

FIRST NEWS



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

August 27, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
for an In-Person or Online Worship Service
this Sunday, August 29
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Preacher: Andy Staley
Sermon: "Tradition Above Faith"
Scriptures: [Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9](#), [Mark 7:1-15, 21-23](#)

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

Updated Mask Policy

In response to rising cases of COVID-19 and in conjunction with updated CDC guidelines, FPC St. Pete is re-implementing a mandatory mask policy indoors during worship and all other indoor campus activities.



Guest Musician This Sunday

Our guest musician this week is Chancel Choir Bass Section Leader Chris Holloway. Chris holds advanced degrees from Florida Southern College and The Shepherd School of Music at Rice University. He regularly performs with Opera Tampa and St. Pete Opera and maintains an active teaching studio in Palm Harbor, Pinellas County Center for the Arts, and Hillsborough Community College.



Praise Band Preview - Welcome Back!

This week we welcome back our bass player & vocalist, Bob, after his brief time away. We have two great tunes lined up for this Sunday: *Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery* and one of my personal favorites, *Holy Water*. Click the links below to learn the songs, and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Come Behold The Wondrous Mystery](#)
[Holy Water](#)

*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, 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



Joined the Church Triumphant

Sarah Fechter
August 21, 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.

**Congregational Meeting
This Sunday, August 29, 2021
1:00 PM, online via Zoom**

The Presbytery of Tampa Bay has called a meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg on Sunday, August 29, 2021. The purpose of this meeting will be to elect two of the elders currently on the session to serve on the existing Congregational Nominating Committee (as required by the church's Nominating Committee policy). Please note: a meeting for the election of additional elders to serve on the session itself will be held at a later date.

Please register in advance for Sunday's meeting by clicking [HERE](#).

Clicking the link above and completing the registration form is the first step in the process. The second step is to look for a confirmation email you will receive from Zoom, which will contain information about the meeting, including the link to join.

**Update from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay
Administrative Commission**

Greetings from your Administrative Commission!

This week we had an extremely smooth and productive meeting alongside the session, which is further evidence that the work of your church continues! We are impressed by the continued dedication of the session members despite these difficult times.

On Tuesday, the AC met again to discuss our strategy for hiring a transitional pastor. Hiring of an interim pastor usually takes 4-6 months, but our goal is to have a pastor in place at First Presbyterian by October 1st. This process involves writing narrative descriptions of the congregation's current status as well as the congregation's needs in a transitional pastor. We have 5 candidates

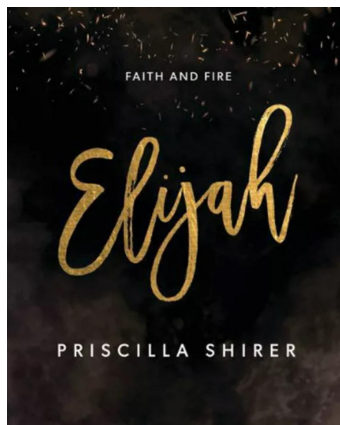
that Patrice Hatley has pre-screened for our evaluation, and we hope to review those candidates in the next few weeks and subsequently begin the interview process.

Please pray that our eyes, ears, and hearts be tuned into the Holy Spirit's direction for First Presbyterian Church so that we might find a strong transitional pastor to lead you into a fruitful mission life ahead.

As with the Listening and Assessment Team, you can communicate directly with the AC team using email at 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,
Stacey Quick, Co-Chair of the Administrative Commission
Rev. John DeBevoise, Co-Chair of the Administrative Commission



Ladies' Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Through 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.

Presbyterian Women's Bible study for 2021-2022

Our Horizons study this year, is "What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus." Plan to refresh your spirit and enjoy fellowship with other women, beginning in September and continuing through May 2022.

If you are not a current circle member and would like to join, please contact Rachel Bowron (rbowron@aol.com or 727-433-0571) to be connected to a circle that works for you.

**Update from Dr. Cesar Davila,
New Hope Clinic, Honduras**

My family and I are very well, thanks to the Lord. The [COVID-19] cases in Honduras and in the communities of Orica continue to escalate in an unparalleled way. It is suspected that we have the "delta variable" because of the aggressive and highly contagious nature. Again the health care professionals are making the news in spite of two doses of vaccine. Last week a doctor died and three more are gravely ill in the hospital. All had had both doses of vaccine. Because of this they are thinking about the possibility of adding a third dose for the medical personnel.

The cases of COVID in children and pregnant women are happening more frequently; at the start of the pandemic it was rare to see cases in this population.

Among the communities that we serve from the New Hope Clinic, those having the most cases are Orica, Santa Cruz, Joya de Quebracho, Guatemalita and el Naranjo. [These are all communities that mission teams routinely visit to do health screenings.]

Vaccines are beginning to arrive in the country thanks to donations from international organizations and primarily from donations from the USA government. The vaccine campaigns are beginning to bring hope to the population that is alarmed about the level of contagion and deaths that occur daily.

We continue to take all necessary precautions to avoid contagion and we thank the Lord that we are protected day after day. Thank you very much for all your prayers.

I am watching the Rays game. Yesterday they beat the Orioles 9-2 and today is the second game in this series. GO Rays

Greetings and Blessings
Dr. Cesar Davila

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.

A logo with the word "Stay" in a blue, cursive font and "CONNECTED" in a blue, sans-serif font below it, all on a light blue background.

- 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 September 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 31). 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](mailto:Amy.Grossenbacher).

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(727) 822-2031

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

