

# FIRST NEWS



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

**October 1, 2021**

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY**

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary  
for an In-Person or Online Worship Service  
this Sunday, October 3  
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Lord's Supper

Rev. Ginny Simmons Ellis  
Sermon: "Children of the World"  
Scriptures: [Psalm 131](#), [Mark 10:13-16](#)

### **This Sunday is World Communion Sunday**

You are invited to wear clothing or scarves or something that might represent another part of the world, perhaps a place where you travelled or from your heritage. We will have a variety of breads on the Communion Table as we recognize that Christians throughout the world are gathered at the Lord's Table this Sunday. How many kilts do you think we might see on Sunday?

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

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**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.



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## Praise Band Preview

This week your FPC Praise Band welcomes back two of our regular members after some well-deserved time off. Bob Powers will be back on bass & vocals, and Dick Lange will be back on lead guitar. We'll be performing two of the band's favorites: *His Mercy Is More* and *Rising*. Click the links below to learn the tunes, and we'll see you on Sunday!

[His Mercy Is More](#)  
[Rising](#)

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## Meet and Greet

Pastor Ginny Ellis will gladly meet to visit with members and friends of the church at 11:15 AM (after worship) on Sunday mornings October 3, 19, 17 and 24. Wear your mask and come along! Or contact her using her cell phone (813) 404-6723 or e-mail at [ginny\\_ellis@yahoo.com](mailto:ginny_ellis@yahoo.com).

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## Sanctuary Flowers

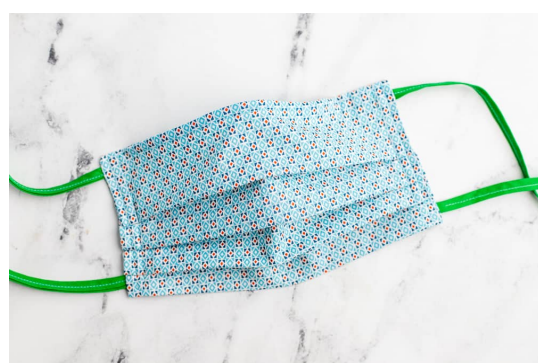
If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with chancel flowers, please fill out a green envelope, available in the church pew. Enclose your donation of \$45 with the memo "Chancel flowers." Flower envelopes may be dropped in the offering plate or delivered to the church office.



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

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## FPC Mask Policy

Reminder: in response to rising cases of COVID-19 and in conjunction with updated CDC guidelines, FPC St. Pete has re-implemented a **mandatory mask policy indoors** during worship and all other indoor campus activities.



Please remember in prayer: Guy Anderson, Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Pat Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Elizabeth Hammer, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Karen Mossman, 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](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org).

## Update from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay Administrative Commission

Greetings from your Administrative Commission!

We are feeling God's hand in our work this week. Our conversations with extremely qualified and fitting candidates make it clear to us that we are being guided to an Interim Pastor that is right for First Presbyterian Church-St. Pete. We are also encouraged to hear about your strength and hope from your session, Rev. McMillan and Rev. Ellis in this month's session meeting. The future is indeed bright at First Presbyterian!

*Please pray that God gives us patience to follow His will for First Presbyterian Church in His time.*

You can communicate directly with the AC using

Email: [fpcsp-ptb@googlegroups.com](mailto:fpcsp-ptb@googlegroups.com)

or

Mail at:

Presbytery of Tampa Bay

ATTN: FPCSP-PTB AC

455 Scotland St, Suite 1

Dunedin, FL 34698

In Christ's Love,

Stacey Quick, Co-Chair of the Administrative Commission

Rev. John DeBevoise, Co-Chair of the Administrative Commission

## NOMINATIONS

The Officer Nominating Committee is currently accepting names of church members to serve on the Session (elders) or Board of Deacons.

To help you think about people you might like to suggest, here are brief

explanations for the offices of elder and deacon:

- **ELDERS** are the spiritual officers of the church who work together and with the pastors to guide the congregation in worship, mission, stewardship and the church's overall vision for ministry.
- **DEACONS** are the officers who provide care for the sick, for homebound, for those in special need. They make calls, visit, take flowers or meals to show the love of Christ and the congregation.

**BOTH ELDERS AND DEACONS** undergo training, examination by the Church Session, and are ordained (set apart) at worship for their office.

If you have suggestions of church members for the Session (elders) or Board of Deacons, you may give those suggestions directly to members of the Officer Nominating Committee. They are: [Brad Hussung](#), [Karen Mossman](#), [Marilyn Mulcahy](#), [Sally Lyle](#), and [Taina Specie](#).

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### Update from David Aumack, FPC's Director of Media Production

The addition of a digital snake has allowed the expansion of several new studio-quality microphones. This has already improved the quality of the organ, the choir, and the praise band. As with everything, some tweaks will continue to be needed, as our praise to God continues to deepen.

This past Sunday (9/26), we had a few technical problems with our internet and phones, which we were finally able to resolve a few minutes into the worship service. If you missed the beginning of Jack's wonderful prelude or just want to check up on this week's announcements, the full service has been re-mastered and is available on our YouTube channel [HERE](#).

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH AND  
ST. PETE PRIMARY  
SCHOOL  
PRESENTS**

**Trunk  
or  
Treat**



• CANDY • HOT DOGS •  
• GAMES • COSTUMES • FUN •  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2021**  
**2:30PM TO 4:30PM**  
**701 BEACH DRIVE NE**  
IN THE BACK PARKING LOT  
• ALL ARE WELCOME •

Halloween is almost here! We invite everyone to join us for Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 30th from 2:30-4:30 PM.

First Presbyterian Church and St. Pete Primary School are excited to collaborate together to offer games, music, hot dogs, and, of course, a trick-or-treat opportunity for the young and young at heart. We hope that you will make an effort to drop by and munch on a "dog," grab a piece of candy, or just enjoy seeing those dressed up in their spookiest, most creative costumes. We encourage you to invite your neighbors, family, and friends to participate in this event!

A box will be left in the back of the Sanctuary for candy donations for the next

few Sundays and we also need some volunteers to help coordinate games, help with the cooking, and/or decorate the trunk of their car and pass out candy. If you are interested in helping with any of these things, please use the Sign-Up Genius link below, call the Church Office, or contact either [Kathy Bardin](#) or [Carol Riley](#) to sign up.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B45ADA72FA4FD0-trunk>



## Ladies' Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Through This Tuesday, October 5  
9:15 - 11:30 AM

Join Priscilla Shirer on this 7-session journey through the life and times of the prophet Elijah to discover how the fire on Mount Carmel was forged in the valley of famine. And how the emboldened, fiery faith you desire is being fashioned by God in your life right now. Please register with April Hussung (email her by clicking [HERE](#) or by calling 727-420-1758) and let her know if you need a workbook, which will be available for \$20. You can also contact April if you have any questions.

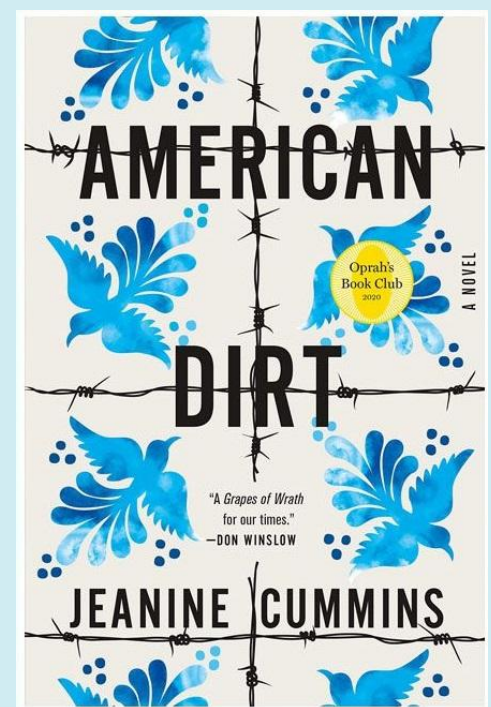
Please note, there is no childcare available at this time. We will be following the church's mask policies.

**Faith & Fiction** will begin again next Monday, October 4th, and although we had hoped that it would be in person, due to the rising COVID levels, it will have to be via Zoom until most of us get the vaccine booster.

THIS YEAR WE ARE TRYING AN EARLIER TIME: 4:00 p.m.

We have a dynamite book to start off our season! *American Dirt*, by Jeanine Cummins. We decided to have a theme this year, books about social justice, or injustice as the case may be. In this first book, which is an immigration story, a woman and her son experience violence in Mexico and must flee to try to reach the United States. This book is a real page-turner!

If you have questions, call Linda Santoro, 727-897-9543.



## FPC Concert Series

Mark your calendar for our next Concert:  
**VOCES8 on Saturday, October 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM** in the Sanctuary. This concert will be free but will not be recorded or livestreamed.



## Presbyterian Women's Bible study for 2021-2022

Our Horizons study this year, is "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning

from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus." Plan to refresh your spirit and enjoy fellowship with other women, beginning in September and continuing through May 2022.

If you are not a current circle member and would like to join, please contact Rachel Bowron ([rbowron@aol.com](mailto:rbowron@aol.com) or 727-433-0571) to be connected to a circle that works for you.



## Devotionals Available

Copies of the Oct/Nov/Dec 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 Desk on Sunday mornings.



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!



## Pastoral Emergency Number

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call (561) 805-1514.

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 October 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, Chapel.
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, In-Person Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#).
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting every other week in the Chapel at 7 PM (next in-person meeting is September 28). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, in-person, Room N-123. For more information, please contact Ken Young ([youngkd1492@comcast.net](mailto:youngkd1492@comcast.net)).
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study; the last Friday of the month is in-person in Room N-123 (next in-person meeting will be October 29). For more information, contact John Underwood ([pjfwon@gmail.com](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))
- **Saturday, October 30**
  - Trunk or Treat, 2:30 - 4:30 PM in the back parking lot
  - VOCES8 "After Silence" Concert, 7 PM, Sanctuary

## 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](#).

First Presbyterian Church  
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 822-2031

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

