

FIRST NEWS



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

July 2, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
for an In-Person or Online Worship Service
this Sunday, July 4
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher: Rev. William Cowfer
Sermon: "Seeking a Clearer Vision"

Scripture: [Psalm 48:1,8-14](#), [2 Corinthians 12:2-10](#), [Mark 6:1-13](#)

If you feel uncomfortable or are unable to worship with us in person, you can
click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

COMMUNION SUNDAY: We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this Sunday during our worship service. If you are joining us online, please gather bread, crackers, or rolls and something to drink (juice, wine, milk, water) ahead of time for all in your home who will be participating.



*As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM,
so please plan to arrive a few minutes early!*



INDEPENDENCE DAY



Updated Mask Policy

On June 24, session approved the motion to change the FPC St. Petersburg Mandatory Mask policy to a **Mask-Optional** policy for fully vaccinated individuals. This applies during worship service and while on church campus.

Courtesy reminder: There are many reasons an individual may choose to wear a mask. Everyone is welcome to wear a mask in any setting and that choice should not be questioned by others.

Special Music this Sunday

Barbara Brownlee, soprano, is our featured guest musician for this Sunday, July 4, 2021. Barbara is a member of FPC and has sung in our Chancel Choir since 2002. She has sung in choirs her entire life since Cherub Choir at age 3, as a member of the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay, and currently sings in Chorus Angelorum, a St. Petersburg *a cappella* vocal ensemble. She is thankful for the many church choir directors who have inspired her joy of singing through their gifted musical and spiritual leadership.



Please remember in prayer: Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Pat Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Sarah Fechter, Teresa Gasper, Margo Hart, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Peter Pav,

Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke

Please continue to lift our church up in your prayers during this time of transition.

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; 1st LT. 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 Grossenbacher at amyg@fpc-stpete.org.



FPC Hymn Sing

Sunday, July 18

during our 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Love Offering for Dawn

The session has approved a love offering in gratitude for Dawn's service to First Presbyterian Church-St Petersburg. Any checks should be made payable to FPC-St Pete and noted as "love offering" in the memo line, so that they can be correctly processed through the office. If you prefer to donate online, you can access Online Giving [HERE](#). Please use the drop-down box to designate your gift as a Love Offering.



If you would like to write notes of appreciation for Dawn, they may be deposited in the pink boxes in the Church Office or the back of the Sanctuary. Blank notecards, envelopes and pens are available near the drop boxes. Gifts may be left near the boxes or delivered to the Church Office during business hours. If you would like to mail anything, please use the church address: 701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Update from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay Listening and Assessment Team

Greetings from the Listening and Assessment Team! We have come together to provide a safe space for you to share your thoughts and concerns. While we organize our approach, we wanted to let you know that we will soon be announcing Communication Appointments July 8-25. Look for a separate email invitation from us early next week.

We understand that this is a difficult time for First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg and that you are likely experiencing a flood of emotions related to recent events and what led up to them. As you consider your time with us, we ask that you use appropriate language and be as concise as possible. This will allow us to give each person adequate attention. We look forward to working with you to find a positive and fruitful way forward for your church and community.

Thank-You Notes



Dear First Presbyterian Family,

Thank you so much for such a loving send-off as Don and I begin our new adventure in Greenville, NC. The necklace and desk pen will be constant reminders of the "God times" we shared together. We will miss each of you and will continue to keep the church in our hearts and prayers.

With faith, hope, and love,

- Don and Gay Zegel



Dear First Presbyterian Family,

Thank you for making my 100th birthday memorable.

I appreciate the fact that you reached out at this wonderful moment in my life.

With good wishes to you,

Helen Leslie

From Our Stephen Ministers

Slowly but surely the world and our community is returning to "normal" – except that it really is questionable whether we can go back to "normal." We've lost so much, missed out on important family occasions, spent more time at home than many of us ever imagined...the list goes on and on. And the world around us has changed.



Are you feeling exhausted or sad or angry from all the disruptions and changes to life brought on by the pandemic and events closer to home? Are you or someone you know struggling with challenges such as:

- Isolation and loneliness?
- Anxiety over health?
- Grief due to many different kinds of losses?
- Tension from juggling work or family responsibilities?
- Financial strain or job loss?
- Uncertainty about the future?
- Other unexpected life challenges?

If so, you do not have to face it alone!

Our Stephen Ministers are ready to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. A Stephen Minister will meet with you privately -- in person, by phone, by video chat - to offer care and support. And it is all completely confidential.

For more information, please call the Church Office (727-822-2031).

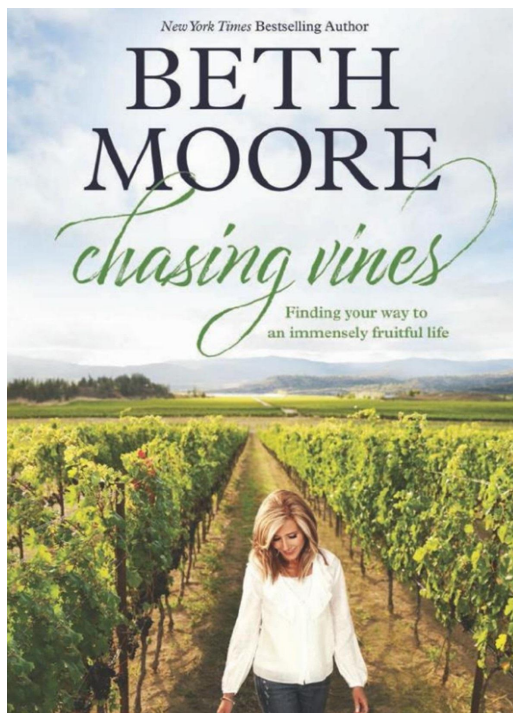
Children's Ministry

From Rev. Megan McMillan

We have made the difficult decision to pause the Children's Message time during our Sunday worship services for the summer. We are so grateful for all those who have been volunteering their time and gifts to this ministry. However, in this time of major transition in the life of this congregation, like many other things, the Children's Ministry programming is in a period of discernment and prayer.

I (Pastor Megan) am looking forward to when we kick-off Children's Messages, Children's Church, and Children's Sunday School once again. In order for all this to happen, we will need a team of collaborative volunteers who are passionate about making this a thriving ministry for our church community. I invite those who are willing and able to walk alongside me on this journey to please contact me (727-828-3972 or meganm@fpc-stpete.org) over the summer months.

In the meantime, the "Kids Korner" in the Sanctuary is still a welcome and available space for your children to come and worship on Sunday mornings with the FPC community. For kids worshipping at home on Sundays, Pastor Megan will be happy to email out some activities and coloring pages to you. If you are interested in receiving these, please email Megan.



Beth Moore Bible Study on Tuesday Mornings

Our study is Beth Moore's "Chasing Vines – Finding Your Way To An Immensely Fruitful Life". It is on Tuesday mornings from 9:15 – 11:30 AM through July 20, 2021 in the Youth Center. Even if you are going to be on vacation during any part of this study, we want to encourage you to come when you can!

Please register with April Hussung (at 727-420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com) and let her know if you need a workbook, which will be available for \$15, or if you

have any questions.

Please note:

- At this time, there is no childcare available.
- We will follow Church masking policy.

All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.

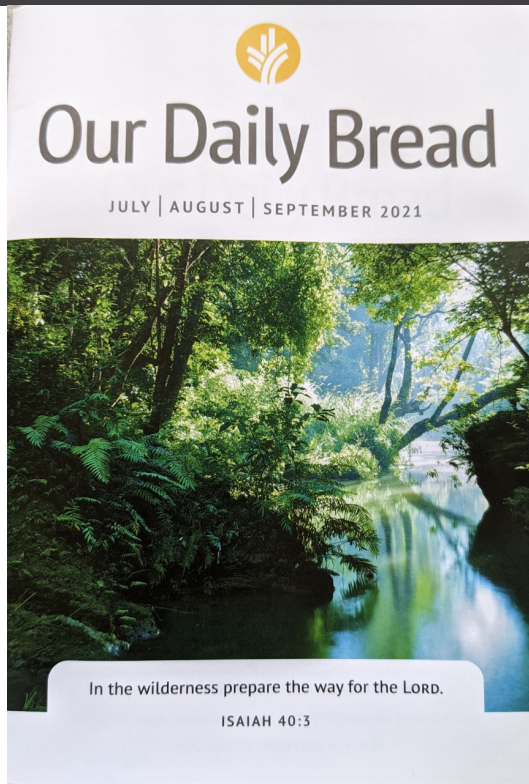


- If you need anything – a phone call, a prayer, a friendly conversation, or a few errands run – PLEASE call the Church Office at 727-822-2031! Our staff and volunteers are happy to help during this time.
- Help us stay connected by sending us your pictures and prayer requests!



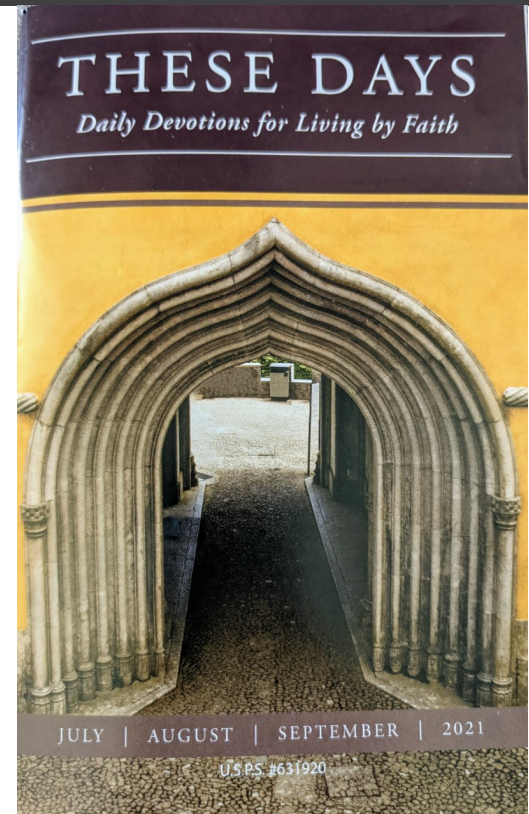
Pastoral Emergency Number

If you have a pastoral emergency during the next few weeks while Pastor Dawn is away on vacation and study leave, please call (561) 805-1514.



Devotionals Available

Copies of the July/August/September 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 Sunday mornings.



During this season, we are especially thankful for the generosity of all of the people who continue to financially contribute to the church.

Online Giving



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 continuing to meet **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.

- **Sundays, 8:30 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, meeting in-person, Room S-202.
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, In-Person Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#).
- **Sundays, 11:15 AM**, *Westminster & Contemporary Faith Sunday School Classes will not be meeting again until Fall.*
- *Monday morning online devotionals are taking a break for the summer.*

- **Mondays, 12 PM**, Peaceful and Powerful Parenting class (online; next class is July 12)
- **Tuesdays, 9:15 AM**, Beth Moore Bible study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting in-person every other week in the Chapel at 7 PM (next meeting is July 6). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- *Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study will be taking a break for the summer...will start back up after Labor Day.*
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study; the last Friday of the month is in-person in Room N-123 (Today, June 25); otherwise, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)
- Church Office will be closed **Monday, July 5** for the Independence Day holiday

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 Grossenbacher](mailto:Amy.Grossenbacher).

First Presbyterian Church
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[Contact Us](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTUBE](#)

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

