

FIRST NEWS



September 29, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

this Sunday, October 1, 2023

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost / World Communion Sunday

CONNECT SERVICE at 9 AM (Youth Center)

or

SANCTUARY SERVICE at 11 AM (Sanctuary)

Rev. Ginny Ellis

Sermon Series: Preparing to Sail

Sermon: "What We Need"

Scripture: [1 Kings 19:1-8](#), [Luke 9:10-17](#)

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.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

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. In a special litany at Sunday's worship, we will recognize that Christians throughout the world are gathered at the Lord's Table this Sunday.

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.



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Will Catul, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, friends and family of Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Ginger McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, 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,

Remember: This Sunday afternoon: 4:00 to 5:30: Preparing to Sail!

I hope many of you will meet with me in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs, opening off the back parking lot) for the first of three conversations. With this first conversation we will look at who we are at present and what we are feeling good about. It won't be all sitting to listen, not a 90-minute sermon: I promise. You'll get to move around and to talk.

In the background of Sunday's conversation are a couple of things the Session approved on Monday evening:

- First, they approved the lease extension for St. Pete Primary School. This is a multi-year lease that takes the school through school year 26-27, four more years.

- Second, the Session approved the final report of the Strategic Property Task Force, which was charged in January 2023 to look at the full range of options for our church property. The approved report says the following: *After prayer, study, and consultation, the Strategic Property Task Force finds that our Finances, Membership, and Leadership are in much a stronger position than when we began this task, therefore the Task Force recommends that no specific action be taken regarding the church property at this time.* If you have questions about this we can talk about it on Sunday afternoon, but it felt like good news to the Session.
- Third, the Session called a Congregational Meeting for the election of a PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee), the meeting to be held after each worship service on October 15. I will add the good Presbyterian phrase: *if the way be clear.* I hope you will be there.

There is much happening here at the church: new classes, new events, new members, new energy. We hope you are finding ways to be part of it all: making new friends, connecting in new ways, praying for the future as we await the winds of the Holy Spirit to power this ship on its way.

Blessings, peace and much love,
Ginny Simmons Ellis

A Warm Welcome to our Newest FPC Members!



Marie Allen



Bryan Bardin



Brittany Carroll



David Carroll



Joe Folz



Ruth Hutton



(Not pictured)
Romaine Lee





**PLEASE
NOTE:**

Congregational Meeting after each service on October 15

We will have a congregational meeting for the election of a PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) after each worship service on Sunday, October 15. Plan to be there!

Lectio/Visio Divina

Join us in a Zoom devotion time at 10 a.m. on Mondays for the practice of Lectio/Visio Divina, a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

Your Opinion Matters!

Last weekend to complete the Worship Service Evaluations!

To help assess how worship has been going since last December when we returned to two services, the Worship and Music Committee wants to know what you think. Below please find two links to a brief online survey about what you like about the service you attend and what we could do differently to enhance the spiritual life of FPC. The first link is if you attend in-person; the second is if you view the service online.



[In-Person Worship Service Evaluation 2023](#)

[Online Worship Service Evaluation 2023](#)

If you attend more than one service, please complete a separate survey for each. Paper copies will be available at both worship services the next few Sundays. If you need a paper copy mailed to you, please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031). If you took a paper copy Sunday morning, please remember to bring it back!

The Worship and Music Committee will present the results of the surveys to the Session at its October meeting, so the deadline to complete your survey online or return a paper copy to the office is **Monday, October 2**.

Thank you for participating in the survey and in the vibrant life of our church.

-- *The Worship and Music Committee*

Halloween Candy Collection

During the month of October, we will be collecting



Halloween candy for Trunk or Treat (scheduled for Saturday, October 28 from 4 - 6 PM....more info coming soon!). Drop off wrapped candy donations on Sunday mornings (both the Youth Center and Sanctuary will have big collection baskets) OR at the Church Office (Monday - Thursday, 9 AM - 5 PM). Thanks!

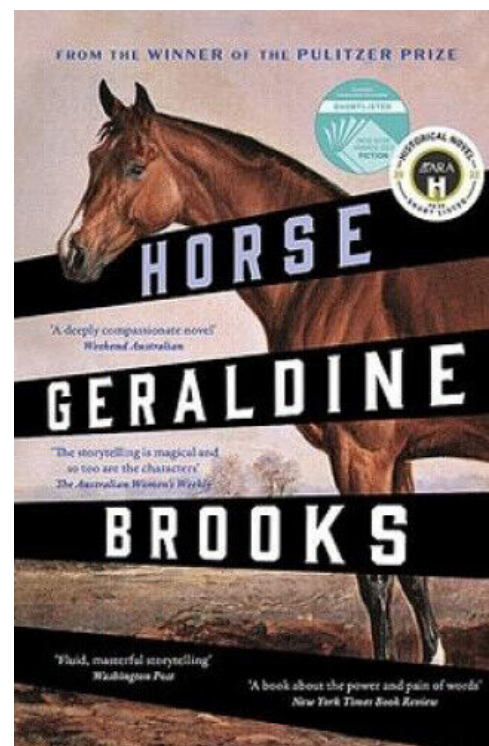
Faith & Fiction

Monday, October 2, 4 PM, Room N-123

We invite you to join us for discussion of our first book for the coming Faith & Fiction season. The book is *HORSE* by Geraldine Brooks.

Discussion will be on Monday, October 2nd in Room N-123. PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME: 4 PM!

For the proposed list of Faith & Fiction reads for the 2023-2024 season, click [HERE](#).



Senior Luncheon

Wednesday, October 11, 11:30 AM, Fellowship Hall



The Deacons are giving our annual Seniors Luncheon on Wednesday, October 11 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Great food and fellowship for seniors and friends!

LET US KNOW you are coming by next Friday, October 6. Sign-up tables will be available after the 9 AM and 11 AM services this Sunday, 10/1. Please inform us of your transportation needs.

Wednesday Night Dinner

October 11, 5:30 PM

Fellowship Hall



Plan now to attend our Italian Night Wednesday Night Dinner, brought to us by the talented women of PW Circle 12. We will have lasagna, salad, delicious dessert, and "spooky spaghetti" for the kids, followed by a fun and stimulating program for adults and Kids' Choir! Please RSVP: call the Church Office or [CLICK HERE](#)! Thanks!



Save the Date - October 14!

Did you know there will be a partial solar eclipse during the middle of the day on Saturday, October 14? Gather your family and friends, pack a picnic, and bring a blanket or lawn chairs to the front lawn at church for an Eclipse Viewing Picnic from noon to 3 pm! Eclipse viewing glasses will be provided in both

kid and adult sizes. Kyle Brinkman and other members of the St. Petersburg Astronomy Club are bringing some big telescopes for our eclipse viewing pleasure and will be on hand to enlighten us about eclipses, astronomy, and maybe even answer other questions about other mysteries of the universe! A live feed from one of the telescopes will be streamed onto a screen in the Chapel for any who need the comfort of air conditioning. Come see how "the heavens are telling the glory of God!"

New Member Inquirer's Class Sunday, October 15, 10 AM in the Chapel

Whether you have been visiting FPC St. Pete for a brief time or for longer, you will want to join us for a new member inquirer's class. This is your opportunity to learn about what it means to be a Presbyterian, plus hear the answers to all those questions you may have about our church, faith, and what you need to do to become a member. We will meet in the Chapel Sunday, October 15, immediately following the 9 AM worship service, where we will enjoy a great program from Pastor Ginny. Elders will be on-hand should you wish to join the church following the class. This is a great chance to learn about and join downtown's most welcoming church!

Please mark your calendars to join in this community conversations at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Light delectable bites will be served.



Wednesday, October 18 *An Untold Story of World War II: Tuskegee Airmen Nurses*

Why were some nurses initially stopped from serving their country in World War II? Compiled for the first time, recollections of United States Army Nurses who served alongside the famous Tuskegee Airmen as told by the daughter of one of these heroic women, author and journalist, Pia Jordan.

Childcare will be provided with advance reservations only.
[CLICK HERE to RSVP](#) for childcare on October 18.

Hope for Ukraine follow-up *We were blessed. They were blessed.*

Here is only some of what it took to have a glorious concert, an amazing crowd, a donation amount beyond our wildest dreams, and 48 hours of pure pleasure with the ladies of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (KSOC) who blessed us with their music and with their presence last Sunday, September 17, 2023:

- Unknown number of phone calls with Music Mission Kiev
- 1 FPC Session's approval for the event and its requirements
- 10 supportive FPC Staff members
- 9 months of planning
- 1 postponement of the concert
- 2000 flyers printed as a donation

- 1 imaginative and active Task Force
- 4 Task Force Teams
- 6 Team Leads
- 91 Team Members and Volunteers
- 56 Information and invitation letters to area pastors
- 1 media release to multiple newspaper and radio/tv stations
- 2 Zoom meetings with local news media and Ukraine Chorus members
- 2 dinners in Fellowship Hall and 2 sack lunches (sacks decorated by the Primary School children!)
- 15 host families
- 6 back-up host families
- 28 gifted Ukrainian musicians and their exuberant conductor
- 1 day of pleasure and fun following the concert for our guests, hosts, and FPC family
- Singing to the children and hearing the children sing
- Singing with the PCCA Girls' Choir at Gibbs High School
- A complimentary tour of the James Museum
- A bus tour of downtown St Petersburg
- A BBQ dinner with hosts and other guests in Fellowship Hall
- An evening at Pass-A-Grille Beach, complete with ice cream sandwiches, gentle waves, and a brilliant sunset
- The power of God's Spirit moving in all of us as we worked together in community.

The crowd of 1000+ applauded, cheered, and gave standing ovations. It was the largest crowd in memory for many of us.

The current donation amount is – drumroll please - **\$48,866** – and more keeps coming! Greg, the KSOC's CEO said that it is an historic amount in tour gifts. Every penny will be used for KSOC's humanitarian aid for widows, orphans, war victims, and their new project – PTSD treatment, thus helping those with physical, spiritual, and/or mental needs.

Thank you for your part in making this successful and thanks be to our God for this loving gift of community.

Below are links to some online news stories published about our "Hope for Ukraine" Concert and Mission Project:

- [WUSF](#)
- [The Gulfport Gabber](#) (page 19)
- [Tampa Bay Times](#)
- [Northeast Journal](#)
- [Bay News 9](#) (video and article)
- [Pinellas County Schools Media](#) (video: KYIV Women's Chorus visits PCCA Gibbs HS)

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 September 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 S-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, 10 AM**, Young Adults/Parents Sunday School Class, Room S-206
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Teens' Sunday School Class, Room S-205
- **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, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)
- Wednesdays, 7 PM, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center
- Thursdays, 6 PM, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- Thursdays, 7 PM, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- Fridays, 8:00 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:

- Sunday, October 1, World Communion Sunday
- Sunday, October 1, 4:30 PM, "Preparing to Sail" Visioning Conversation
- Sunday, October 8, 4:30 PM, "Preparing to Sail" Visioning Conversation
- Wednesday, October 11, 11:30 AM, Senior Luncheon
- Wednesday, October 11, Wednesday Night Dinner & Kids' Choir
- Saturday, October 14, 11:30 AM, Solar Eclipse Viewing and Picnic
- Sunday, October 15, 4:30 PM, "Preparing to Sail" Visioning Conversation
- Sunday, October 15, 10 AM, New Member Inquirer's Class
- Wednesday, October 18, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum, *An Untold Story of World War II: Tuskegee Airmen Nurses*
- Sunday, October 22, Presbyterian Heritage Sunday
- Saturday, October 28, 4 PM, Trunk or Treat

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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(727) 822-2031 | www.fpcstpete.com

Church Office Hours: Mon-Thur. 9 AM - 5 PM; closed Fridays

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