

FIRST NEWS



August 25, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, August 27, 2023
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon Series: **Fruits of the Spirit**
Sermon: "**Gentleness**: Putting it into Context"
Scripture: [Ephesians 4:1-6](#), [Galatians 5:13-23](#)

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.

August Music

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



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, 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:

We have been reading Galatians 5:22-23 every Sunday for seven weeks: two more to go! I got tickled when Dottie Young read the text last Sunday and asked, "Does that sound familiar?" and some of you chuckled. Yes, it should sound familiar! We have read those two verses Sunday after Sunday: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

It's a little like a mental/ spiritual checklist. How am I doing on the Fruits of the Spirit? I may need to work on patience this week.... Or on kindness....

I like that it's fruits. I find myself thinking about plants and trees, growing, flourishing, and bearing fruit. That's us in our faith: we are growing, flourishing, and finally, hopefully, bearing fruit. Plants and trees don't bear fruit without sunlight, water, and without birds, bees, and wind to pollinate and spread the seeds. We, too, are nurtured in our faith by what we do, the friends we keep, the way we interact with the world around us, the way we listen to God.

A week or so ago I was with my Connecticut grandsons, now 9 and 11. They have grown so much: not just physically, but mentally and emotionally. They don't fuss with each other the way they used to. They tell you what they like, what bothers them, what they are thinking about. Grandparenting them is

different now, in some ways easier, in some ways more challenging. And they are a joy!

Our faith is like that. It grows. It faces challenge. It bears fruit. ... love, joy, peace, patience... And the list goes on. Probably you can say it in your sleep. Remember to NURTURE that faith, and let it grow to sustain you in hard times, and offer it as fruit to nourish others around you.

Blessings, Ginny Ellis

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*.

Imagine Museum Outing This Sunday, August 27, 1 PM

ALL GLASS AND ARTWORK! Really cool art! This Sunday, August 27th, at 1:00 PM, the First Presbyterian Explorers (sometimes called the Fun, Friends, and Fellowship group) will be gathering at St. Pete's Imagine Museum. FREE PARKING, handicap-accessible building, and hopefully a fun docent tour guide will be on our schedule! The cost is **ONLY \$5** this month. For details or to use one of Dave's already purchased tickets, see Dave Hunt on a Sunday, call him at 727-739-6961 or contact the Church Office.



Exciting things are happening in the office at First Presbyterian Church! We have upgraded our church database to a new product called **Realm**. This new and improved system is designed to be more user-friendly; it will help the office staff better manage the day-to-day operations of the church AND it offers more ways for our members and friends to connect with the church and with each other online.

Members and friends of FPC will be invited to use this new online system by setting up a user profile with the email you have provided to us, as well as a new password. Signing up is optional but encouraged! You should receive a series of emails, starting next Monday, with helpful information and instructions. Please be sure to read emails carefully, follow the instructions and prompts given, and – as always! – please call the Church Office if you have any questions.

GET CONNECTED AT FPC!

You are invited to grow in faith and fellowship here at FPC! We have new groups that are starting as well as several on-going groups that are starting back up after a summer break. There are so many opportunities for community and spiritual growth, for adults and children...we invite you to join one (or more)! Click the button below to see the complete list of Sunday school and weekday options we have available!

[CLICK HERE FOR COMPLETE LISTING OF FPC GROUPS!](#)

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.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

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 September 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.



Sunday School Helpers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist Diane Zuercher in a new children's Sunday School class (starting Sept. 10) from 10 – 10:40 AM. This position may be rotated among 2-4 people.

Kitchen Volunteers Needed

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. Thanks!

If you are able to help with any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Pastor Jeanie Barnes (jbarnes@fpc-stpete.org) or Amy McCutcheon in the Church Office (727-822-2031).

Coffee Hour Crew Needed

We're looking for discerning, insightful, and fun folks for a committee to help kick off the new after-Sanctuary-church "coffee hour." Call Eva Popovich at 707-217-6030 or email eva1popo@gmail.com NOW. We need you!

Help That's Truly WANTED and NEEDED

The Edible Peace Patch

"To cultivate healthy minds and bodies through hands-on educational gardens." That's the motto of the R'Club's Edible Peace Patch. Do you like to teach? Do you enjoy gardening? This may be the opportunity just for you. Young hungry minds and bodies need your help. The Edible Peace Patch, which was begun in 2009 by several Eckerd College students, now works with eight Title 1 elementary schools in St. Pete, schools working with lower-income kids. Plus, there's one community garden. The schools' curricula are approved by the Pinellas County School Board.



"The children working with these gardens are seeing their science scores improve significantly," says FPC's Lynne Mormino. "These gardens are a real morale booster."

There are two ways you can get involved:

- First, you can help these children plant and/or weed their gardens on a weekly basis from August to May from 9 AM to noon. (With the current



temperatures you may consider starting in a later month.) You can check the weekly [volunteer](#) calendar to see what school has a workday available.

- Or secondly, you can be a garden education volunteer to help teach a hands-on class of elementary children in their garden. This is an 8-week commitment, once a week for 45 minutes each time.

For more information on R'Club's Edible Peace Patch, please click [HERE](#). Or contact the Edible Peace Patch's Nicole Bigda (727.692.9764; nbigda@rclub.net). Or you may contact FPC member Lynne Mormino (727.667.4712; lmormino@tampabay.rr.com).



[St. Petersburg Free Clinic](#)

Founded in 1970, the Free Clinic continues to grow quickly as the needs of the city's homeless community are growing exponentially. With this growth comes the need for evermore volunteers. Volunteers to log in persons needing food, medical and dental help and financial help; volunteers to serve as client advocates; volunteers to pack up non-perishable foods; volunteers to pack up snack bags; volunteers to help with walk-in clients and drive-throughs.

Whatever your skill and interest, there seems to be a need. You may remember that two of our church members are former CEOs with the Free Clinic, Jane Egbert and Beth Houghton. Currently these church members are volunteers there: Susan Schlecht, Debbie Factor, Chris Agee, and Lynne Mormino. Possibly more.



Want to know more specifically what's involved? Go to this [St. Pete Free Clinic link](#). Or you may contact FPC member Susan Schlecht (727.735.5332 or schlecht21975@gmail.com).

[First Presbyterian's Mission Committee](#)



Are you looking for a way to get more involved in our church without getting overly committed? Our church's mission outreach is growing broader and deeper, and our committee's current number of seven members is not enough to keep up with all the demand.

We need your help!



If you have any interest in knowing what the Mission Committee is doing and how you might connect, please contact our Chair Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300; saveritt@tampabay.rr.com) or vice-chair Carlen Maddux (727.504.8201; cmaddux@maddux.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.

The **New Kids' Choir** also will kick off at **6:10 PM!** 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. **Sept. 20, Oct. 18 and Nov. 15** 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, 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.



Spreading the Word

FPC excitement, energy, and creativity abound far ahead of the arrival of The Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (KSOC). Twenty-eight women of KSOC will perform on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 4 p.m. in our Sanctuary.

Here are examples of wonderful connections being made because of the concert.

- A friend of one of our members recently asked for small flyers to hand out at a social function. The next day, one of the attendees called and indicated that his civic club wishes to be involved and to house two of the musicians!
- Another member of our church had a dinner party for eight people. "Ukraine is to be the theme," she said and asked for a flyer to post on her door, small handouts to put at each place, and toothpick Ukrainian flags like we had on the blue and yellow cupcakes for Kickoff Sunday. She must have done a terrific job of talking about the upcoming Ukrainian concert because at the end of the evening she had pledges totaling \$2,000!
- Yet another member was at the Museum of Fine Arts and saw a FPC member there with a friend from Westminster Shores. As it turns out, the Shores resident is Ukrainian and became excited about the concert. She is now our contact person at that Westminster location!

These stories become part of the event and are critical for creating success. Let's be 'over the moon' with our hosting the KSOC as we raise funds for their humanitarian aid mission. Be a part of **SPREADING THE WORD!**

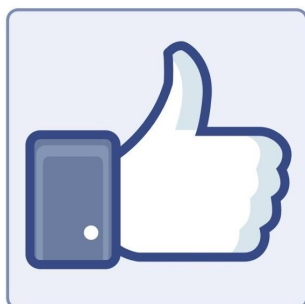
Reminder: A free-will offering will be collected at the concert – no ticket is needed. **100% of donations go directly to KSOC's mission.** To contribute, you can write a check to First Presbyterian Church and note 'Hope for Ukraine' in the memo line or go online to fpcstpete.com/give, click Give Now, and then type "Hope for Ukraine" in the memo line.

We look forward to seeing you at this very special event. **SPREAD THE WORD!**

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 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, (resumes 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, 6 PM**, Bell Choir Rehearsal (on summer break)
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal (on summer break)

- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study (resumes September 8)
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, August 27, 1 PM**, Imagine Museum outing
- **Monday, September 4**, Church Office closed for Labor Day
- **Wednesday, September 13, 5:30 PM**, Wednesday Night Dinner and Kids' Choir

- Sunday, September 17, 4 PM, "Hope for Ukraine" Concert
- Wednesday, September 20, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum

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

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

Sent by office@fpc-stpete.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!