

FIRST NEWS



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

August 20, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
for an In-Person or Online Worship Service
this Sunday, August 22
Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher: Ivy (Hussung) Lopedito
Scriptures: [Matthew 25:31-46](#), [Psalm 34:15-22](#)

If you feel uncomfortable or are unable to worship with us in person, you can
click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

Guest Musician This Sunday

Our guest musician this week is organist John R. Ahern. John is a graduate student pursuing a PhD in musicology from Princeton University. He is also an organist and choir director at Hope Lutheran Church in Freehold, NJ. He loves his wife and son, and they all frequently sing, to greater and lesser degrees of success, Renaissance Bicinia over dinner. Special thanks to Bill Knudsen for coordinating John's travel and performance



this Sunday.

Praise Band Preview - Guest Artists!

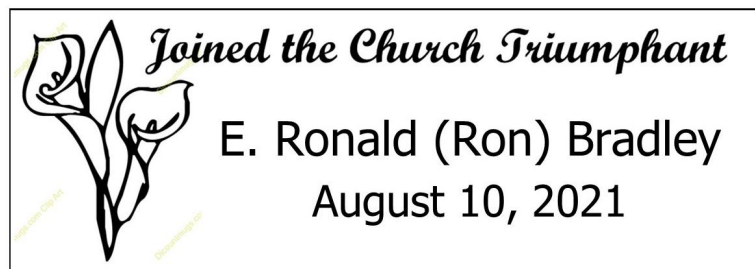
This week your FPC Praise Band will feature two guest artists: Terry Bartlett on vocals and Kenny Walker on upright bass. We are very excited to have them share their talents with us for worship this Sunday. Click the links below and enjoy!

[*You Are My All In All*](#)
[*Take My Life*](#)

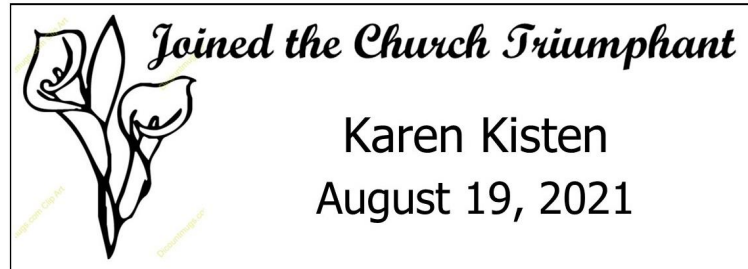
*As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM,
so please plan to arrive a few minutes early!*



Please remember in prayer: Guy Anderson, Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Pat Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Sarah Fechter, Teresa Gasper, Elizabeth Hammer, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke



E. Ronald (Ron) Bradley
August 10, 2021



Karen Kisten
August 19, 2021

Please continue to lift our church up in your prayers during this time of transition.

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; 1st LT. 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 Grossenbacher at amyg@fpc-stpete.org.

Update from the Administrative Commission

Greetings from your Administrative Commission! On Saturday August 14, 2021,

the Presbytery of Tampa Bay voted to appoint a group of teaching and ruling elders to serve as the Administrative Commission. This group is made up of the following seven ruling (RE) and teaching (TE) elders:

Co-Chairs:

- RE Stacey Quick, St. Andrew, New Tampa (Chair of the Listening & Assessment Team)
- TE John DeBevoise, Palma Ceia (COM-appointed moderator of the session)

Other Members:

- RE Anne Heidt, PC of Seffner
- RE Rhonda Rhodes, Reconciler, Clearwater
- RE Kathy Sandy, Village, Tampa
- TE John Fullerton, FPC Lakeland
- TE Carl Lammers, Chapel in the Pines, Tampa

Our group will serve three purposes. Below you will find these purposes as well as a prayer request for each.

The first purpose is to have original jurisdiction only until the time that the session is able to achieve a quorum of elders, and that includes the responsibility of following the Book of Order and First Presbyterian policy for electing elders. At the same time, we want to emphasize that we highly value the dedication and experience of the existing session members. While we will be responsible for acting on matters that would ordinarily require the session to vote, we will be relying upon the session to inform and guide us while continuing to lead the church. The existing committee structures and staff responsibilities remain in place. **Pray for clear communication and dedication to discerning God's will for the church.**

Our second purpose is to expedite the hiring of an interim pastor. This role will continue until an interim pastor is hired. Again, we will be working closely with the session and what the Listening Team has heard from many of you to help shape our vision for a transitional pastor with the strengths best-suited for First Presbyterian. **Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide the discernment of need and assessment of candidates.**

Our third purpose is to continue the work of the Listening and Assessment team. This role includes conducting an administrative review and making final recommendations to both the session at First and the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry. **Pray for perceptive eyes and ears to recommend a faithful way forward for First Presbyterian.**

As with the Listening and Assessment Team, you can communicate directly with the team using fpcsp-ptb@googlegroups.com or by mail at:

Presbytery of Tampa Bay
ATTN: FPCSP-PTB AC
455 Scotland St, Suite 1
Dunedin, FL 34698

In Christ's Love,

Congregational Meeting Sunday, August 29, 2021

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay has called a meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg on August 29, 2021, for the purpose of electing two of the remaining session members to the congregational nominating committee as required by the church's nominating committee policy. The meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. Further details will be announced after the Administrative Commission meets with the session on Monday, August 23rd.



Ladies' Tuesday Morning Bible Study

August 17 - September 28, 2021

9:15 - 11:30 AM

Join Priscilla Shirer on this 7-session journey through the life and times of the prophet Elijah to discover how the fire on Mount Carmel was forged in the valley of famine. And how the emboldened, fiery faith you desire is being fashioned by God in your life right now.

Please register with April Hussung (email her by clicking [HERE](#) or by calling 727-420-1758) and let her know if you need a workbook, which will be available for \$20. You can also contact April if you have any questions.

Please note, there is no childcare available at this time. We will be following the church's mask policies.

Great news about Lakewood Elementary School!

Did you read the good news about Lakewood Elementary School?

In 2018 when we made the partnership with Lakewood Elementary School as part of the Pinellas County Board of Education Transformation Zone the school's proficiency score was F.



In just three years, the students' performance has skyrocketed. This year the School's proficiency score is **A** - wow!! Congratulations to the entire school: students, parents, faculty, staff, and the principal for their hard work! Special kudos to Mrs. Stephanie Woodford, the principal, for her hard work, dedication to the students, and her unfailing belief in their ability to succeed.

Mrs. Woodford has been promoted to Area Superintendent, with responsibility for 30 schools. Ms. Renee Nellenbach, formerly the vice-principal and partner with Mrs. Woodford in the school's turnaround, has been promoted to Principal of Lakewood Elementary School.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation for anything and everything you did to support the partnership. Things like donating to purchase school uniforms, volunteering to be a Lunch Pal, donating pizza lunch to the Quarterback Boys Club, taking the boys and their sponsor to a Rays game, donating foodstuffs for Thanksgiving grocery bags for 80 families, donating to the Christmas Angel Tree, donating to purchase t-shirts for the weekly assembly for students whose parents were unable to purchase them, donating to purchase t-shirts for honor roll students, donating to support enrolling Lakewood in the *One School, One Book* program, baking cupcakes for teachers and delivering them to the school, praying for the faculty, staff, students, and their families, volunteering to support the school's choir, purchasing items for students from the Walmart registry, and so much more! We at First Presbyterian can be proud of the part we played in supporting the students, parents, teachers, and staff in achieving this milestone. We also thank Pastor Dawn Conti for making the connection to give the Church the opportunity to participate in this wonderful program. This is Matthew 25 in action.

In the coming days, we will contact the school's Family and Community Liaison to find out if there are new ways we can continue to support the Lakewood Elementary School students.

Click on the link below to read the full story about the school's turnaround.

[St. Petersburg's Lakewood Elementary, once an F school, now has an A \(tampabay.com\)](http://tampabay.com)

Submitted by Uneeda Brewer, former moderator of the Mission Committee

Correction from last week's article

The article about FPDS becoming the St Petersburg Primary School contained an inaccuracy with regards to the origin of the St Petersburg Free Clinic. The four downtown churches were instrumental in the establishment of the We Help program at the Free Clinic. The program responds to the need and requests for food assistance as well as requests for personal help for a variety of other issues - rent, electricity, etc. Although First Presbyterian Church and its members have been very supportive of the mission of the Free Clinic for many, many years, they were not part of or active at the beginning.

Dear Friends,

Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for your kind words, notes, emails, cards, gifts, lunches, dinners and love offering. What a privilege and blessing it has been to serve as your pastor. We continue to pray for healing and discernment of God's leading for all in the midst of this unexpected and difficult transition and ask that you pray for us as well.



Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these

In Christ,
Dawn & Kevin Conti

Create To Share Meal Ministry

The Create To Share Meal program allows our church to provide one meal to a First Presbyterian person in distress or stress due to: death in the family, major surgery/ prolonged illness or hospitalizations, traumatic relocation due to fire, flooding, etc., or birth in the family. Each meal consists of an entrée or casserole, vegetables, rolls and dessert.

Two things to consider:

1. We could use volunteer cooks or delivery people! We have the recipes.....you have the kitchen or car. Just helping once or a few times will be appreciated. Financial donations are much appreciated if you are unable to bake or drive.
2. If you or someone you know could use a meal due to one of the aforementioned circumstances, please call Evelyn Moorefield at 727-430-3196 or Marilyn Mulcahy at 714-580-5619. All information is confidential.



The FPC 2021-2022 Concert Series

Click [HERE](#) to see all of the exciting concerts and performers featured in this year's Concert Series and be sure to mark your calendars!



You're invited to dream big for our school!

This is an exciting time in the St. Petersburg Primary School classrooms on our campus, which will be buzzing with learning later this month when the school year starts again with the school's **first-ever Kindergarten class.**

To celebrate this new chapter of growth beyond preschool, the parents of St. Pete Primary (formerly First Presbyterian Day School) have organized another first: an inaugural fundraising event, "**Once Upon a Dream,**" on Sept. 10, 7-10 p.m. at the Vinoy Sunset Ballroom (at the golf course on Snell Isle).

First Presbyterian members and friends are invited to share this magical evening, which will include live entertainment, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a gourmet grilled cheese station and cash bar, as well as silent and live auctions. Go to SPPSDream.org to reserve your ticket and/or become a sponsor, browse the

auction items, and learn more about St. Pete Primary's future dreams.

For 52 years, First Presbyterian Church has served families in St. Petersburg through its outstanding school, with the children of countless church members proud to be alums. How wonderful it would be for FPC members to attend the Sept. 10 event to meet and mingle with school parents and staff, and to help the school and its families continue to dream big about the future!

St. Pete Primary continues to have a dynamic and engaging relationship with First Presbyterian Church, with school instruction including chapel and faith-based programming. Please feel free to contact School Director, Ashley Hardy, 727-894-5889, for more information, or visit their new website:

stpeteprimary.org

All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.

Stay
CONNECTED

- 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 during this time.
- Help us stay connected by sending us your pictures and prayer requests!



Pastoral Emergency Number

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call (561) 805-1514.

During this season, we are especially thankful for the generosity of all of the people who continue to financially contribute to the church.

Online Giving



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 August Birthdays



Some groups are continuing to meet 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.

- **Sundays, 8:30 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, meeting in-person, Chapel.
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, In-Person Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#).
- *Sundays, 11:15 AM, Westminster Sunday School Class will not be meeting again until Fall.*

- *Monday morning online devotionals are taking a break for the summer.*

- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting every other week in the Chapel at 7 PM (next in-person meeting is Aug 17); virtual . For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).

- *Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study will be taking a break for the summer...will start back up after Labor Day.*
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study; the last Friday of the month is in-person in Room N-123 (meeting virtually through August; next in-person meeting will be September 24). For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

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 Grossenbacher](#).

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

