

FIRST NEWS



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

September 16, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM
this Sunday, September 18, 2022
in the Sanctuary or online
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "Reflections for The Road Ahead -
Week 2: What We Cherish"
Scriptures: [Numbers 11:4-9](#), [Luke 21:5-6](#)

Click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.
Click [HERE](#) for the worship service bulletin.

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.

If the 10:00 hour on Sundays does not fit your schedule, the service is available
for viewing on [our YouTube channel](#) throughout the week. Feel free to share
the link with family and friends!

**PLEASE NOTE: we have a MASK-OPTIONAL policy
for worship services and on-campus activities.**

Praise Band Preview - Welcome Back

This week, your FPC Praise Band is happy to have Carly Jewel Green joining us once again on vocals and guitar. We will be performing two of our newer songs: *Jesus Paid It All* and *10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)*. Click the links below to hear the original artist recordings of this week's tunes and we'll see you on Sunday!

[10,000 Reasons \(Bless the Lord\)](#)

[Jesus Paid It All](#)



Please remember in prayer: Faith Bedford, Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, Michelle Carothers, John Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Margo Hart, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke

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; 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

My Friends,

There is so much going on! For *The Road Ahead*, we have nine conversation groups meeting in person or on Zoom. It has been fun to see the groupings, old friends and new ones, sharing ideas. That's been good. This first week we've looked at "The Good Old Days," lifting up what we have valued in the past: the people, the worship and service, the fellowship, the music, and the connections, in St. Petersburg FL and in many other places. I have found the conversation this week to be positive, thoughtful, even inspiring.

For next week, we will be looking at what we pack for *The Road Ahead*. My son Seth is driving from Asheville NC, where he lives, to a workshop he will be attending near Seattle. He tells me he forgot to bring his pillow. For the

journeys of our lives: what do we take along, what do we leave behind? Is it always our choice? Do we have time to think about it? Evacuating before a hurricane, for example, we have to decide in a short period of time.

Also: the PW circles have been meeting this week, the Men's Bible Study, the Choirs, and the Power Hour are starting back up, and the men were cooking meat loaf last Sunday. And our new staff members are settling into their offices, just beginning to meet their teams and find their way around. Which key opens this door? Ah! That one!

It's a good time: a time of hope, of thoughtfulness, of new energy. Please join me in lifting us all up in prayer as we walk *The Road Ahead*.

Blessings,
Ginny Ellis, Interim Pastor

If you would still like to sign up for a *The Road Ahead* conversation group, there are sign-up sheets on a table in the back of the Sanctuary on Sundays, or you can sign up online, by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Group days and times:

1. SUNDAYS at 11:15 a.m. in the Chapel or Youth Center
2. SUNDAYS at 11:30 a.m. on ZOOM
3. MONDAYS at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel
4. MONDAYS at 3:30 p.m. at Westminster Palms, Palm Room, Palm Center building
5. TUESDAYS at 4:30 p.m. on ZOOM
6. WEDNESDAYS at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Center
7. WEDNESDAYS at 7:00 p.m. on ZOOM
8. THURSDAYS at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NEWEST FPC STAFF MEMBERS!



This week, meet
Rev. Jeanie Barnes
Parish Associate for Community Life

Rev. Jeanie Barnes was raised in Pakistan and India, where her parents and paternal grandparents served as missionaries. She traveled to the United States for college which included a year-abroad program in Japan. After marrying Greg Barnes and being blessed with a beautiful daughter, Jeanie sensed a call into ordained ministry. She graduated from St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, was ordained and served in Heartland Presbytery. Next, she was called to Indiana and finally Florida, where her daughter's family lives (including two young grandsons)! Among other things, Jeanie is passionate about animals, doing Zentangling, and

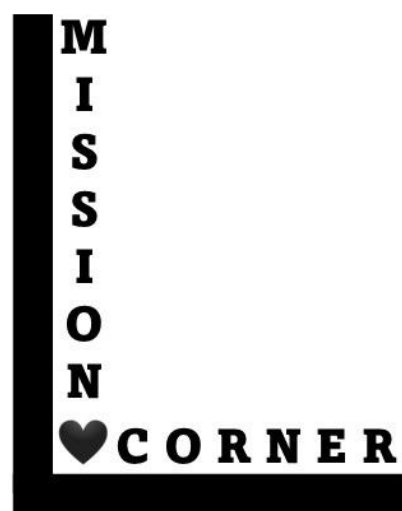
taking nature photography on her iPhone. She is excited to meet you and your friends, soon!

Next week: Dave Hunt, *Coordinator of Pastoral Care*

Lectio Divina on Monday mornings

We would love for you to join us on Monday mornings at 10 AM via Zoom for Lectio Divina, when we reflect on scriptures that will be used in the coming Sunday's worship service.

Please note that we WILL be meeting on Monday, September 5 (Labor Day). To join, just click the link: [HERE](#).



From the Mission Committee

The pressing needs in our city and county are endless, it seems. FPC and your Mission Committee would like to help all but we're focused primarily on three partnering groups where we can have as strong an impact as possible: 1) CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse); 2) the Free Clinic; and 3) Lakewood Elementary.

That said, the Giving Tree also hangs flush from time to time with needs from other organizations, such as those mentioned below. PLEASE REMEMBER: If you bring an item from the tree, attach the note with it.

Our Tree that Keeps on Giving

A big, big Thank You to our members and friends who keep giving to our Giving Tree requests. Mary-Linda Armacost reports that the Giving Tree has distributed all kinds of items to CASA, Happy Workers, Edible Peace Patch, and the Free Clinic. Items such as pull-ups, diapers, umbrellas, magic markers, gardening gloves, toilet paper, small backpacks, laundry detergent and spray starch, men's socks, boys and girls PJs, and much more. "It was quite a wonderful grouping," she says.

Mary-Linda also reports that Lakewood Elementary really appreciates the 80 uniforms that \$800 from your donations bought—40 uniforms for both girls and boys who could not afford one. A refresh on Lakewood's needs will soon be blooming again on our Giving Tree, so be on the lookout!

St. Pete Free Clinic

A big ask is that the Free Clinic sorely needs more volunteers. This is because of the Clinic's increased outreach via its new drive-thru food pantries, indoor services, and increased medical offerings. And the Clinic always needs more personal hygiene items, which you can place under the Giving Tree, designating them for the Free Clinic. Current volunteers from our church often talk about how fun and meaningful it is to get to know those in need of these services as well as the



other volunteers.

Honduras, Here We Come!

YAY! Finally, after three absent years, FPC will be sending a team to Honduras June 11-17, 2023, says Susan Schlecht. Because of COVID, the last year we were able to go was 2019. Ten persons have signed up so far. If you'd like information, please contact Susan: 727-735 5332; schlecht21975@gmail.com.

Little Free Library

If you haven't noticed, our Little Free Library facing Beach Drive is attracting more and more families coming with their children to pick out books! Thanks, Ronn and Mary Johnson and team for conceiving and putting this library in place. Yet one more outreach into our neighborhood!



Things to Note

The Mission Committee also shares news with you that it hears from other local non-profit groups. Here are a few:

- Lynne Mormino shares that Clothes to Kids is actively assisting homeless children in Pinellas County Schools. She cites an online *Catalyst* story that says more than 3,000 children are homeless in our county, and that number is expected to grow. To read more about this problem, you may link here to [Waveny Ann Moore's story](#).
- One of [Operation PAR/COSA's](#) programs focuses on helping children whose mothers or other family caretakers have drug or other addictions. They run a pre-school for kids up to age 5. This program needs books and money.
- Our Afghan refugee neighbors are getting settled into our community and others around the state with the assistance of Westminster Communities and Lutheran Services. FPC members and friends are currently helping with transportation and teaching English.
- Pastor Ginny Ellis reports that Bethel continues to do wonderful work in south Hillsborough, and that Cedarkirk had over 500 campers this summer, after re-opening from COVID closures. Cedarkirk also stages "road show" camps lasting five days that are proving to be quite popular.

Your Mission Committee members who work with Rev. Ginny Ellis include: Mary-Linda Armacost, Sandi Averitt (moderator), Michelle Buscaino, Uneeda Brewer, Beth Houghton (co-moderator), Carlen Maddux, Lynne Mormino, and Susan Schlecht. If you have any questions about our activities, please contact Sandi (cell: 727-424-9300; email: sanaveritt1@gmail.com).

Presbyterian Women's Bible study for 2022-2023

PW Circles are resuming in person this fall with a new and exciting Bible study, "Celebrating Sabbath" by Carol M. Bechtel. Plan to refresh your spirit and enjoy fellowship with other women now through May 2023.

If you are not a current circle member and would like to join, please leave your name and phone number with the Church Office and we will call you to connect to a circle that works for you. For a list of the 2022-2023 Circles, [CLICK HERE](#).



Backpack Event Report

by Melody Proud, [Live Love St Pete](#)

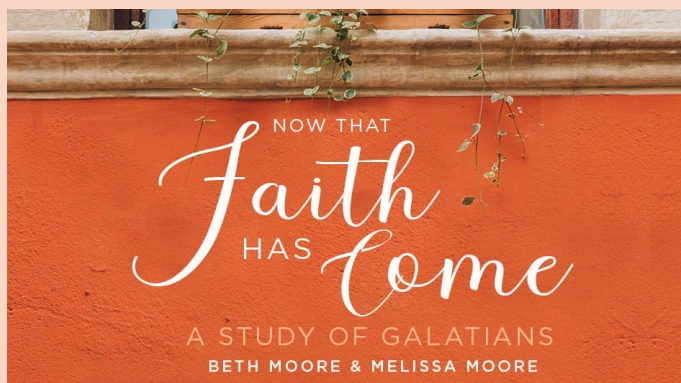
First let me apologize for the delay reporting on this event. I wanted to go through the pictures from the event and share them with you. As they say a picture is worth a thousand words and this will not disappoint!

The backpack giveaway event was amazing! We started giving the children the opportunity to pick a new backpack with supplies at noon and we didn't stop until 5 PM when all of the backpacks were gone and NO child left empty-handed!!

The following shows the joy the children and helpers felt that day:

[CLICK HERE FOR VIDEO](#)

We could never have done this without your help filling the backpacks as well as your financial donations. Thank you church family for helping us show a some love to these kids in need!



"Now That Faith Has Come - A Study of Galatians"

Join Beth & Melissa Moore for a 7-week deep-dive into Paul's captivating letter to the Galatians. Let's study it's original context and embrace it's timeless relevance. We will

discover - or perhaps rediscover - what makes the gospel of Jesus revolutionary to those who choose to believe.

Join us on Tuesday mornings in the Youth Center

9:00 a.m.* – 11:30 a.m.

September 20 – November 1, 2022

**Note: new starting time at 9:00 a.m.!*

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is required. Workbooks will be available for \$20. Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. Questions? April Hussung: (727) 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.

Power Hour Sunday School class

Curriculum: Animate

All Are Welcome!

Whether you are already a class member or new, all are welcomed back to Sunday school class. We will

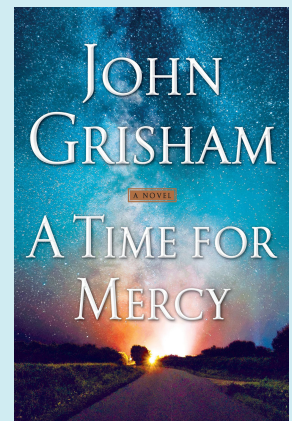
continue to animate or “give life to” our faith & community, the Bible, and our core faith practices. We will hear perspectives from some of the best contemporary voices with this DVD-based program. There will be lively, relevant conversation starters that will spur on great conversations as we grow in our faith. For more info about the curriculum, click [HERE](#). Set your alarm and join us every Sunday @ 8:30 AM in the Youth Center where we'll have coffee and fellowship. Class begins at 9 AM. You won't want to miss it! Any questions, call Karen Mossman at 727-400-5079.



Faith & Fiction

resumes Monday, October 3 at 7 PM

For this first meeting, we'll be reading *A Time for Mercy* by John Grisham. As usual with Grisham books, this one revolves around the courtroom cases of more than one of Jake Brigance's clients. This time, there are no easy answers, and there will be many topics for discussion, some very timely. Read it, and come join us on Monday, October 3rd at 7:00 p.m. Bring your legal questions...and maybe your verdicts!



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!



During this season, we are especially thankful for the generosity of all of the people who continue to 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 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**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 8:30 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)

- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)

- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)

- **Wednesdays, 7:30 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary

- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite

- **Fridays, 7:30 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:

- *The Road Ahead* conversation groups meet throughout the week
- **Tuesday, September 20**, Ladies' Tuesday Bible study resumes
- **Monday, October 3**, Faith and Fiction resumes

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.

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

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

Sent by office@fpc-stpete.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!