

FIRST NEWS



July 14, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, July 16, 2023
Seventh 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: "The Gift of **Joy**"
Scripture: [Galatians 5:22-23](#), [Psalm 126](#), [Philippians 4:4-9](#)

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.

July Music

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



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, 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,

Were you at worship on July 9? Either service? In-person? On-line? If so, you may have seen a couple of wonderful gifts God gave our worshipping community. Here's what happened: The children at worship engaged with us! Because the sermon was about love, the first of the "Fruits of the Spirit," I brought pictures of some things I thought children might love: rainbow, teddy bear, pizza, baby, people hugging. I printed too many pictures. I think I printed eight, when four or five would have been plenty. But anyway.

At the Connect service the children responded: Klaci turned her NO's into YES's. Maxine, Jackson, and Wesley surprised me with hugs. At the Sanctuary service, two small children new to us, 2 or 3 years old, told us pretty clearly about what they love: a DINOSAUR would have been a good picture to add to my collection. And they spontaneously wrapped their arms around one another in a big hug. At both services the "Moment for All Ages" was truly special, heart-warming, dear. The children at worship took me, and maybe all of us, by surprise, capturing our imagination and our hearts. They responded to what I tried to share with them. More than that: God spoke to us through those littles.

God did at least one more thing: after the sermon at 11:00, I offered you a simplistic "Love Bingo" card with a few very simple ideas about ways we show love: giving hugs, sending flowers, calling friends and family, having a will. I

wanted to encourage some interaction on the theme of Love. And it looks like that very simple tool has actually gotten people thinking. One person later told me he needs to make a will. Another has posted the Love Bingo card by their desk. Yet another made a point of calling a loved one on the phone.

It seems that God was present with us on Sunday. Well, yes, I know that God is present with us all the time, every day. But this week I was really touched, humbled, overwhelmed. After all who are we to have God stop by and worship with us? But God was there last Sunday. And it was sweet. Powerful and sweet.

Anyway, I'll see you next week. That's when we'll talk about the second Fruit of the Spirit: JOY! I wonder how God might surprise us then.

Ginny

New Member Inquirer's Class Sunday, July 23, at 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 on July 23, 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!



A Crafty Christmas in July!

Please let us know if you are able to join us in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, July 25th from 5-7 PM for a fun filled event – Christmas in July – exactly five months ahead of Christmas in December! Just click [HERE](#) or contact the Church Office to RSVP so we have plenty of supplies and food on hand! (Please make note of how many adults and children).

There will be delicious a SANDWICH BAR with all the fixin's and an ICE CREAM BAR (think banana splits, sprinkles, and a cherry on top!!) We will be creating kid-friendly Christmas crafts, and teenage and adult-friendly CHRISMONS to help decorate our church this December! (that's the contraction of two words – Christ and Monogram). Lots of fun for all!

There also will be an active area to help do preliminary packing of backpacks (1,000 by the end of the month), so we'll be doing Merry Christmas (in July) gift-giving as well! Hohoho! See you there!

Backpacks, Backpacks, and More Backpacks For Our Next Fifth Sunday MissionSunday

Our Mission Committee is once again partnering with [Live Love St Pete](#), a non-profit founded by FPC member Melody Proud. Her organization works with local schools to provide much-needed resources to underserved elementary school children in St. Petersburg. For this month's Fifth Sunday MissionSunday, we will be helping to fill hundreds of backpacks with school supplies, which will be distributed to underprivileged kids the first week of August at the Trop.



This upcoming MissionSunday will be on July 30 in Fellowship Hall. **The time available to help will be from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM.** If you attend the 9 o'clock Connect service or the 11 o'clock Sanctuary service, you may help either before or after your service. Melody and other Mission Committee members will be there to assist.

The work is easy-peasy. (*Do kids still say this?*) The backpacks and school supplies have already been purchased through Live Love St Pete's on-going fundraising efforts. **So all we need to do is fill them!**

Note: if you would like to sponsor a backpack (or more than one!), the cost is \$15 per backpack, and includes all the school supplies we'll be packing in them! You can click [HERE](#) to donate online, or you can give a check to the church with "backpacks" in the memo line.



"Our goal is to fill 400 backpacks on MissionSunday," says Melody. "I know that may be aggressive, but it should be easy if we get enough hands to help." She and friends will be filling the other 600 backpacks another time.

And who gets these 1,000 backpacks filled with school supplies? And how will they be distributed? "They will be given to schoolkids K-5 in need of a backpack," Melody says. "And we'll distribute these at the Saturday Morning Shoppe at The Trop's parking lot until they're all gone."

Thank you, Melody, for taking the lead on this worthy effort!

On another front, Beth Houghton, also on the Mission Committee, reports that [CASA](#) (727.895.4912) has a refreshed "Wish List" of needs. All these items

should be new unless otherwise indicated, and donations can be taken directly to their office front desk (1011 1st Ave N.):

- Accordion files
- Air mattresses (with pump)
- Bras/sports bras
- Dish soap
- Hairbrushes/combs
- Pack-N-Plays
- Socks
- Strollers
- Umbrellas
- Car seats (new or gently used and unexpired)

If you have questions about this upcoming MissionSunday, please contact Melody Proud (865.599.6767, melody@livelovestpete.org). Or contact Mission Committee chair Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300, sanaveritt1@gmail.com).

FAITH DAY AT THE RAYS - AUGUST 12th



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY AT THE RAYS 2023

	SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH START TIME: 4:10 P.M. GATES OPEN: 2:10 P.M.	Don't Miss Out FREE Rays Hat Post-Game: Team Chaplin & Player Testimonies
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Tickets are \$35 (\$70 Value)

Kids 2 years old and younger do not need a ticket

EVENT WRISTBANDS* AND RAYS HATS CAN BE PICKED UP FROM DAVID AUMACK IN SECTION 137

* Event wristband is required for entrance to post-game event (down LF line in Sections 127-137).

★ Deadline to purchase is Sunday, August 6th, 2023. ★

- Come enjoy a game at Tropicana Field with the Rays and your First Presbyterian Church family!

To purchase tickets: Visit Dave Aumack after service on Sunday, July 30th or Sunday, August 6th from 8:30 am-12:30 pm

Questions? Contact Dave Aumack at 727.304.3167 or email daumack@fpc-stpete.org

**--Cash or Check accepted--
(Make checks payable to FPC; Memo Line: Rays Game)**



Seeking Church Van Drivers!

If you might be ready, willing, and able to drive the church van one Sunday a month, please reach out to the Church Office (727-822-2031). We are in need of more drivers. Thanks!



Don't miss the fall Beach Drive Forum lineup!

Mark your calendars for these exciting community conversations when Beach Drive Forums resume in September. Unless indicated, the Forums occur on the third Wednesday of the month from 6 to 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will fill in more details as they become firm.

September 20: Gloria Munoz, *St. Petersburg Poet Laureate*. This award-winning Colombian-American poet (Academy of American Poets Ambroggio Prize and the Gold Medal Florida Book Award for Poetry) will share what it's like to be a poet laureate and may even inspire you to write your own poetry.

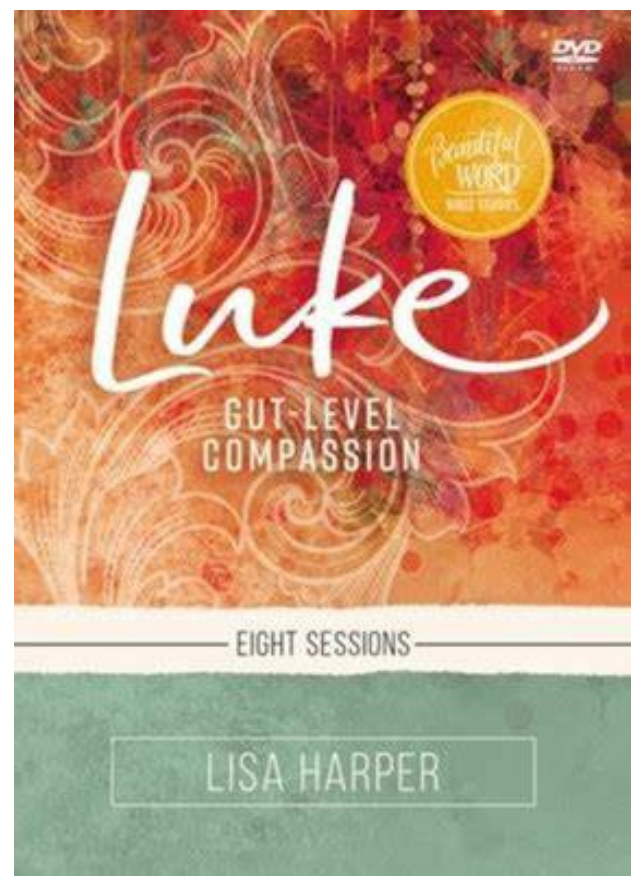
October: Date and topic to be announced soon. Watch this space!

November 15: Jenny Gould, MD, *Understanding Transgender Health*. This local psychiatrist has been practicing for more than 25 years, specializing in child and adolescent as well as general psychiatry.

Ladies, you are invited to Lisa Harper's new Bible Study! Luke: Gut-Level Compassion

We will be studying the humanity and compassion of Jesus shared by Luke. The great news woven throughout the Gospel according to Luke is that perfection is not a prerequisite for deep and personal relationship with Jesus!

Join us on Tuesday mornings
through August 8
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
in the Youth Center



Workbooks (including streaming video access for all sessions) will be available for \$25. We know it's summer – come when you can! No previous Bible study experience is needed. Bring a friend! Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. Questions? April Hussung: 727-420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.

Save The Date: September 17, 4 PM "Hope for Ukraine" Concert

First Presbyterian is hosting a free concert by the women of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. These musicians are touring the southeastern United States to raise funds for their humanitarian relief mission to widows, orphans, and war victims. First



News will soon begin to post opportunities for ways you can help make this a successful event.

The Art of Ukrainian Eggs

Beautiful, intricately decorated, vibrantly colored eggs are a Ukrainian tradition at Easter, but the custom began long before Christianity came to the region. The name for these eggs, Pysanky, comes from the Ukrainian word pysati, which means to write. The designs are written on the egg, with or without its contents, with hot beeswax using a special tool called a kresta. Multiple dips in special dyes, and layers of wax designs, then the removal of all the wax, create the finished egg ready for varnish. The designs include symbols which vary in meaning by creator and region. Original pagan talismans for the return of spring, fertility, and protection from evil evolve to our Christian symbols of peace, new life and resurrection. What appropriate lasting gifts for Easter and throughout the year.



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 July 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, (on summer break until September 10)
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)

- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina (on summer break until August 14)

- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation (on summer break until August 8)

- **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 (on summer break until September 8)
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, July 23, 10 AM**, New Member Inquirer's Class, Chapel
- **Tuesday, July 25, 5-7 PM**, "Christmas in July" event, Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday, July 30, 8 AM - 1 PM**, MissionSunday: Backpack packing (Fellowship Hall) and Crazy Hat Day
- **Monday, July 31, 1:30 PM**, Card Fellowship, N-218
- **Friday, August 4, 5-7 PM**, Pizza and a Movie Night, Fellowship Hall

- Saturday, August 12, 4 PM, Faith Day at the Rays

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.

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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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