

FIRST NEWS



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

April 29, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM
this Sunday, May 1, 2022

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "A Fisherman Forgiven"
Scriptures: [Colossians 3:12-15](#), [John 21:15-19](#)

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 - 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.**

COMMUNION SUNDAY: We will be
celebrating the Lord's Supper this

Sunday during our worship service. 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.



Praise Band Preview - May Flowers

It's shaping up to be another beautiful summer here in St. Petersburg! With all the flowers starting to bloom, you can really feel our fair city coming alive. Your FPC Praise Band has two beautiful songs lined up for the beginning of May: *Who You Say I Am* and *How Can I Keep from Singing*. Click below to hear the tunes and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Who You Say I Am](#)
[How Can I Keep from Singing?](#)



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, John Daniel, 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



Joined the Church Triumphant

John Frederick Ralph Jr.

April 20, 2022

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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Friends: The cluster of us at Cedarkirk last weekend had a fabulous time, with the whole church in our hearts every moment. We talked about what it is to be God's Beloved Community: and that "we love because God first loved us" (1 John 4:19). We ate wonderful food, walked through the Cedarkirk woods, enjoyed silly songs at a campfire (thanks, Mark Orendorf!), swam in the pool, and let Bryan Bardin show us how to make spin art. Saturday night, Kyle Brinkman showed us the planets, stars, and nebulae through his telescope. At worship, the "sermon" took the form of four skits based on scriptures about stones (both spiritual and entertaining). The rocking chairs and laughter and good conversation made us feel the connection of this beloved community, and that was the whole point! Our 30 felt like a small group to First Presbyterian, but Cedarkirk told us we were their largest retreat group since COVID. How all of us yearn to be back to some sort of normal! For us, this weekend church retreat was a true blessing!

Ginny Ellis

PER CAPITA -- As a "connectional" denomination, we both receive and give support to our regional governing body: Tampa Bay Presbytery. Our support for Presbytery comes through Mission giving (that supports Beth-El Mission and Cedarkirk for example) and through the Per Capita that supports annual expenses of the Presbytery (their staff, website, etc). The per capita assessment, which our church pays for each active member of the church, is \$33.48 this year. First Presbyterian pays the per capita in full but you are invited to cover that charge yourself, if you are able to, by including the \$33.48 in your church giving. Every little bit helps! Thank you!

Highlights from our Cedarkirk Weekend (April 23-24)





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](#).



St. Anthony's Triathlon Is This 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.

Deacons Corner

Your deacons have accepted the Card Ministry (now called Card Fellowship) that Lillian Harris has so graciously and faithfully done for many years. My own family has been blessed by the love she has shown our church family. Now this ministry has been passed to us and we could use your help! We meet the last Monday every month from 1:30 - 3:00 PM up in the Church Office Conference Room (our cards are stored up there).



Here's how YOU can help:

- **Stamps!** We send out about 40 cards each month and will probably increase in number.
- **Birthday Cards!** We send a card to everyone on the monthly birthday list you see in First News (near the bottom, under FPC Calendar at a Glance).
- **Helpers!** If you would like to help on a regular or intermittent basis, please come! You don't have to be a deacon to write a friendly note! (Thanks to Mary Johnson for joining us yesterday.)

For more info, please call or text Marilyn Mulcahy at 714-580-5619.

MISSION CORNER

Lakewood Elementary Says "Thank You!"

Lakewood Elementary's Dale Black, family liaison coordinator, and Kari Chin, social worker (shown to



left), along with principal Renee Zellenbach, say “Thank You!” to First Presbyterian members and friends and your Mission Committee as they display one of the three trunk loads of items received.

FPC’s Giving Tree delivered such items as dishes, flatware, drinking glasses, towels and wash clothes, toilet paper, baby wipes and diapers, and gift cards from Publix and Walmart. All items were for nine families classified as homeless whose children attend Lakewood.

Stay tuned for more info about our Giving Tree.

On another front, remember to **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** if you would like to welcome our new Afghan neighbors, who are being resettled in St. Pete by Westminster Communities and Lutheran Services. They are sponsoring an **Open House for the public on Thursday, May 5, from 5-7 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.

From New Hope Clinic, Orica, Honduras

Dr. Davila writes: In the picture (below), we have just finished on Tuesday, and it was an excellent day. Many patients came to the clinic in all three areas. In medicine we took care of 24 patients, dentistry 11, lab 10, and pap smears 24. The picture includes Dr. Davila, the dentist, lab tech, Jessica, Elsy the nurse, Ezequiel the handyman, and Dalila the housekeeper.

The picture shows all the clinic staff plus Jessica Renschalar, who was a member of our mission team four times, including leading the youth for a couple of times. She is visiting the clinic to help out, having just received her nursing degree from USF.

Their eyes show their smiles. What a great place to work!



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 is every Sunday at 4 PM, 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

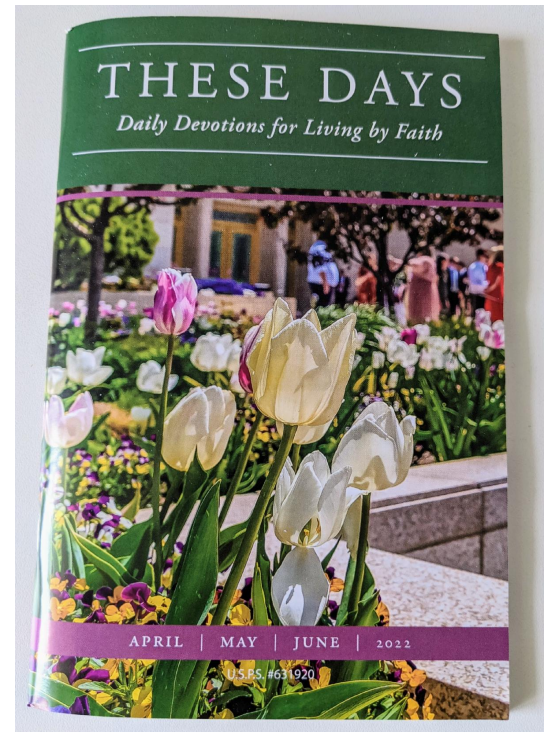
downtown St. Pete. We currently make about 12 stops, and the whole process from pick-up to return takes about two hours. We deliver five days a week and ask that people sign up for the same day every week or every other week.

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

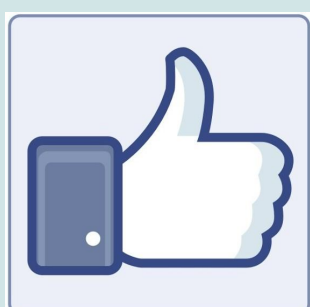
Beginning in May, the Church Office will be open
Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

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



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**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 9 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center (starting again May 8)
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- **Sundays, 4 PM**, GriefShare, via Zoom
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Devina, [via Zoom](#)
- **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 **May 10**, in the Chapel). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (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)

Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, May 1**, St. Anthony's Triathlon - please use grass parking lot!
- **Sunday, May 8**, Mother's Day

- Sunday, May 29, 5th Sunday Mission Project (stay tuned for details!)

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

