

# FIRST NEWS



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

**April 22, 2022**

## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM  
this Sunday, April 24, 2022

Guest Preacher Rev. Amy Santamaria  
Scriptures: [Psalm 150](#), [John 20:19-31](#)

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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](http://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  
for worship services and on-campus activities.**

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**Praise Band Preview - He Is Risen Indeed!**

Wow, what a Sunday! Hopefully, you were able to attend one of the two wonderful Easter services at FPC this past Sunday. Your FPC Praise Band will be rejoining the 10 AM service this week as we continue through the Easter season. This week, we will be performing two of our favorites: *Rising* and *Evidence*. Click the links below to hear the tunes and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Evidence](#)

[Rising](#)



**Please remember in prayer:** Millie Bradley, Carol Daniel, Peter Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Lillian Harris, 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, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, 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; 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 McCutcheon at [amym@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

### From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

ALLELUIA! WHAT A JOYOUS DAY! The thoughtful, reverent services of Holy Week brought us to a wonderful Easter Sunday morning. Excellent music and the jubilant story we could share with the children and with one another, that we can share with the world!

This coming weekend some of us will be out at Cedarkirk, our Presbytery's camp and conference center. We will be God's beloved Community together: swimming, playing, walking in the woods, sharing in worship and in study and in fun. I am looking forward to this special time, though I will miss you on Sunday morning.

If you didn't get a chance to give to the [One Great Hour of Sharing Offering](#) at Palm Sunday or Easter, please consider making a gift (click above to give online). One Great Hour is the main way the Presbyterian Church funds PDA ([Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#)) to help with local, national, and worldwide crises through the year: hurricane, tornadoes, floods, fires, war.

You can, of course, also support specific efforts through PDA: Well over \$1 million dollars has been given to help with the needs in and around Ukraine. PDA's themes are: (1) We stand in the GAP, to give, act and pray for those in need. AND: (2) We promise to be there for the long haul. Presbyterians are known internationally as a group that knows how to stay and help, even for the long years of continuing need. When you support One Great Hour of Sharing and PDA, 100% of your gift goes to the needs.

Worship of our risen Lord, being the beloved community, and helping people in need: that's who we are. Thanks be to God!

Love and blessings to each of you,  
Pastor Ginny

### Lectio Devina - Monday Mornings

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

### What a beautiful Easter we had at FPC!



### St. Anthony's Triathlon Is Next Weekend (April 30-May 1)

Downtown St. Petersburg will be bustling with triathlon competitors, and some streets will be closed,

so expect heavy traffic in our area next Sunday! The roads directly around the church may still be affected around 10 AM, so we are asking everyone to plan on parking in the grass lot across the street (7th Avenue) from the Sanctuary. If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office.

## CASA VOLUNTEERS



CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse) is one of the local organizations your Mission Committee works closely with. **Next Wednesday, April 27**, CASA will present a virtual Volunteer Open House for anyone who would like to know how they might connect and volunteer with CASA. The presentation will be from 11 a.m. - 12 noon. If interested, you can sign up by [clicking on this link](#). CASA will email you a Zoom link to participate.

## M I S S I O N C O R N E R

### MISSION OUTREACH

The atrocities in Ukraine and its millions of refugees are overshadowing most other needs right now. Nonetheless, we have refugees from Afghanistan being resettled in our own backyard. Westminster Communities is working currently to place 27 Afghan adults and children (four families) in St. Pete. Ten of the adults are now working for Westminster.

Westminster is asking us to partner with them on three fronts:

**(1) Computers.** The refugees need 28 laptops or iPads to stay in touch with their loved ones in Afghanistan and to help with their English-speaking skills. FPC has six laptops that are gathering dust and will be donating those. If you have a laptop or iPad no longer being used, please consider donating to this cause (include the charger and mouse/pad if you have them.) The Mission Committee will make sure your personal data is wiped clean.

A goal of our church and Mission Committee is to involve more members and friends of FPC in projects, not just through monetary donations, but also via donations of time, talent and effort. So, if you or anyone you know is proficient IT-wise and can give a Saturday to help wipe clean and retrofit any of the donated laptops and iPads, please contact Carlen Maddux (see contact info below). We'll work together in consultation with our media director Dave Aumack and schedule a Saturday we'll call Mission: *AfghanTech*. (Thank you, Dave!)

**(2) Bicycle helmets.** A benefactor in Orlando is paying for refurbishing used bicycles but not covering the helmets. The need: 12 adult and 12 child helmets. For safety reasons, new helmets are better than used. (Online prices of both helmets start at about \$20.)

**(3) Transportation.** If you are interested and able, families will need transportation once every 3 weeks or so to go to the grocery, drug store, etc.

The families live in the Pinellas Point area of south St. Pete.

Johnny Miller will put buckets out in the sanctuary for the next few weeks for you to place the laptops/iPads and the bike helmets. (Thank you, Johnny!) If you would like to help with the transportation OR if you have any questions, please contact Carlen Maddux at 727.504.8201 or [cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com) (Subject Line: Afghan refugees).

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR:** If you would like to welcome our new Afghan neighbors, Westminster Communities and Lutheran Services will sponsor an **Open House for the public on Thursday, May 5, 5:00-7:00 PM.** It will be held at Westminster Palms, just north of our church, in its Tides Gallery (in the 14-story Palm View building, the tallest of the complex). Afghan hors-d'oeuvres will be served. Several refugees speak English, plus translators will be available.



## Hiring Nursery Staff

We are looking to hire two good people to staff a nursery for young children on Sunday mornings, from 9:30 to 11:00 AM. If you are interested, or know someone to suggest, please call the Church Office. A background check will be required.

## Grieving? Know someone who is?

GriefShare begins Sunday, April 24 at 4 PM and will be meeting virtually (via Zoom).



Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, you will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The 13-week DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. This is a great opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Need more information? Want to sign up? Call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.

## Meal on Wheels - Volunteers Needed!

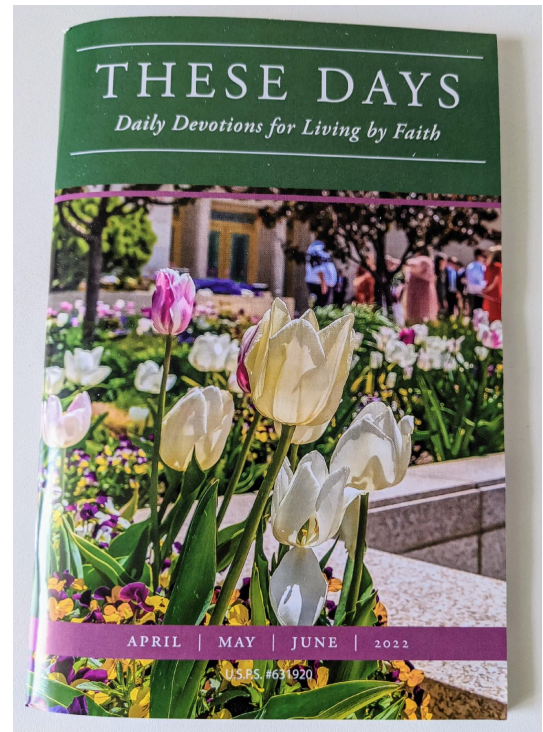
Meals on Wheels is a mission FPC has supported for over 50 years. Volunteers pick up and deliver meals to needy individuals from the Sunshine Center in downtown St. Pete. We currently make about 12 stops, and the whole process from pick-up to return takes about two hours. We deliver five days a week and ask that people sign up for the same day every week or every other week.

We are currently in need of someone on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of the month, the 3rd and 4th Wednesday, and/or occasionally as a back-up driver. Volunteers will take a short training course and fill out paperwork before being able to deliver. Please call Kathy Bardin at (727) 418-4577 if you are interested or have any questions. We encourage people to ride along with a current volunteer before making a decision.



### Devotionals Available

Copies of the Apr/ May/ Jun 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 Center on Sundays.



## NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Beginning in May, the Church Office will be open  
**Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.**

Amy McCutcheon will be working from home on Fridays (9:00 AM to noon) and will check phone messages regularly. Johnny Miller will continue to be on campus on Fridays, keeping his regular hours. Both pastors generally take Friday as their day off.

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, 8:30 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 9 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center (not meeting April 24)
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
  
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Devina, [via Zoom](#)
  
- **Tuesdays, 9:15 AM**, Ladies' Beth Moore Bible Study, Youth Center (last session for this study is April 26)
- **Tuesdays, 1 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting in-person on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month (next in-person meeting is **April 26**, in the Chapel). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com))
  
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal
  
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, Room N-123. Please contact Ken Young at 207-841-8562 for more information.
- **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:

- **April 23-24**, All-Church Retreat at Cedarkirk
- **Monday, April 25**, Stated Session Meeting, 7 PM
- **Sunday, May 1**, St. Anthony's Triathlon - please use grass parking lot!

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

