



FIRST NEWS



First News, April 26

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, April 28, 2024
Fifth Sunday After Easter

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

Guest Preacher: Rev. Amy Santamaria
Sermon Series: "Love Seen..."
Sermon: "Love Seen...In Loving One Another"
Scripture: [John 15:1-8](#), [1 John 4:7-21](#)

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 Live Streams 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 these links with family and friends!

Click [HERE](#) for the 9 AM worship service bulletin.
Click [HERE](#) for the 11 AM worship service bulletin.

Remember to allow a little extra time and care for arriving and parking for worship services this Sunday, due to the St. Pete Triathlon. For our 9 AM Connect crowd, we recommend you park in the grass lot and front circle drive, and you may need to ask the police to move a cone or two to let you on to 7th Avenue.



From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

I am eager to share with you what I consider really important news. The Session at its meeting this week approved a new Mission Statement for First Presbyterian St. Pete. It was developed by a group of 10 church leaders, representing the Session, the Deacons, and the Pastor Nominating Committee. This group represented all ages, all lengths of membership, both worship services, and people both tall and short. I'm not sure if we had any lefties, or any red-heads...but we tried for a good mix of First Church peeps. Their work reflected much of what the church has talked about over these last two years through *Extraordinary Time*, *The Road Ahead*, and *Sailboat Church*.

Anyway, here is YOUR new Mission Statement:

**First Presbyterian Church seeks to be
a welcoming beacon of Christ's love,
so all people may experience God's beloved community
through connection, healing, and renewal.**

I hope you will begin to think about the many dimensions of this statement. Let it speak to you about our ministry and our church, about ways the message of Christ's love might be seen and shared with this community and through each of us. I will offer a sermon series in May and June to develop themes I see in this one sentence. Committees and ministries will be invited to ponder ways to make this statement more and more true in their work.

In Lectio we sometimes ask about the Bible texts we are exploring: Where are YOU in this passage? I now ask you to consider: Where are YOU in this Mission Statement? Where does this statement call out to your heart, to your need? Where does it call you to live out your faith for others? Where might we each be called to stretch and grow because of truths emerging in these words?

It's food for thought. This gives room for the church to explore, again, just who we are called to be. I plan to join you in this exciting, important conversation. Meanwhile, be safe and healthy. See you at church!

Blessings,
Ginny Ellis



Please remember in prayer: Sandi Averitt, Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Carol Hunt, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Dottie McClure, Nancy McLaughlin, the Moorefield family, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Margie Richmond, Robert Safransky, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey

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.

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest FPC Members!



Dr. Lauren Hendrix &
Dr. David Doeringer



Jeanette Marsden



Joyce Marsden



Dr. Monique Sajjad

PARABLE QUEST: Transforming Stories Jesus Told

The everyday objects and real-life situations that Jesus described in His parables help children

understand biblical principles.

All children Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome!
Sunday mornings at 10 AM in Room S-202; runs
through May 19

For more information, please contact Carol Riley at
727-822-2031, ext. 104 or criley@fpc-stpete.org.



Lectio/Visio Divina - Mondays at 10 AM

We invite you to try a new way of studying the Bible with Lectio/Visio Divina, a guided practice of reading and discussing four different translations of a passage that will be used in the following Sunday's worship. The hourlong Zoom session meets at 10 a.m. on Mondays and includes discussion of art that corresponds to the scripture. Click [HERE](#) to join.



Theological Scholarships

The deadline for Theological Study Scholarships is next
Tuesday, **April 30**.

For further details about these scholarships (including downloadable application forms and deadlines), [CLICK HERE](#). We only require one application is for both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters (awards are split); the applicant needs to let us know if they only need it for one semester.

Join the Explorers of First Presbyterian (Fun, Fellowship, and Friends group) on **Sunday, May 5**, for a casual afternoon experience at [Boyd Hill Nature Preserve](#).

We're planning to meet around 1 PM at church and carpool over together OR

you can meet us there (the entrance is at 1101 Country Club Way S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705; [CLICK HERE](#) for park map). We'll set up at Nature Center picnic shelter #2 around 1:30 for a brown bag picnic lunch. After lunch, feel free to, hike, sit and relax at the picnic shelter, or go looking for wildlife: birds, alligators, fish, etc.....all for no cost! We'll have a cooler for storing lunches and a cooler with ice for drinks. The picnic shelter reserved for us until 6 PM.



Questions? Want to participate? Contact Dave Hunt (513-604-6090, dhunt@fpcstpete.org).



Don't Miss Our Upcoming Wednesday Night Dinner COOKOUT!

Can you feel the summer breeze? It's coming...and we are going to celebrate! Join us **Wednesday, May 8** at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for our Second Annual Summer Fun Cookout. We'll have grilled burgers and hot dogs plus awesome sides and

dessert! Come enjoy the fun as we welcome family, friends and neighbors to Summer Fun at FPC. All ages are warmly invited!

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by clicking [HERE](#) (be sure to click the "YES" button!) or by calling the Church Office (727-822-2031) - thanks!

Health Kits and Healthy Teeth for Honduras For Our Next Mission Sunday On May 19, 2024

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Our Mission Committee is once again partnering with our Honduras team for their upcoming trip June 9-16, 2024. For this Mission Sunday, we need toothbrushes for both adults and children. We also need spooled dental floss, waxed or unwaxed (but *NOT* the plastic "pick" kind that can create litter in Honduras). Also needed are Band-aids for adults and children. And if you're unable to bring any of these items, **\$\$money\$\$** will work just fine (make checks out to FPC and mention Honduras trip in the memo line).

Collection boxes labeled "For Honduras" will be below each of the Giving Trees in the Youth Center and the Sanctuary.

The assembled health kits will be distributed in each of the five villages visited by our team where they perform health screenings for adults and offer activities for children.

So how can you help in addition to providing the items above?

Our Mission Committee needs many hands this Mission Sunday to remove all donated items from their packaging and then to bag the items in zip lock bags. As usual, committee members will be there to offer guidance.

Date: Sunday May 19

Time: 10-11 AM, between our two services

Where: Fellowship Hall

Items needed:

- toothbrushes (for adults and children)
- spooled dental floss (waxed or unwaxed)
- band-aids (for adults and children)

So come, enjoy your friends while assembling these health kits! Refreshments will be offered.

PLEASE NOTE: Also NOT needed are toothpaste and soap because of the additional weight to the Honduras team members' baggage. These items will be purchased in Honduras.

Our effort in Honduras is one of our church's longstanding missions. Your Mission Committee appreciates all that each and every one of you do to help move this mission and others forward.

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If you have questions about this Mission Sunday, please contact Susan Schlecht (727.735.5332, [schlecht21975@gmail.com](mailto:schlecht21975@gmail.com)) or Mission Committee Chair Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300, [sanaveritt1@gmail.com](mailto:sanaveritt1@gmail.com)).

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**Our next "Beach Drive Forum" will be Wednesday, May 22!**

*State of the Arts in Tampa Bay* by Paul Wilborn, award-winning journalist, author, playwright, pianist,

singer and executive director of the Palladium Theater at St. Petersburg College, who knows a thing or two about the arts! He'll share his wisdom about what's influencing the flourishing local arts scene, including whether artificial intelligence is a good or bad creative force. Learn more about our speaker [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

*Beach Drive Forums are monthly conversations for the community with intriguing speakers on thought-provoking topics. Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall (doors open at 5:30, presentation at 6:00). Refreshments and Q&A included. Open to the public; best parking is the church lot off N. Shore Drive.*

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### ***Your PNC is hard at work!***

The Church Leadership Connection's "match.com" is up and running. The Pastor Nominating Committee is now receiving the profiles of possible pastoral candidates to review. So our inbox doesn't overflow (and so we don't get overwhelmed!), we are receiving 20 matches at a time, plus resumes from any candidates who see our church's ministry discernment profile on their own and are interested. Your committee currently is processing information from 27 candidates. Stay tuned for more updates further down the road.

Prayerfully yours,  
*Bryan Bardin, Don Doddridge, Gretchen Letterman, Lynne Mormino, Kirby Volz, and Annie Zuercher*

Remember, the PNC has a new page on our website! You can visit it any time for the latest information on our Pastor Search!

[www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates](http://www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates)

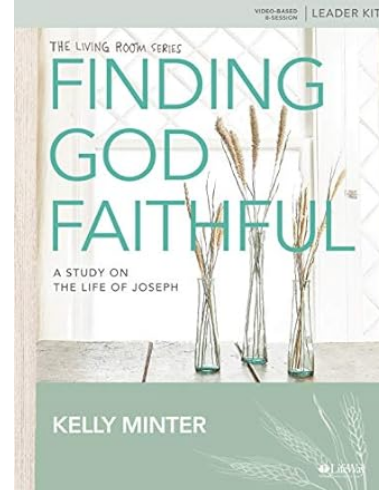
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### **Ladies, you are invited to Bible Study: *Finding God Faithful - A Study on the Life of Joseph***

In this 8-session study from Kelly Minter, we will be reminded of God's faithfulness through Joseph's story. No matter what we walk through, God's presence is constant; His provision is enough, and His purposes are unstoppable.

Join us on Tuesday mornings through April 30, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the FPC Youth Center

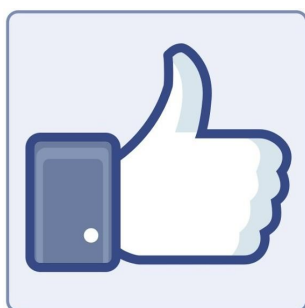
Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is required. Workbooks will be available for \$25 (includes streaming video access for all sessions). Bring a friend! If interested, please contact April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or [stapler39@aol.com](mailto:stapler39@aol.com). Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available.



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 May 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, 9:45 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Young Adults/Parents "Next" Sunday School Class, Room S-100
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, "Parable Quest" class (for kids pre-K through 5th grade), Room S-202
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Presbyterianism class, Church Office Conference Room
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or **Online**
  
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio/Visio Divina, via **Zoom**
- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month)
  
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center
  
- **Thursdays, 6 PM**, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite (on summer break)
- **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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

#### Upcoming Events:

- **Tuesday, April 30**, Theological Scholarship application deadline
- **Sunday, May 5, 1 PM**, FPC Explorers go to Boyd Hill Nature Preserve
- **Wednesday, May 8, 5:30 PM**, Wednesday Night Dinner
- **Sunday, May 19**, Mission Sunday
- **Wednesday, May 22, 5:30 PM**, Beach Drive Forum

## **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).

First Presbyterian Church  
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 822-2031 | [www.fpcstpete.com](http://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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