

FIRST NEWS



September 8, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, September 10, 2023
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "In the Spirit, a New Creation"
Scripture: [Galatians 5:25-6:2](#), [Galatians 6:14-16](#)

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!

Our guest musician this Sunday is violinist, Seraphim Fitzgerald, whose family is from Ukraine. [CLICK HERE](#) to read a news story about his work to fundraise money for Ukraine by playing the violin.



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,

Such excitement!

This Sunday, Sept 10, we start ALL THINGS: groups resume from summer break, as well as brand-new things: classes and activities galore. Getting ready is keeping us really busy. I hope you are watching to find your place as we begin this part of our adventure in the faith journey (one of our classes is called "Faith Journey!" What a good title for all of us to ponder). Where are you in your faith journey, and how does this church community support, help and travel along with you? We start it all up on September 10.

Then on September 17, we will celebrate the event we have been hearing about and working toward: the "Hope for Ukraine" Concert. Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will be here that Sunday. Having just arrived that week from Ukraine, they will sing with our own choir at 11:00 worship, will present their full concert at 4:00 that afternoon, and will spend two nights here in St.

Petersburg with church hosts. We are thrilled to hear the story they will share about life in Ukraine in the midst of the war with Russia, and to hear the gift of their fabulous music. I want to thank all of you for the many hours and the focused efforts being given by our planning team and all those who are volunteering. Whether you are slicing cucumbers, making casseroles, running the dishwasher in the church kitchen, hosting members of the orchestra in your home, or have given financial support for this effort: Thank you!!!

Are you tired yet? I hope not. In October, I will be leading the church through official steps to develop a new Vision Statement with related Mission components. We will be preparing for this at worship beginning September 17. Next week I will tell you all about it. Keep me in prayer in the preparations I am making. And pray for the ways you might be able to participate.

Love and blessings,
Pastor Ginny

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*.

GET CONNECTED!

FPC SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT 10 AM

| 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 |

Men's Friday Morning Bible Study

The Men's Friday Morning Bible Study has started back up at their new 8 AM time with study leader David Goodnight. The group will be finishing up I Peter 2 before turning to the book of Hebrews. For more information contact Ken Young (207-841-8562). We hope to see you Friday!!!



Presbyterian Women resume our Circle Bible Study in September

The 2023–2024 PW/Horizons Bible study is “Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts” by Olive Mahabir.

Within the pages of this study, the author invites you to consider Jesus and Jesus’ disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. The Gospel according to Luke and the book of the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts, “one story in two parts,” demonstrate the unfolding of God’s redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled.

If you are not currently a member of a PW circle and would like to join, please leave your name and contact number with the Church Office. We would love to talk with you about it! [CLICK HERE](#) to see this year's circle meeting times and places.

**Ladies, you are invited
to a new Bible Study
starting next Tuesday, Sept. 12**

*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
September 12 – October 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.

Wednesday Night Suppers Start September 13

Mark your calendars, because you won't want to miss any of this fall's line-up for Wednesday Night Suppers! They are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month (except December when it will be on the second Tuesday for essential reasons!)



OUR KICKOFF will be September 13 at 5:30 PM!

We'll have Kyle's World-Famous BBQ, including beef brisket, sliced pork and sausage, and all the fixings – cornbread, baked beans, coleslaw, soft green beans, along with Greg Helck's dreamy 3-cheese Mac 'n' Cheese and a variety of desserts. [PLEASE CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!](#)

The New Kids' Choir also will kick off at 6:10 PM! To sign your child up, [CLICK HERE!](#) Our first night together on Sept. 13 is set aside for making props for our performance in December! While the kids are busy there, parents are invited to listen to BBQ Master Kyle Brinkmann enlighten us regarding the regional differences when it comes to BBQ. You will even get to vote for your favorite, all while listening to some blue grass music and visiting with friends old and new around the tables! Pick up your kids at 6:40 PM and you'll still have them home and getting ready for bed by 7!



Beach Drive Forums Are Back!

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.



Volunteer Opportunities for:

Coffee Hour Crew

We're looking for discerning, insightful, and fun folks for a committee to help kick off the new after-Sanctuary-church "coffee hour."

Email eva1popo@gmail.com or call Eva

Popovich at 707-217-6030 or NOW. We need you!

Kitchen Volunteers

Starting Sept. 13, once or twice a month (usually Wednesday evenings) we will need kitchen volunteers when food is served for church events, to help with set up and/or clean up. If you are able to help, please contact Pastor Jeanie Barnes (jbarnes@fpc-stpete.org) or Amy McCutcheon in the Church Office (727-822-2031).



Blue and Yellow Flag, A Powerful Symbol

The Ukrainian flag consists of two horizontal bands of equal width, with blue on the top and yellow on the bottom. The combination is commonly decoded as the sky above and the endless fields of wheat beneath it.

The combination of colors goes back to the 13th century. A golden lion on a blue background was depicted on the coat of arms of Lviv during the reign of Prince Danylo Romanovych. The flag got its modern look in 1848 when revolutionaries who intended to liberate Ukraine's western regions from Austro-Hungarian authority developed this flag based on the hues of the coat of arms of the city of Lviv.

The flag has become a symbol of national pride and unity. It flows at public events and over government buildings and is a common sight at sporting events and cultural festivals.

- A symbol of hope, it flutters over resilient Ukrainian cities and towns.
- A symbol of support, its blue and yellow fills squares and news feeds around the globe.
- A symbol of resistance, people continue to make and protect Ukrainian flags even under the temporary occupation.
- A symbol of sacrifice, it covers the coffins of heroes who were killed

defending the country.

On Sunday, September 17 at 4 p.m., we welcome the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra & Chorus (KSOC) to First Presbyterian Church to present a concert as part of their "Hope for Ukraine" tour. Be sure to attend and bring your family and friends.

Still needed: food, helping hands to prepare, serve, and clean-up after meals, financial donations for the KSOC's humanitarian efforts, and for you to continue **SPREADING THE WORD!**

Join Us for Sunset
with our guest musicians

Hope For Ukraine
TOUR

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

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

Online Giving



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 (resumes September 10)
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Young Adults/Parents Sunday School Class, Room S-206 (New! Starts September 10)
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Teens' Sunday School Class, Room S-205 (New! Starts September 10)
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)

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

- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center (resumes Sept. 12)
- **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 (resumes Sept. 14)

- **Fridays, 8:00 AM**, Men's Bible Study (new time!)
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, September 10**, Fall Sunday School Kick-Off, with new classes starting at 10 AM for adults, young adults, and teens!
- **Sunday, September 10**, 2 PM, Men's Meal Ministry cooking for Pinellas Hope in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. Volunteers welcome!
- **Wednesday, September 13**, 5:30 PM, Wednesday Night Dinner and 6:10 PM, Kids' Choir
- **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?*

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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