

FIRST NEWS



September 15, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, September 17, 2023
Sixteenth 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: "Our Sailing Vessel: The Church"
**Scripture: [Deuteronomy 11:13-15, 18-21](#),
[I Corinthians 15:1-10b](#)**

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.

SEPTEMBER *Music*

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service



Click [HERE](#) to see the exciting music line-up for our 11 AM Sanctuary Service in the month of September!



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, the family of Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Ginger McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, Ann Murray's parents (Gloria & Edson), Nancy Ogden, 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,

This time last year we were moving into a process I called "The Road Ahead." That process was exciting, helpful and even fun. Its conclusions led us to move from one Sunday worship service to two and to begin the many activities and events we are now scheduling.

This year we are moving into another process. I'll be calling this new effort PREPARING TO SAIL. With this process the church and Session will consider the Vision Statement of the church: how it might better reflect the current and unfolding ministry of this church.

I'll start us off with a sermon series using phrases of the Lord's Prayer, beginning this week. Starting the third week, you are invited to come to church on Sunday afternoons in the Fellowship Hall from 4:00 to 5:30 PM for open conversations, as we discuss the church's ministry, moving into the next period of its ministry. Here's what I have in mind:

PREPARING TO SAIL - September 17 to October 15, 2023

Sept. 17, Week One

Our Father, who art in Heaven.

Our ship the church, what we believe about God.

Sept. 24, Week Two

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as in heaven

Charting the course ahead, learning about the community around us.

Oct. 1, Week Three

Give us today our daily bread

What we need, provisioning for the journey.

4:00 - 5:30 PM, First Visioning Meeting in Fellowship Hall. All are invited!

Oct. 8, Week Four

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

Being the crew, working together.

4:00 - 5:30 PM, Second Visioning Meeting in Fellowship Hall: looking at this neighborhood.

Oct. 15, Week Five

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil

Prayers for the future, feeling the wind blow.

4:00 - 5:30 PM, Third Visioning Meeting in Fellowship Hall: what we hope for.

These meetings and conversations will be crucial as the church moves toward calling a new pastor, so I hope you will participate as much as you are able, and that you will pray that Preparing to Sail will be helpful for us all.

Meanwhile: the *Hope for Ukraine* concert will be this coming Sunday. Carpool! Come early! See you at church!

Blessings and love,
Ginny Ellis



We Eagerly Await the Arrival of Our Guests!

JUST RECEIVED! News from the *Hope For Ukraine* Tour: the U.S. Consulate in Warsaw, Poland, approved all 28 passports and travel visas for the Ukrainian ladies who are headed to the United States!

For the majority of the ladies, this is their first time in North America. They are

eager to meet many Americans and stay with host families to observe American home life. They look forward to talking about their life in Ukraine and elaborate on their beautiful culture. As ambassadors for Ukraine, they will bring back news of what life is like on the other side of the world. With that being said, there is only one subject they do not want to talk about - WAR!

In only two days, on Sunday, September 17 at 4 p.m., we will have the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus' *Hope for Ukraine* Concert here at First Presbyterian Church. After months of planning, working, and enlisting volunteers, the opportunity to hear this world-class musical group and to contribute to their humanitarian aid mission to widows, orphans, and war victims is coming to fruition. Housing is being provided for the 30 musicians. Currently \$24,139 has been donated for their mission. We are so eager to see and hear them!



For the traditional Ukrainian music portion of their program, they will be dressed in Ukrainian costumes. Here is a bit of background on their colorful *vyshyvankas*, embroidered shirts for which they are known.

Ukrainian *vyshyvanka* not only speaks of its Ukrainian origin but also of the particular region in which it was made. The knowing

eye can detect the area from which a person hails by the clothes on their back. In Ukraine, embroidery existed in the 5th century B.C, and was a creation of Scythian fine art. Traditionally, the embroidery thread was colored according to local formulas using bark, leaves, flowers, berries and so on. In this way, the local environment is literally reflected in the color of the embroidery. Basic colors in Ukrainian embroidery are black, red, and white. Yellow, blue, and green are supplementary colors.

We look forward to seeing you at the concert on Sunday. Those who wish to donate online can [CLICK HERE](#). You can also donate via cash or check to the freewill offering taken at the concert.

Join Us for Sunset

with our guest musicians



Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
Pass-a-Grille Beach

free parking at Pass-a-Grille Community Church 107 16th Ave. St Pete Beach, FL 33706

Power Hour Sunday School Class - taking a break 9/17

We'll be helping the Ukrainian Hospitality Team set up.

Class will resume Sunday, 9/24. See you then!

Lectio/Visio Divina - taking a break 9/18

Will resume Monday, 9/25. See you then!

Your Opinion Matters!

It is hard to believe it has been almost a year since we transitioned back to two Sunday services, Connect and Sanctuary. From online-only worship during the pandemic, to the combined contemporary and traditional service, you have been steadfast in your love for First Presbyterian Church, thank you!

To help assess how worship has been going since last December when we returned to two services, the Worship and Music Committee wants to know what you think. Below please find two links to a brief online survey about what you like about the service you attend and what we could do differently to enhance the spiritual life of FPC. The first link is if you attend in-person; the second is if you view the service online.



[In-Person Worship Service Evaluation 2023](#)

[Online Worship Service Evaluation 2023](#)

If you attend more than one service, please complete a separate survey for each. Paper copies will be available at both worship services the next few Sundays. If you need a paper copy mailed to you, please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031).

The Worship and Music Committee will present the results of the surveys to the Session at its October meeting, so the deadline to complete your survey online or return a paper copy to the office is **Monday, October 2**.

Thank you for participating in the survey and the vibrant life of our church.

-- *The Worship and Music Committee*



Beach Drive Forum - Sept. 20!

Your Beach Drive Forum planning team is excited to welcome you to our fall season. Please mark your calendars to join in these community conversations at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Light delectable bites will be served.

September 20: *What Makes a Poem?* by St. Petersburg Poet Laureate Gloria Muñoz. Gloria Muñoz, an award-winning Colombian-American writer, translator, professor, and advocate for multilingual literacy, will talk about her career, read from her work and lead the audience in some poetry writing. One lucky person will win a copy of one of her books.

Childcare will be provided with advance reservations only.

[CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP for childcare on September 20.

Mark your calendar:

- **October 18:** An Untold Story of World War II: Tuskegee Airmen Nurses by Dr. Pia Jordan
- **November 15:** Understanding Mental Health Challenges Faced by Transgender Youth by Dr. Jenny Gould, M.D.
- **January 17:** Trouble in Paradise: Our Allergies by Dr. Harrison Brownlee

Additional 2024 presentations to be announced!

Mark your calendars, invite your friends and neighbors! Questions? Please call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.

New Member Inquirer's Class Sunday, September 24, 10 AM in the Chapel

Whether you have been visiting FPC St. Pete for a brief time or for longer, you will want to join us for a new member inquirer's class. This is your opportunity to learn about what it means to be a Presbyterian, plus hear the answers to all those questions you may have about our church, faith, and what you need to do to become a member. We will meet in the Chapel next Sunday, September 24, immediately following the 9 AM worship service, where we will enjoy a great program from Pastor Ginny. Elders will be on-hand should you wish to join the church following the class. This is a great chance to learn about and

join downtown's most welcoming church!

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



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!

LET US KNOW you are coming by October 6. Signup tables will be available after the 9 AM and 11 AM services starting September 24. Please inform us of your transportation needs.

We had a great time making bracelets last Thursday night (9/7)! Stay tuned for our next craft night, coming soon!



GET CONNECTED!

FPC SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT

AGE LEVEL	CLASS/CURRICULUM	LOCATION	LEADER/CONTACT
Adult	Faith Journey Facilitated discussion and sharing based on books related to faith development	Room S-202	Beth Houghton & Rue Ann Porter
Adult	Power Hour Lively Bible Study on relevant and relatable issues, followed by discussion	Youth Center Lounge	Karen Mossman
Young Adult/ Parents	“Animate” video curriculum, followed by discussion	Room S-206	Becky Higman
Teens	Video Series	Room S-205	Jeanie Barnes & Eric Wilson
Children (infants–age 7)	Bible and Lectionary-based activities	Room S-203	Michelle Crumity & Mandy Dooley

Ladies, You Are Invited to a New Bible Study!
Isaiah: Striving Less & Trusting God More

This 7-session Bible study by Melissa Spoelstra will encourage us to let go of striving and learn to trust in God’s character, His comfort, and even His correction. Isaiah was human like us, and yet he radically trusted God and called anyone who would listen to do the same.



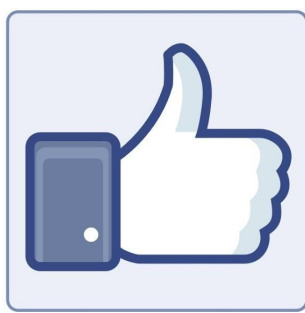
Join us on Tuesday mornings through Oct. 24
9 AM - 11:30 AM in the Youth Center

Workbooks will be available for \$25 (includes streaming video access for all sessions). Bring a friend! No previous Bible study experience is needed. Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. To register: call or text April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or email at stapler39@aol.com.

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, 10 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Room S-202
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center (not meeting Sept. 17)
- **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](#) (not meeting Sept. 18)

- **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, 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, September 17, 4 PM, [Hope for Ukraine Concert](#)**
- **Monday, September 18, 6:30 PM, Pass-a-Grille sunset with FPC friends and our Ukrainian guest musicians**
- **Wednesday, September 20, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum: *What Is a Poem?***
- **Sunday, September 24, 10 AM, New Member Inquirer's Class**
- **Wednesday, October 11, 11:30 AM, Senior Luncheon**
- **Wednesday, October 11, Wednesday Night Dinner & Kid's Choir**
- **Sunday, October 15, 10 AM, New Member Inquirer's Class**
- **Wednesday, October 18, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum: *An Untold Story of World War II***

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.



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