

# FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from  
First Presbyterian Church  
St. Petersburg

April 15, 2022

## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for one of our Easter Sunday Worship Services  
at 7:30 AM outside or 10 AM in the Sanctuary  
this Sunday, April 17, 2022

JOIN US FOR

# Easter

at

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - ST PETE

**EARLY MORNING EASTER PRAISE SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 17**

**7:30 AM - Front Circle Drive (outside)**

Celebrate the race to the empty tomb  
with the FPC Praise Band leading us in  
Contemporary Worship out in front of  
the Sanctuary.

**TRADITIONAL EASTER SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 17**

**10:00 AM - Sanctuary**

Traditional Easter service; celebrate the  
empty tomb with worship featuring the  
Pipe Organ, Brass Ensemble and Handel's  
"Hallelujah!" chorus.



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](http://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 - He Is Risen!

As you may have heard, your FPC Praise Band will be providing all the music for the 7:30 AM Easter Sunday service. The service will be held outside in front of the Sanctuary. We've got a lot of great music planned for you, and one tune we're particularly excited about. *Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed* is a song we recorded during the pandemic but have never played live before. Click the link below to hear the tune and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Christ Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed](#)



**Please remember in prayer:** Millie Bradley, Carol Daniel, Peter Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Lillian Harris, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, 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; 1st LT Mallory Wasik, USMC; 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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

### From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Friends,

This is the weekend we wait for: the weekend for joy and celebration. This is the Sunday we greet the morning with a shout of *Alleluia! He is risen!* What would it have been like for those grieving women: going to the tomb before dark, ready to tend to the dead body of their beloved friend, their teacher? They arrive as the sun comes up only to find the tomb empty, his body gone. They look at each other as if to ask: *Did we come to the wrong grave? Isn't this where they put him? Did someone steal his body? Where is our beloved Jesus?* And there the truth is revealed to them: *He is not here. He has risen, just as he told you he would be. Life has won out over death. God's power prevails over the evil of this world. Alleluia!*

We can claim that truth for ourselves too, right here in our own time and place. We claim it for those we love and for the future. God is the victor. All will come right in God's time and in God's way. Our job is to believe this and live as though it were already true: Live with hope and optimism. Live as people who believe in Jesus, who can live as he showed us, as he taught us. That is an ALLELUIA, right there!

I'll see you on Sunday. Easter Sunday! I can hardly wait.  
Ginny Ellis

### Lectio Devina - Monday Mornings

We would love for you to join us on Monday mornings via Zoom at 10 AM for Lectio Devina, when we reflect on scriptures that will be used in the coming Sunday's worship service. To join, just click the link: [HERE](#).

### Wednesday Night Book Study

Join us via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM for a book study based on The Book of Forgiving by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. The book explores "the four-fold path for healing ourselves and our world." Click [HERE](#) to join.

## Happy Easter from All Your Deacons

Submitted by Marilyn Mulcahy

This past Sunday, I got to witness the joy of children's laughter and chatter as they searched for Easter eggs. Boy, have we all missed that!

What we haven't missed, as it has never left us? God's incredible love for us. No matter where we go. No matter what is going on in our lives. No matter how many times we forget to pray, read the scripture, witness to others, God is still right by us. Loving us.

John 3:16. Yes, God so loved the world.

**What a fun time for all at our Easter Egg Hunt last week! Thanks to all our FPC volunteers who helped to make it happen!**



## 7 Mission Items for 7 Sundays of Lent

We have been collecting items for our community during this season of Lent, and this Sunday, April 17, is the last day of those collections. These items will go to St. Pete Free Clinic, CASA, and Lakewood Elementary School. Thank you for the many ways you continue to support our community!

- April 17 - Bath towels and/or wash cloths



## *Easter Lilies were given...*

### *To the glory of God and in honor of...*

**Lillian Harris' 95th birthday** by Sally Horrell

**Matthew Clear** by Vicki Fox

**Volunteers at FPC** by Vicki Fox

**Lynne Mormino** by Kathy & Ray Arsenault

**Glenn and Peter Schlecht** by the Schlecht family

**PW Circle Leader Dottie Young** by Nancy Ogden

**John 3:16** by Marilyn Mulcahy

**One-Year-Old Class** by St. Petersburg Primary School

**Two-Year-Old Classes** by St. Petersburg Primary School

**Three-Year-Old Classes** by St. Petersburg Primary School

**Pre-K Classes** by St. Petersburg Primary School

**Kindergarten Class** by St. Petersburg Primary School

**In gratitude to FPC** by St. Petersburg Primary School

### *To the glory of God and in memory of...*

**My husband, Pepe** by Vivian Ramirez

**My family** by Debbie Factor

**My husband, Ned Agee** by Chris Agee

**Bill and Connie Baynard** by Tom and Sally Baynard

**Robert and Eleanor Pfeiffer** by Tom and Sally Baynard

**Janet Sage Murray and Alice Young Esposito**

by Ann Murray and Mike Hurtubise



#### Cedarkirk Church Retreat

Our all-church retreat at Cedarkirk is next weekend (April 23 and 24), where Pastor Ginny and Pastor Megan will offer insights and discernment on *Beloved Community in a Beloved Place*. The registration date has passed, but if you have any questions about the retreat, please contact Kathy Bardin at 727-418-4577.

On Sunday, April 24, we will have a guest preacher, Rev. Amy Santamaria, at our 10 AM worship service in the Sanctuary.

#### MISSION OUTREACH

The atrocities in Ukraine and its millions of refugees are overshadowing most other needs right now. Nonetheless, we have refugees from Afghanistan being resettled in our own backyard. Westminster Communities is working currently to place 27 Afghan adults and children (four families) in St. Pete. Ten of the adults are now working for Westminster.

Westminster is asking us to partner with them on three fronts:

**(1) Computers.** The refugees need 28 laptops or iPads to stay in touch with their loved ones in Afghanistan and to help with their English-speaking skills. First Presbyterian has six laptops that are gathering dust and will be donating those. If you have a laptop or iPad no longer being used, please consider donating to this cause (include the charger and mouse/pad if you have them.) The Mission Committee will make sure your personal data is wiped clean.

A goal of our church and Mission Committee is to involve more members and friends of FPC in projects, not just through monetary donations, but also via

**M  
I  
S  
S  
I  
O  
N  
♥ CORNER**

donations of time, talent and effort. So, if you or anyone you know is proficient IT-wise and can give a Saturday to help wipe clean and retrofit any of the donated laptops and iPads, please contact Carlen Maddux (see contact info below). We'll work together in consultation with our media director Dave Aumack and schedule a Saturday we'll call Mission: *AfghanTech*. (Thank you, Dave!)

**(2) Bicycle helmets.** A benefactor in Orlando is paying for refurbishing used bicycles but not covering the helmets. The need: **12 adult and 12 child helmets**. For safety reasons, new helmets are better than used. (Online prices of both helmets start at about \$20.)

**(3) Transportation.** If you are interested and able, families will need **transportation once every 3 weeks or so** to go to the grocery, drug store, etc. The families live in the Pinellas Point area of south St. Pete.

Johnny Miller will put buckets out in the sanctuary for the next few weeks for you to place the laptops/iPads and the bike helmets. (Thank you, Johnny!) If you would like to help with the transportation OR if you have any questions, please contact Carlen Maddux at 727.504.8201 or [cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com) (Subject Line: Afghan refugees).

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** If you would like to welcome our new Afghan neighbors, Westminster Communities and Lutheran Services will sponsor an **Open House for the public on Thursday, May 5, 5:00-7:00 PM**. It will be held at Westminster Palms, just north of our church, in its Tides Gallery (in the 14-story Palm View building, the tallest of the complex). Afghan hors-d'oeuvres will be served. Several refugees speak English, plus translators will be available.



## SPECIAL OFFERINGS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) supports efforts to relieve hunger (through the *Presbyterian Hunger Program*), promote development (through the *Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People*), and assist in areas of disaster (through *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*). The three programs all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

### Grieving? Know someone who is?

GriefShare begins Sunday, **April 24 at 4 PM** and will be meeting virtually (via Zoom).



Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, you will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The 13-week DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. This is a great opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Need more information? Want to sign up? Call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.

### Meal on Wheels - Volunteers Needed!

Meals on Wheels is a mission FPC has supported for over 50 years. Volunteers pick up and deliver meals to needy individuals from the Sunshine Center in

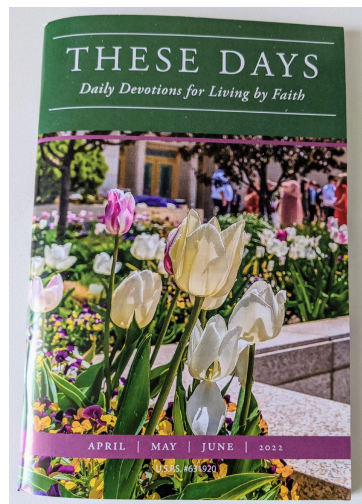
downtown St. Pete. We currently make about 12 stops, and the whole process from pick-up to return takes about two hours. We deliver five days a week and ask that people sign up for the same day every week or every other week.

We are currently in need of someone on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of the month, the 3rd and 4th Wednesday, and/or occasionally as a back-up driver. Volunteers will take a short training course and fill out paperwork before being able to deliver. Please call Kathy Bardin at (727) 418-4577 if you are interested or have any questions. We encourage people to ride along with a current volunteer before making a decision.



### Devotionals Available

Copies of the Apr/ May/ Jun edition of "Our Daily Bread" and "These Days" devotionals are now available for pick-up from the Church Office during normal business hours or at the Welcome Center on Sundays.



### NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Beginning in May, the Church Office will be open  
Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Amy McCutcheon will be working from home on Fridays (9:00 AM to noon) and will check phone messages regularly. Johnny Miller will continue to be on campus on Fridays, keeping his regular hours. Both pastors generally take Friday as their day off.

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!

Online Giving

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 April 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, 9 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center (not meeting April 17 or 24)
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
  
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Devina, [via Zoom](#)
  
- **Tuesdays, 9:15 AM**, Ladies' Beth Moore Bible Study, Youth Center (last session for this study is April 26)
- **Tuesdays, 1 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting in-person on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month (next in-person meeting is **April 26**, in the Chapel). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com))
  
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM**, Wednesday Night Live, [via Zoom](#); book study: *The Book of Forgiving*
  
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal
  
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, Room N-123. Please contact Ken Young at 207-841-8562 for more information.
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood ([pjfwon@gmail.com](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

Upcoming Events:

- **Tonight, April 15, 7 PM**, Good Friday/Tenebrae service, Sanctuary
  
- **Sunday, April 17, EASTER!** Two services, 7:30 AM (outside, contemporary) and 10:00 AM (Sanctuary, traditional)
  
- **Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24**, All-Church Retreat at Cedarkirk

### 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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

First Presbyterian Church  
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 822-2031

[Contact Us](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.

