

FIRST NEWS



July 28, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, July 30, 2023
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost / Mission Sunday

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon Series: **Fruits of the Spirit**
Sermon: "**Patience** Connects with Hope"
Scripture: [Galatians 5:22-23](#), [Psalm 40:1-3](#), [James 5:7-8](#)

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.



This Sunday, we invite you to wear your favorite hat to worship! Whether it's elegant, crazy, tall, short, sports-themed, or other, wear it and we'll all have fun with it!

July Music

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



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,

Have you been here for worship lately? Or have you watched from elsewhere? I am finding our worship full of energy and engagement these Sundays. I am not sure just why: maybe it is the children and families who show up. Maybe it is the music, with the praise band at Connect; the pipe organ, special musicians, and/or choir at 11:00. Maybe it's the sermons on the Fruits of the Spirit, inviting us to consider the role of love, joy, peace, patience, etc. in our lives and in our world. Or maybe it is the friendships you are developing with each other. I remember that last year, in our *Road Ahead* conversations you said how important engagement and relationships are to this church. That's what I am sensing going on here these days: engagement and relationship. With one another and with God. Even though it is mighty hot outside.

Whatever combination of things are bringing this energy, I have a sense of God's Spirit blowing here among us. That wind we have been talking about, the wind that fills our sails and our hearts, that calls us to travel as God would have

us, and to wait to travel until it is God's timing that we do so. Anyway, I am celebrating the presence of the Spirit of God in our midst.

Keep coming. Keep talking and singing and growing in your faith, in your love of God. Keep knowing that you are an important part of who we are: here in this church, here in St. Petersburg.

Blessings,
Ginny Ellis

A BIT OF SAD NEWS

Last week someone cut down and took the large rainbow banner from our church lawn. Did they want to display it at their own place? Or did they think churches should not display such an open extravagant welcome to all in the community? You can decide which answer fits best. Whichever, we acknowledge real sorrow that this happened, and we will move quickly to replace the banner. We will work to forgive any mean-spiritedness we encounter, and we reaffirm: All are welcome here.



A warm welcome to our newest FPC members Fernando and Jennifer Gonzalez (and their children Clarissa and Theodore)!



Backpacks, Backpacks, and More Backpacks! **For MissionSunday, July 30, 2023**

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. This MissionSunday, July 30, 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.



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 in Fellowship Hall 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!

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).

Join us for a guided tour of the James Western Museum This Sunday, July 30, at 1 PM

It's time for another Fun, Friends and Fellowship group adventure for the St. Pete 1st Explorers! We've booked a Sunday afternoon excursion on July 30th at 1 p.m. at the James Western Museum. A museum guide will take us on a 90-minute tour inside the air-conditioned building ([CLICK HERE](#) for more info about the guided tour). Please reserve your spot by calling Dave Hunt (727-739-6961). We can carpool to the museum from the church (leaving by 12:45 p.m.), or meet at the door at 1:00 p.m. The cost will be \$18 per person at the door.



Pizza and Movie Night...

...is coming to FPC on Friday Aug. 4 from 5-7 PM in the cool AC of the Youth Center! Invite your kids and grandkids and come enjoy some hot, gooey pizzas and cold drinks with friends, new and old!

Kids, bring your sleeping bags and pillows if you want to lounge on the floor while watching a beloved kid's movie classic. Grown-ups don't worry, there are

plenty of comfy chairs with arms available too! Please [SIGN UP HERE](#) or contact the church office to RSVP so we can properly prepare for the fun! Please make note of how many adults and children. Thanks!

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

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)**

What a Christmas (in July) It Was!

From Pastor Jeanie:

A BIG THANKS to all who made our Christmas in July celebration such a fun and joy-filled occasion! Over 70 people (from a baby just five weeks old to young families with lots of children and vivacious older church members!) gathered in a summer Christmas wonderland! Sarah Helck outdid herself decorating (even bouquets of fresh flowers!) and planning several special Christmas crafts! There was a photo op on stage, complete with Christmas glasses to really get in the spirit. The Rudolph ring toss was a popular game with the kids! Several steady-handed men got involved cutting out Chrismons with exacto knives, along with a few brave women! There were piles of delicious sandwiches and toppings on our lengthy sandwich, fruit, snack and ice cream bar, thanks to the Bardins. So many hands came together to help: CE

Committee Co-Chairs Kathy Bardin and Kyle Brickman, Michelle Heinsimer, Ava Grace and Penny, Carol Riley and Ron, Peter Bardin, Greg Barnes, Greg Helck, Johnny Miller, Dave Aumack, Linda Champion, Amy McCutcheon, and more! Thank you, bless you...and thanks to all who came and brought such vibrant, fun-loving energy! We thank God for this wonderful experience!



From Jim and Petra Garnett:

The Christmas in July event last evening was so special. It came at a time when we all needed a boost. One young mom told Petra and me she and her young kids had felt cooped up because of the heat so had look forward to this event. She was thrilled at how much fun it was for young and not-so-young. This event required much planning and implementing food, crafts, logistics, publicity and more. Thanks to all who made it happen!



A New Kids' Choir Will Be Starting in September!

Barbara Brownlee and Kathy Swanson will head up our new Kids' Choir for children Pre-K through 5th grade. Choir practice will be held once a month, on the second Wednesday of each month (Sept. 13, Oct. 11 and Nov. 8), at 6:10 PM, following Wednesday Night Suppers. In December, we'll shake it up and practice will move to Tuesday, Dec. 12, as we bring back Taco Tuesday. The Kids' Choir will also practice with Ms. Barbara on Sunday mornings during the 9 AM service (Kids' Choir will go to the Childcare Room following the Moment for All Ages). Sign-ups will start in a few weeks...stay *tuned!*



NOTE: Parents of Kids' Choir kids are welcome to stay in Fellowship Hall after the meal for good conversation with other parents and friends...or to help with clean up! No pressure either way!



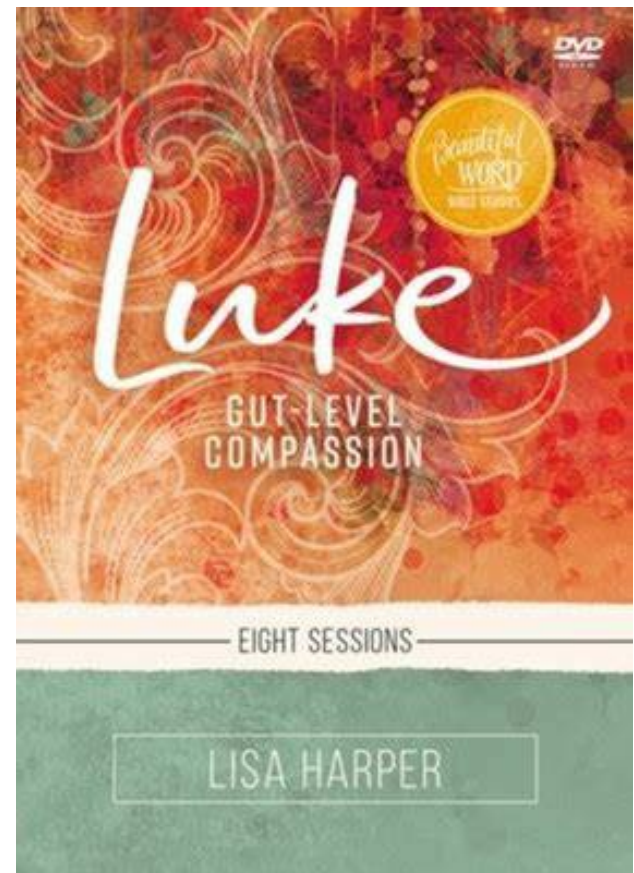
Seeking Church Van Drivers!

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!

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.

Did You Know? The Breadbasket at War

Ukraine's soil is special. Called *chernozem*, it is black, rich in organic humus, and ideal for growing plants. No wonder Ukraine is known as the Breadbasket of Europe, one of the world's largest exporters of corn and wheat. Many nations, especially in North Africa and Western and Central Asia, depend on Ukraine for their food needs.

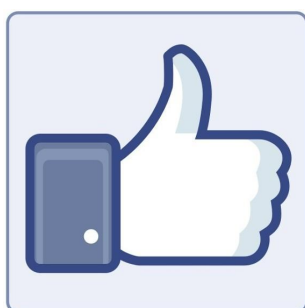


Then came the Russian invasion, and with it came destruction. Tanks tore up the fields, shells and mines riddled the fields and poisoned the soil, and soldiers stole fuel and equipment. A quarter of the farmland was destroyed. What grain that was produced was stuck until an agreement between Turkey, Russia, and Ukraine opened ports and safe passage through the Black Sea. That deal held for a year, and now it is in question. The war continues to impact the world food supply.

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 August 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 30**, 8 AM - 1 PM, MissionSunday: Backpack packing (Fellowship Hall) and Crazy Hat Day
- **Sunday, July 30**, 1 PM, James Western Museum guided tour
- **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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First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg, Florida



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