

FIRST NEWS



April 14, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, April 16, 2023
[Second Sunday of Easter](#)**

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

**Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "Reason for Doubt "
Scripture: [I Peter 1: 17-23](#), [John 20:19-31](#)**

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 11 AM worship service bulletin.

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

The flowers on the Chancel this Sunday (4/16) were donated to the glory of God and in honor of Roy Duttweiler and his 16 years of faithful service to FPC as our financial secretary by Ken & Dottie Young.



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, Diane Nummi, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, 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,

There was such energy and joy in our Easter worship, both at Connect (9:00) and in the Sanctuary service (11:00)! Fabulous music. Big smiles. Robust words: *He is Risen Indeed!* Someone commented about all the CEOs in the room, at which I looked at them with some confusion: "Christmas and Easter Only" they explained. AH! Well, yes, there are those who only come on the big church holidays. But there are also those who make a point of being there on those days, who are also there as often as they can manage. I am guessing that the CEO experience is sometimes an exploration of how the church will receive you, how welcoming it might turn out to be. I hope, and imagine, that First Presbyterian was really welcoming in worship on Easter April 9. After all, joy is contagious, and *He is risen!* is a joyous affirmation!

We have many opportunities to deepen our relationships with one another, and to connect in new ways with each other and with our St. Petersburg neighbors. Here are some coming up:

- Taco Tuesday dinner and game night on April 18 (yes, it will be a Tuesday, at 5:30).

- The first Beach Drive Forum, Wednesday April 26 at 6:00 PM, where we engage in meaningful and lively conversation with others about this amazing city where we do ministry. Plan to come participate in the Forum. And we hope you will invite a friend or two, people you think will find this interesting.
- April 28-30, author Joan Gray will be here for conversation about the church of Jesus Christ in our time. You might engage with her at our church retreat at Cedarkirk, but do remember she will be offering a presentation at First Pres on Sunday afternoon April 30 from 3:00 to 4:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This is an open conversation, and all are welcome!

So much going on! So many chances to know each other better and be open to what God is doing in our church, our community and our world!

He is Risen, my friends! Hallelujah!

Ginny Ellis

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*.

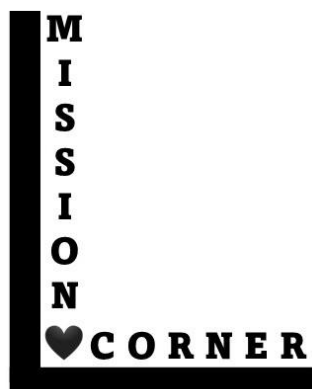


Midweek Family Fun!

Taco Tuesday Dinner & Game Night Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Come join the fiesta at FPC's Taco Tuesday Dinner and Game Night on Tuesday, April 18 from 5:30-7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall. Chef Dave Hunt will be serving up the best tacos in town and there will be games galore for all!

To reserve your place at the taco stand, please [CLICK HERE](#) or call the Church Office (727-822-2031).



Mission Sunday - April 23

Our Next Mission Sunday - April 23 - will benefit the New Hope Clinic in Honduras. Our mission effort will be sorting and assembling health kits for the New Hope Clinic in Honduras. A group of 15 from FPC and other churches will be traveling there in June.

We will be sending 1,000 adult health kits and 1,000 child kits. Items to buy and bring for these health kits:

- Toothbrushes, adult and children
- Dental floss.
- Band-Aids.
- Wash cloths.

- 1-Quart Ziplock bags AND 1-Gallon Ziplock bags. NOTE: Please do NOT fill the Ziplock bags.

So why do we need as many hands as possible during this Mission Sunday work session? "We'll have three workstations," says Susan Schlecht who's been going to Honduras for years. "We'll be able to sit around our circle tables and talk and catch up with each other while we're doing these tasks."

- **Workstation #1...**We'll make cardboard picture frames for the Honduran children and put them in Ziplock bags. These are made from punchout cardboard sheets that Susan and her crew will provide. No tools are needed other than your fingers and thumb. These children don't have school take-home pictures. These may be the only ones they'll have of themselves. Psst... Don't tell anyone, but any of our children helping with this can take some home with them.



- **Workstation #2...**Sheets of stickers, also provided, will need to be cut and put in the bags for the Honduran children. Scissors will be provided. And any of our kids helping can take some of these home as well.
- **Workstation #3...**This will be our deconstruction table. We'll remove toothbrushes, dental floss, Band-Aids, and wash clothes from their packaging before putting into Ziplock bags. "We're doing this so we can recycle the packaging here," says Susan. "If we waited to do this in Honduras, the packaging would just add to the litter that's already there. They don't have recycling facilities."



Now...If you would like to contribute but are unable to attend our packing sessions or to bring any items, please think about contributing money to help purchase 20 soccer balls and 25 jump ropes for kids. Soccer balls run about \$20 apiece and jump

ropes about \$15 each. Just make a check out to First Presbyterian and note that it's for the Honduras Clinic, for soccer balls or for jump ropes.

On April 23, there will be several work shifts to choose from. We will still have our two worship services at 9:00 and 11:00. The work will be in Fellowship Hall. If you're going to the 9 AM service, we are open at 8 AM, so you can come before the service OR you can come after the service. If you're going to the 11 AM service, you can come at any point up to 11:00. Please note that someone from the Mission Committee will be available to direct and help from 8-11 AM. Easy-peasy.

ALSO NOTE: If you're unable to bring items on April 23, but can bring them earlier, we'll have Honduras-designated baskets available at both services in which you can drop off your items.

This is a very giving church. Thank you again for your time, effort, prayers, and financial contributions.

If you have any questions about this Mission Sunday and the Honduras Clinic, please contact Susan Schlecht (727.735-5332; schlecht21975@gmail.com) or Mission Committee Moderator Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300; sanaveritt1@gmail.com).



Save The Date: April 23/April 24

We will have an FPC Concert Series Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, April 23 at 12:15 PM in the Choir Room and another on Monday, April 24 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Before the town hall meeting, you can help us by completing a 3-minute survey that will be used to collect data to help us move forward with Concert Series Planning. If you would like to participate, [CLICK HERE](#).

Join us fo BEACH DRIVE FORUMS



Beach Drive Forums are a series of conversations for congregation and community on thought-provoking topics. The monthly (or so) conversations with intriguing guest speakers and subject matter are open to our members and the public and will take place on Wednesdays from about 6-8 p.m. (presentation from 6-7, followed by a time for Q & A and refreshments) in the Youth Center. We will have flyers available on Sunday mornings...feel free to hand them out and invite friends and neighbors!

Here is the lineup so far, with more engaging speakers and topics in the works:

- **APRIL 26 - *A Tale of Two Cities: St. Petersburg and Tampa, Then and Now.*** Longtime friends and historians Ray Arsenault and Gary Mormino will take us on a "tour" of some of their favorite (or not so favorite) buildings and people, past and present.
- **MAY 17 - *Science, Faith, and Reality: The View from the Cosmos.*** Eckerd College Emeritus Professor of Physics Harry Ellis will explore the difficult relationship religion and science have had throughout history and the question: Are they really natural enemies?
- **JUNE 14 - *Food Is Medicine.*** Dr. Kelli Cross of Complete Wellness Pediatrics has been caring for children for more than 24 years. She is passionate about helping people of all ages embrace the benefits of healthy eating and will share her wisdom on the topic.

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information! And send ideas you have for dynamic speakers to Ann Murray at aempuff@aol.com

-- **Community Outreach Committee:** Chair Ann Murray; members Vicki Fox, Sarah Helck, Gretchen Letterman, Lynne Mormino; staff Pastor Ginny Ellis and Parish Associate for Community Life, Jeanie Barnes

Weekend of April 29-30

- Cedarkirk Retreat! For more info, click [HERE](#) or call Kathy Bardin at 727-418-4577.
 - One service at 11 AM (due to the St. Pete Triathlon). We will welcome Rev. Bill Wildhack as a guest preacher.
 - "Sailboat Church" presentation by author Joan Gray in the Fellowship Hall at 3 PM on Sunday, April 30.
-

New Member Inquirer's Class Sunday, May 7 at 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 on May 7, 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!



Music in May

Click [HERE](#) to see the exciting line-up of music we have for our 11 AM Sanctuary Service in May!

The Foundation for International Missions ([FFIM](#)) Honduras Medical Clinic was founded by members of FPC St. Pete. This 100% volunteer organization provides medical and dental care for the rural underserved people of Honduras (the second poorest nation in the western Hemisphere after Haiti).



FFIM annual operating costs are partially funded through parking events at FPC. During these events, volunteers park cars in the three lots on the FPC property during concerts or events at nearby Vinoy Park. **We need new volunteers** to partner with the experienced veterans to either collect the parking fee as vehicles enter our lot or guide the vehicle driver to an open space. Average commitment time is 2 hours. You will be joyfully welcomed and mentored by our experienced volunteers...no prior experience is required!

To be added to the volunteer mailing list, please contact Jamie Brownlee at hbrownle814@yahoo.com or 813-494-6018.

Per Capita Apportionment

Every church shares in the administrative costs of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) through the annual per capita assessment. FPC's per-capita assessment is \$35.61 per every active member and confirmed youth (communicant member). Please consider paying this administrative cost above and beyond your annual pledge/offering. You can contribute to the per-capita apportionment at any time during the year. To do so, just write "per-capita" on the memo line of your check or mark an envelope accordingly. Thank you for your gift.

Usher Coordinator Needed for 11 AM Sunday Services

If you would like to serve as the Usher Coordinator for the 11:00 worship service, please contact Al May at ATM4983@gmail.com or at 727-867-8285. We have 4 usher teams that serve every 4 months. We could use some additional ushers to fill some openings on several teams. The ushers hand out the bulletins, greet our members and guests, and take up the collection. This is a great way to serve our Church and get to know our members!

Summer at Cedarkirk

Your camp and conference center is offering more than 40 residential camp programs for campers who have completed 1st-12th grades, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and families. Our summer theme *What's in a Name?* will focus on discovering who we are and how God equips us to care for others.

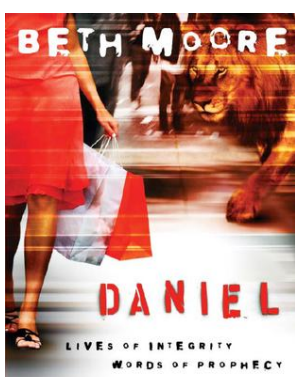


Register for a summer program at Cedarkirk and discover how a summer can impact a lifetime! For their calendar of events, curriculum, volunteer opportunities, and more, check out their website: www.cedarkirk.org.

College Scholarships - Apply Soon!

We are now accepting applications for college scholarships! For further details about these scholarships (including downloadable application forms and deadlines), [CLICK HERE](#).

The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and the Session will approve the final awards. Questions? Please call the Church Office (727-822-2031).



Daniel: Lives of Integrity – Words of Prophecy

Tuesdays (last meeting of the semester - April 18)

9:00 – 11:30 a.m., in the Youth Center

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is necessary! We will be exploring the thrilling prophecies from the time of Daniel through the coming of Christ. Workbooks will be available for \$20. Sorry, there is no childcare available at this time.

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 April 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, 9 AM, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center
- 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' Beth Moore 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, 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:

- Tuesday, April 18, 5:30 PM, Taco Tuesday Dinner & Game Night
- Sunday, April 23, MissionSunday!
- Sunday, April 23 and Monday, April 24, FPC Concert Series Town Hall Meetings
- Wednesday, April 26, 6 PM, our first Beach Forum: *A Tale of Two Cities: St. Petersburg and Tampa, Then and Now.*
- Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30, Annual Retreat at Cedarkirk
- Sunday, April 30, 3 PM, *Sailboat Church* presentation by author Joan Gray, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, May 7, 10 AM, New Member Inquirer's class

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



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