AM, Solar Eclipse Viewing and Picnic
- Sunday, October 15, Congregational Meeting at the end of each service
- Sunday, October 15, 4:30 PM, "Preparing to Sail" Visioning Conversation
- Wednesday, October 18, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum, *An Untold Story of World War II: Tuskegee Airmen Nurses*
- Sunday, October 22, Presbyterian Heritage Sunday
- Saturday, October 28, 4 PM, Trunk or Treat

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.



First Presbyterian Church | 701 Beach Drive N.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2618

[Unsubscribe amy@fpc-stpete.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@fpc-stpete.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!