

FIRST NEWS



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

October 14, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM
this Sunday, October 16, 2022
in the Sanctuary or online
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Jeanie Barnes
Sermon: "What Is Going on Here?"
Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5, Luke 18:1-8

Click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.
Click [HERE](#) for the worship service bulletin.

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.

If the 10:00 hour on Sundays does not fit your schedule, the service is
available for viewing on [our YouTube channel](#) throughout the week. Feel free
to share the link with family and friends!

PLEASE NOTE: we have a MASK-OPTIONAL policy

Praise Band Preview

This week, your FPC Praise Band is bringing two songs you've heard before, but we haven't performed in a while. First up is *Evidence* by Josh Baldwin that was first released in 2019. Our second tune is *How Can I Keep from Singing*, is a 2006 release by Chris Tomlin. Click below to hear the music and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Evidence](#)

[How Can I Keep from Singing](#)



Please remember in prayer: All the victims of Hurricane Ian, Faith Bedford, Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, Michelle Carothers, John Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Nina Glover, Margo Hart, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Susan Key, Alisa

Keys, Larry Kirsch, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke

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; 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 First Friends,

“Are we there yet?” Can’t you just hear the pleading, tired voices from the back seat of the car? Those long trips were such a trial for the children.... But on this Road we have been traveling together since September 12, I have not heard discouragement or whining; instead I have heard enthusiasm, engagement, and excitement. New friendships and new ideas have been emerging, as well as a buoyant hope. More than 100 people have participated in our Conversation Groups, and even more than that though worship in-person and online.

So this coming Sunday, we wrap up the congregational phase/the “public phase” of *The Road Ahead*. Come to (or tune in to) our worship this week, and plan to come downstairs for a light lunch. We’ll provide sandwiches. You can bring something to share. After some time for lunch and fellowship, we will hear reports from *The Road Ahead* groups: what they have suggested, what they are concerned about, but more, what they are dreaming for First Presbyterian. There will be time for additional reflections and questions. Then after this Town Hall meeting, *The Road Ahead* information will go to the Church Session for its thoughtful, prayerful look at next steps.

The Session will be praying about this, and will count on YOUR prayers, too, as we all look to what God is doing here in St. Petersburg with First Presbyterian Church. Now and in the days to come.

See you on Sunday!

Blessings,
Ginny Ellis



Town Hall Meeting This Sunday - October 16

Join us in the Fellowship Hall right after the worship service. We will have lunch then Pastor Ginny will present the findings from *The Road Ahead* Conversation Groups.

If you can't join us in person on Sunday, you can join us virtually! Just [CLICK HERE](#) Sunday morning to watch the Town Hall Meeting via YouTube (it is a different link than the worship service!). Online participants are encouraged to ask questions or make comments, which will be shared.

We are kicking off our



**2022-2023 Concert Series
TONIGHT at 7:30 PM
with "King of Instruments"
Featuring: [Joshua Stafford](#), organ**

Join award-winning concert organist Joshua Stafford as he shares a variety of organ works on our exquisite Reuter Pipe Organ. Mr. Stafford is the Director of Music at Riverside Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville, Florida and Director of Sacred Music at the Chautauqua Institute in New York. Offering will be taken for First Presbyterian Church Concert Series. [CLICK HERE](#) to hear an

example of his work!

Lectio Divina on Monday mornings

We would love for you to join us on Monday mornings at 10 AM via Zoom for Lectio Divina, when we reflect on scriptures that will be used in the coming Sunday's worship service. To join, just click the link: [HERE](#).



We need you to HOLD YOUR BANNERS HIGH!

First Presbyterian Church will celebrate **Presbyterian Heritage Sunday** on Oct. 23. This grand service includes the ["Kirkin' of the Tartans,"](#) the procession and display of our 20-plus tartan and other cultural banners, along with the stunning music of St. Andrew's Pipes and Drums. The bagpipe and drum corps will process and play during the service and present a short concert on the front patio after worship.

We need at least 10 volunteers to process down the aisle carrying tartans that are attached to poles that are then placed in standards on the chancel steps.

Please email Gretchen.Letterman@gmail.com by Friday, Oct. 21 to let her know you are willing to take part in the processional. If you wish to carry a family or friend's tartan, please let her know that, too. Banner carriers will gather in the choir room at 9:30 a.m. that Sunday, Oct. 23.

CHURCH BUS!!!

On TV they called out "Move that bus!!!" We plan to move our bus, returning it to service driving folks to and from church.

Here's what we need to know:

- who is willing to be on our driver list?

- who will want rides?

We'll be looking at how the bus route will go, hopefully starting in November.

More news to come! But: How can you help?



Crazy Socks-y Sunday

Are you ready? Are you ready for Crazy Socks-y Sunday?!

Come wearing the craziest socks you have. As pastor Ginny Ellis says, "You don't have to wear the socks on your feet. Be creative!" Now that should be interesting. Yet don't worry, if you're an ol' fuddy-duddy like some of the Meat Loaf Ministry guys, we'll still accept you if you're wearing plain ol' white, brown, gray, black or blue socks.



What's this about, you might ask? Wear your craziest pair of socks...BUT ALSO bring bundles of NEW regular socks and NEW underwear for the homeless—adult and children, men, and women.



In other words...Let's Go Crazy Bringing Socks and Underwear!!!

When is it? Our 5th Sunday MissionSunday on October 30.

What time? 10 AM service; 11 AM to help sort and pack the new socks and underwear; after sorting, sit down for a fun potluck lunch with a chance to catch up with friends. So also bring a dish to share with others. Kyle Brinkman is bringing the meat (unless you're vegan or vegetarian).

Where will it be? The service will be in Fellowship Hall (and NOT in the Sanctuary) as will the sorting and packing the new socks and underwear, all followed by the potluck lunch.

What non-profit will be getting these gifts, you may wonder? More than any other St. Pete agency, St. Vincent de Paul is on the front line for taking in our homeless neighbors and working with them. Located at 384 15th Street N, it's "the primary emergency shelter for homeless families," says session member Beth Houghton and CEO of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

Giving Tree Update

Our giving tree is chock full of requests for Lakewood Elementary's upcoming Trunk or Treat happening on Thursday, October 27. So pluck an apple...and return a bag(s) of candy by Sunday the 23rd.



If you have any questions about all this, please contact the Mission Committee's Co-Moderator Beth Houghton (727.422.6864; bethannehoughton@gmail.com) or member Susan Schlecht (727.735.5332; schlecht21975@gmail.com).

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The 2022 Officer Nominating Committee has begun meeting and invites your suggestions of members who might serve as elder or deacon, the lay leaders in the Presbyterian church. Elders and Deacons are elected by the congregation. After election they are trained for their work and ordained and/or installed at worship to their office. Elders at FPC work in the areas of Worship, Education, Mission, Finance, Administration and Property. Deacons are engaged in the ministries of Congregational Care.

Feel free to contact any member of the Committee with names you would like to recommend. The committee is made up of Karen Mossman, chair; and members Peter Bardin, Jim Garnett, Brad Hussung, Gretchen Letterman, Sally Lyle, and Dottie Young. Thank you for your prayers and your support!

TRUNK OR TREAT AND

GREAT CHILI COOK-OFF!



**Saturday
October 29
4:00-6:00 p.m.
North Shore Parking Lot**

It's coming! It's coming! Gather all your little ghosts and goblins and head over to First Pres for our annual Trunk or Treat and Great Chili Cook-Off Saturday, Oct. 29 from 4-6 p.m. Would you like to dress up or decorate the trunk of your car for trick or treaters and/or enter your greatest hit chili in the Great Chili Cook-Off? Maybe you'd love to donate Halloween candy or

just come mingle with St. Pete Primary School families?

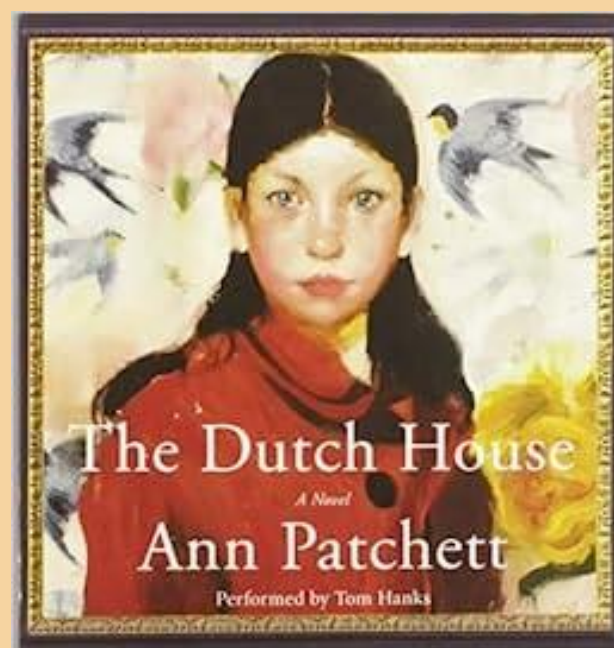


There will be lots happening besides just Trick-or-Treating! The school is setting up fun games, there will be hot dogs, chips, and lemonade, as well as many kinds of chili to taste and vote for your favorite! St. Pete Firemen will be there with one of their big red fire engines to explore and maybe even a photo booth. Invite your grandkids, neighbors, and friends to come join this big Halloween extravaganza!

If you are planning to participate, please let us know by emailing or calling the Church Office, signing up online [HERE](#), or adding your name on a sheet in the back of the Sanctuary. We need to know how many parking spaces and extension cords we may need for crock pots, if that's how you plan to deliver your chili! There are three candy collection sites – in the Church Office, at the Welcome Center in the Sanctuary, or the Pre-School Office. Thanks for participating!

Faith & Fiction Monday, November 3 7:00 p.m., Room N123

This month, we'll be discussing *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett, which is a coming-of-age story about a brother and sister who grew up in a mansion known as "The Dutch House." The story follows them for five decades and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. There are plenty of copies of this book (both electronic and hard copies) at the library, and, should you choose the audiobook, you will be pleasantly surprised to hear Tom Hanks reading this story to you! Al May will be our discussion leader.



STAFF MATTERS

Our Personnel Committee wants you to know more about the staff members who keep First Presbyterian running so smoothly. So around each person's birthday, we will be doing short profiles called "5 Questions of..." Today we learn more about **Matt Clear**, whose birthday was yesterday, October 13.

"I'm in a great place right now," says Matt Clear, our Director of Traditional Music and the Arts. "I'm living both of my dream jobs at age 34." Matt also is the Director of Choral Activities for the Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA), where he instructs about 180 students a year, including vocal majors, choir students, and various others. "I resonate so much with St. Pete and its arts and cultural community."

Matt graduated with a degree in Music Education from Malone University in Canton, OH, a small private college. He subsequently earned his Masters in 2019 from Florida State.



Matt began to attend FPC in 2014, at the invitation of Joanie Hosick, former pastor Dave's

wife. They worked together at what is now called Hollins High School. Within a year he was lead bass singer in our choir and led the bass section. In December 2017, Matt stepped into his current position at FPC.

Matt, we have five questions of you...

Q1: What is your favorite musical instrument?

Matt: Hmm...*long pause*. I'd have to say the voice. The voice because no other man-made instrument comes close to this "instrument" in tone, range, quality of sound, and depth. All other instruments are seeking to emulate the voice in one way or another.

Q2: What is your favorite religious hymn?

Matt: That depends on the season. But there is one Mennonite hymn that stands out to me that's not in our hymnal, *In the Rifted Rock I'm Resting*. ([click here](#), if interested in listening and reading the lyrics.)

Q3: What's your favorite secular song(s)?

Matt: Well...some are probably not appropriate for church. But this also depends on the day and my mood. I've always liked Coldplay's rock as well as Mumford & Sons, the Irish Rock band. And then there's Lizzo, the African-American flautist who recently performed with President James Madison's 200-year-old crystal flute.

Q4: What drew you to music?

Matt: Many experiences. I'd see the high school band march past our house and I'd think, "I want to do that." Ms. Heath was my piano teacher for 7-8 years starting in kindergarten. I would watch her fingers and listen to her and say, "I want to do that." I grew up in a community that valued music, and it had a magnetic effect on me.

Q5: Last question, Matt. What's

your favorite pastime outside music?

Matt: I am fascinated with flight. To imagine humans flying never gets old to me. And to see a hunk of metal like a plane being able to lift off the ground is amazing. But nope, I don't want to be a pilot. That wouldn't be safe for me, nor would it be safe for others. I also love animals of all kinds. I have a 7-year-old goldendoodle, Winnie.

Have had her since birth. She's a therapy dog. I love taking her to see kids who may be sick.



Thank you, Matt! We've learned things about you many of us never knew before. Keep up the great music programs!

#PRAYFOR
VICTIMS OF
HURRICANE IAN

Victims of Hurricane IAN
Need Your Help
www.flapdan.org

**FLORIDA
PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE
NETWORK**
In Partnership with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PCUSA)

To give a financial gift online through FLAPDAN (Florida Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Network) to help those affected by Hurricane Ian, click the link below:

[HURRICANE RELIEF DONATION](#)



“Now That Faith Has Come - A Study of Galatians”

Join Beth & Melissa Moore for a 7-week deep-dive into Paul's captivating letter to the Galatians. Let's study it's original context and embrace it's timeless relevance. We will

discover - or perhaps rediscover - what makes the gospel of Jesus revolutionary to those who choose to believe.

Join us on Tuesday mornings through November 1, 2022
9:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is required.

Workbooks will be available for \$20. Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. Questions? April Hussung: (727) 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.

The logo features the word "Stay" in a large, blue, cursive font, with "CONNECTED" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font below it. The background is a light blue, textured surface.

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!

The text "Online Giving" is written in white on a blue background. To the right is a small green plant growing out of a mound of dark soil.

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 October 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**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 9 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, 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, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)

- **Wednesdays, 7:30 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary

- **Thursdays, 6 PM**, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite

- **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)

Upcoming Events:

- **Tonight, October 14, 7:30 PM**, "King of Instruments" concert
- **Sunday, October 16**, Town Hall meeting following worship service
- **Sunday, October 23**, Kirkin' O' the Tartans/Presbyterian Heritage Sunday
- **Saturday, October 29, 4-6 PM**, back parking lot, Trunk or Treat
- **Sunday, October 30**, MissionSunday, lunch followed by a mission project; we're asking for donations of socks and underwear

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.

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