

# FIRST NEWS



**April 28, 2023**

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
this Sunday, April 30, 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**SANCTUARY SERVICE at 11 AM (Sanctuary)**

*\*no 9 AM service April 30 due to St. Pete Triathlon*

**Guest Preacher: Rev. Bill Wildhack  
Sermon: "Food, Water, Shelter"  
Scripture: [Psalm 23](#), [John 10:1-10](#)**

Our guest preacher this Sunday, Rev. Bill Wildhack, became Stated Clerk and Manager of Communications for the Presbytery of Tampa Bay in early 2019 after serving congregations in Virginia and Florida and as a Navy Reserve Chaplain (with almost half of his 33 years recalled or mobilized to active duty). Ordained in 1985, he has two degrees from Princeton Theological Seminary and a law degree from Stetson Law. He moved to Tampa Bay in 1996 to serve with Rev. Dr. Holly Wildhack as co-pastors of Maximo Presbyterian



Church in St. Petersburg, but his primary ministry after 9/11 was as a chaplain until he retired from the Navy in 2016 while serving as part-time supply pastor at First, Safety Harbor. Today, son Evan and daughter Jocelyn are also both ministers of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA).

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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](http://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.



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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

### From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Friends,

AHOY THERE! This is the week! Sailboat Church has brought us to THIS VERY WEEKEND with author Rev. Joan Gray and the Cedarkirk retreat. Please pray with me, that all the gatherings and events and conversations will help us prepare to leave the dock with sails unfurled as God leads this congregation forward. May the wind of the Spirit blow, helping us all navigate the waters of mission and ongoing ministry! There are more than 50 of us headed to Cedarkirk for this retreat.

Remember that even if you cannot come to Cedarkirk, you can join us Sunday afternoon in the church Fellowship Hall (downstairs) from 3:00 to 4:30 PM for conversation with Joan. We are so blessed!



ON ANOTHER MATTER – One vital ministry at this church is the work of our Deacons. Our 12 deacons work together to call or visit the congregation, especially our home-bound. Each deacon has their own “flock” to care for in this way. Deacons break up the Sanctuary flower arrangement into smaller bouquets to take to members of the church; they assist with memorial services by serving as ushers and hosts. They plan the annual Senior Luncheon that the church enjoys so much. Honestly, this church has the best deacon ministry I have ever seen! But currently we have three vacancies on the Deacon board. Your Officer Nominating Committee is working to fill these positions so that you can elect these three new deacons and install them at worship to this vital ministry. **WE NEED YOUR HELP:** Please pray for the Nominating Committee as they do this work. Help by suggesting names of those you believe have gifts for Congregational Care; by praying thoughtfully if you are asked to serve in this way. We are certain that God has given us the people and the gifts. Join us in praying for this ministry to continue with strength and grace. (The Nominating Committee consists of JoAnne Malone, Bill Shelton, Dottie Young, Peter Bardin, Jim Garnett, Marilyn Mulcahy, and Susan Schlecht.)

I join with you as we feel the wind, hoist the sails, adjust the tiller, and embark on this amazing journey to which God’s Spirit has called us.

Blessings!  
Ginny

## Weekend of April 29-30

- **Cedarkirk Retreat Saturday and Sunday (April 29 and 30)**
- **One service at 11 AM Sunday, April 30** (no 9 AM Connect Service OR Sunday school classes) due to the St. Pete Triathlon. Allow a little extra time and care for arriving and parking for the 11 a.m. worship service. We will welcome Rev. Bill Wildhack as a guest preacher.
- **"Sailboat Church" presentation** by author Joan Gray in the Fellowship Hall from 3:00-4:30 PM in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 30. Joan will be discussing the book and her ideas about ministry in our time with our congregation and community.

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### Note from Pastor Ginny:

Joan Gray has asked for prayer support, for us to lift her up in the days before her visit with First Presbyterian Church next weekend (April 28-30). Her requests are these:

- that we pray for the Holy Spirit to be in control of all that happens during the *Sailboat* weekend,
- that Joan will be guided by God to know what to share and how to share it, and
- that the weekend will be protected by God and filled by the Holy Spirit.

“This prayer support makes an amazing difference in me,” Joan said. May we all focus in prayer as we prepare for Joan Gray’s *Sailboat Church* visit with us April 28-30.

## Lectio/Visio Divina

Lectio/Visio Divina is a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. We will meet Monday May 1 for the last time until June. If you haven't experienced this devotion practice yet, try it out this week! We meet at 10 a.m. via Zoom. Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

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### Next Saturday - May 6th - FPC Jewelry Workshop!



Need a gift for Mother's Day? Enjoy learning wire skills for making earrings and bracelets? Want to create beaded jewelry for yourself or a friend? We will be demonstrating techniques and showing examples for creating a beautiful work of art to wear or share. Each person will design and build their own creation. This will be a fun morning that you will not want to miss!

On May 6th from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Susan Luehrs and Karen Brooks will be holding a jewelry workshop in the FPC Chapel (ages: young adults - adult). All materials and tools supplied. Only 10 slots are available, so sign up online [HERE](#) or call the FPC office at 727-822-2031 if you are interested in attending!

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### New Member Inquirer's Class Next 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!

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### Music in May

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

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### TACO TUESDAY DINNER & GAME NIGHT (April 18)

We want TACOs!!!

We had an amazing time at TACO TUESDAY last week. If you weren't there, you missed out on some great food, fellowship, and fun! From the Taco Tent to the Taco Man, the Fellowship Hall was decorated in grand fashion by our local artist Karen Brooks and our cacti-loving chef, Dave Hunt. A special thanks to all



who helped make this a memorable, if not cheesy, event.



Join us next month - **Sunday, May 21** - for another fun event! We'll be having a cook-out after the 11 AM worship service! Stay tuned for more details!

## College Scholarships - Deadline is April 30!

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).

**Our Next Beach Drive Forum**  
**Wednesday, May 17, 2023**  
**6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**  
**Science, Faith, and Reality: The View from**





## the Cosmos

*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. Everyone is welcome!*

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 17 - SCIENCE, FAITH, AND REALITY: THE VIEW FROM THE COSMOS

Religion and science have had a difficult relationship throughout history. Eckerd College Emeritus Professor of Physics Harry W. Ellis will lead a discussion of this topic on Wednesday, May 17 as part of the Beach Drive Forums sponsored by First Presbyterian Church. Dr. Ellis will help answer the question, "Are religion and science really natural enemies?"

Harry W. Ellis received degrees in Physics from GA Tech in Atlanta, served as Professor of Physics at Eckerd College from 1978 until 2017. Married to Rev. Ginny Simmons Ellis, Harry is father of three and grandfather of five. He continues his keen interest in human history as it is seen in philosophy, religion and culture.

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 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, 9 AM, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center (not meeting April 30)
- Sundays, 10 AM, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Room S-202 (not meeting April 30)
- Sundays, 10 AM, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center (not meeting April 30)
- Sundays, 11 AM, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- Mondays, 10 AM, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)
- 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, 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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

### Upcoming Events:

- 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
- Saturday, May 6, 9:30 AM, Jewelry Making Workshop
- Sunday, May 7, 10 AM, New Member Inquirer's class
- Wednesday, May 17, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum: "Science, Faith, and Reality: The View from the Cosmos"
- Sunday, May 21, 12 PM, FPC Cookout



## 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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(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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