

# FIRST NEWS



June 2, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, June 4, 2023  
Trinity Sunday / Lord's Supper

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon: "One Bread, One Body, One World, One God"  
Scripture: [Ephesians 2:11-22](#)



**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.



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](http://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 11 AM worship service bulletin.

We have a **MASK-OPTIONAL** policy for worship services and on-campus activities.



**New Hope Clinic**

We will be commissioning members of our **Honduras Mission Team** at both services this coming Sunday, June 4. The team will soon be traveling to Honduras to work with the New Hope Clinic in the municipality of Orica. Mission team members will participate in checking weight, blood pressure, and glucose levels. Other services include women's health screening, eye examinations, and distribution of health kits. For more information, you can visit [www.FFIM.org](http://www.FFIM.org).

## June Music

Click [HERE](#) to see the exciting line-up of music we have in store for our 11 AM Sanctuary Service in June, featuring local musicians who identify as LBGQTQIA+.



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Nina Glover, 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, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke

Pray for our Honduras Mission Team, leaving in the next few weeks.

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



## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

Yesterday new member Cameron Blair brought her children, Henry and Liv, age 4 and 5, to the church Youth Center to help us weave a rainbow cover for the Connect communion table. Liv was so ready to name the rainbow colors in order, and each time I needed a new color I would ask her: "Liv, what's the next one?" "ORANGE!" she would say. And she and Henry held each ribbon at the length mark so I could cut the ribbons the right length. Meanwhile Cameron was weaving ribbons together. Look at how pretty the table is!



I was pleased Cameron and I could give Liv and Henry a role to play at the church. Because of that morning helping us and playing in the Youth Center space while we worked, they will know about the communion table, and about being important to the church. They helped do something interesting, significant, and fun. I loved Liv's hugs as she responded to this experience!

I was also pleased to set up a visually beautiful piece of our worship for Pride month. We will focus on unity in worship this month: lifting up how important each and all of God's children are, how much God loves each one. After all, we are all ONE when we recognize and appreciate each other, like the woven ribbons on the communion table, each color contributing to the whole. As we dedicate our Honduras Mission team this Sunday, we acknowledge the one-ness we experience with other parts of the world. Like the deacons we will install on June 11: each one brings their own energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to the whole of the deacons' work.

Where are you in the tapestry of God's people? What color or texture do you bring? How are you stronger and brighter because you are part of the whole? We are one, after all, just as Jesus prayed we would be in John 17:20-21: *I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will, believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.*

Blessings,  
Ginny Ellis

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### Lectio Divina

Lectio/Visio Divina is a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. We meet Mondays at 10 a.m. via Zoom. If you haven't experienced this devotion practice yet, try it out this week! Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

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First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg welcomes and affirms the gifts of all people.

**Throughout the month of June**, we invite you to join us as we celebrate love, inclusion, and diversity.



### Pride Month Reception this Sunday

Every Sunday in June, experience uplifting worship services filled with relevant sermons and special musical guests. Together, we will explore meaningful ways to embrace our diverse community and foster a spirit of acceptance. To kick off this special month, we are hosting a **Pride reception this Sunday, June 4th**, following both the 9 AM and 11 AM worship services. Join us for refreshments as we create a space of warmth and acceptance. All are welcome, including those who have been hurt by previous church experiences.



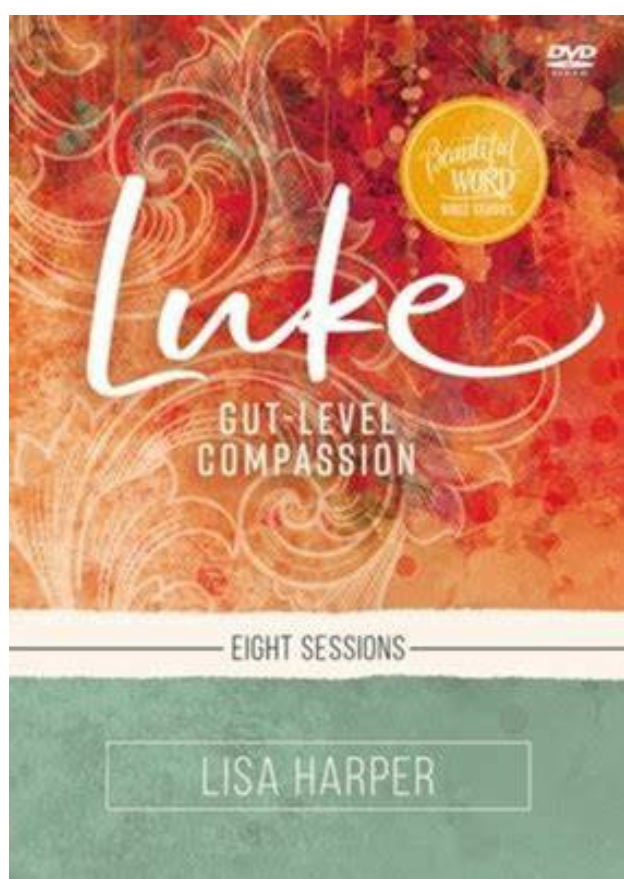
### Meeting with the Pastor During Pride Month

For the next three weeks, Pastor Ginny Ellis will be available for anyone who would like to meet with her after worship. She will be in the Chapel after each service on those Sundays (June 4, 11 and 18). This is meant to be a safe place for anyone to express their feelings or to share their own story. Depending on who chooses to come, it may be a group of people meeting together.

### Participate with FPC in the St Pete Pride Parade

Save the date for **Saturday, June 24th**, when First Presbyterian Church will participate in the downtown St. Pete Pride Parade. Our church van will serve as our float, offering a cool and comfortable respite from the heat as we walk in support of the LGBTQIA+ community. If you're interested in joining us, please contact the Church Office ([office@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:office@fpc-stpete.org) or 727-822-2031).

We look forward to celebrating the beauty of diversity and standing in solidarity with you this June. Let us join together as a loving and inclusive community, spreading God's message of acceptance and compassion. #FPCSTPETE #LoveInclusionDiversity #PrideMonth #WeWelcomeAll



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

For 8 weeks we will study 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  
June 6th – July 25th, 2023  
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](mailto:stapler39@aol.com).



You are cordially invited  
to our next  
*Beach Drive Forum*  
at First Presbyterian Church:  
"Food Is Medicine"  
with Dr. Kelli Cross  
Wed. June 14 at 6 PM



Have you ever wondered if red dye affects you or your children...or whether there is a field of study called Nutritional Psychiatry? Does an apple a day really keep the doctor away?

Come meet Dr. Kelli Cross, with 26 years' experience in our community, who will enlighten us on how what we eat affects the physical, mental, and emotional health of us, our children, and our grandchildren!

Following her presentation, you are welcome to stay for refreshments and time for Q & A.

Childcare is available, but space is limited, so please register in advance by clicking [HERE](#) or by calling the Church Office (727-822-2031).



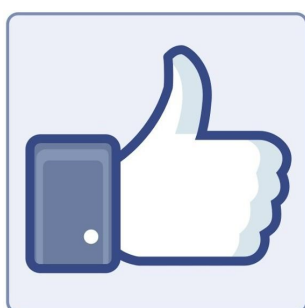
*Beach Drive Forums are a series of conversations at FPC for our congregation and community on thought-provoking topics. The monthly (or so) forums, with intriguing guest speakers and refreshments, are open to our members and the public and will take place on Wednesday evenings*

*from 6-8 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 with presentation from 6-7, followed by a time for Q & A) in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!*

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!



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 June 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, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
  
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)
  
- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation (meets in-person in the Chapel the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)
  
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center
  
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, Room N-123
- **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:

- **Sunday, June 4**, Commissioning our Honduras Mission Team
- **Sunday, June 4**, Pride Month Reception after each worship service



- Sunday, June 11, 2 PM, Men's Meal Ministry cooking for Pinellas Hope
- Wednesday, June 14, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum
- Saturday, June 24, FPC participates in the St Pete Pride Parade
- Monday, June 26, 1:30 PM, Card Fellowship

## 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).

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701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 822-2031 | [www.fpcstpete.com](http://www.fpcstpete.com)

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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