

# FIRST NEWS



**August 4, 2023**

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, August 6, 2023  
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost / Lord's Supper  
**CONNECT SERVICE** at 9 AM (Youth Center)  
or  
**SANCTUARY SERVICE** at 11 AM (Sanctuary)

**Rev. Ginny Ellis**  
Sermon Series: **Fruits of the Spirit**  
Sermon: "Touch of **Kindness**"  
Scripture: [Galatians 5:22-23](#), [Micah 6:6-8](#), [Luke 8:40-55](#)

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



**COMMUNION SUNDAY:** We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this Sunday during our worship services. 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.

## August Music

Click [HERE](#) to see the exciting music line-up for our 11 AM Sanctuary Service in the month of August.



**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, Nancy Ogden, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Henry Shaw, 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

Dear Friends,

At its July meeting, the Session approved beginning the search for a new installed pastor. I want to let you know what this will involve, and I hope to answer some of your questions.

### OVERVIEW:

Presbyterian searches for pastors are careful processes. Unfortunately, they always seem to take longer that we expect or wish. My guess is that this process for FPC will take between one and two years (!). That said, I want to reassure you that I am putting no time-line on my ministry here. My expectation is that things will remain stable and busy throughout the search.

### STEPS IN THE PROCESS:

1. We have already informed the Presbytery about the Session's recent action. Presbytery is our partner in relationships with ministers.
2. Our Congregation's Nominating Committee will start this work. Jo Anne Malone is chair of the committee; she has already begun planning the work needed to nominate a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).
3. The PNC will be representative of the whole congregation and will be elected by the congregation at a duly called Congregational meeting, perhaps in September. We imagine that the PNC will be comprised of 7 members and 2 alternates. Their job will be strenuous: meeting two or more times monthly for a year, more likely even longer.
4. You will be invited to suggest names for consideration for the PNC, and you will be asked to pray for the Nominating Committee as it seeks the right members for the PNC. You will also be asked to pray for the PNC as they do their work.
5. Note that only church members can be elected to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

**HOW LONG WILL THE SEARCH TAKE?** Between one and two years. Maybe more. Have patience! (Patience was last week's sermon topic; go back and listen again!)

**HOW WILL THIS AFFECT OUR CURRENT STAFF?** We do not expect anything to change here at FPC while the search is underway.

**ARE WE READY?** I believe that you are ready for this step. You have dealt with the conflict of recent years, facing the issues and the emotional turmoil. You have come to a good place of faith, with energy, compassion, and outreach, balanced by good worship and strong leadership from elders, deacons and staff.

**IS THERE ANXIETY ABOUT THIS?** Yes, my friends, I know some of you are anxious about this, about how to get the future "right." We need to remember that the church is, as always, in God's hands. We will go step by step into this process, as we go into all our work. We will trust God with the people, the interactions, the timing, and the decisions. The winds of the Spirit will blow, filling our sails. There may be times when the wind is light and progress seems slow; that may simply be God's way of preparing us all for the future, getting everything and everyone ready for the next part of the journey. (We're back to patience, one of the Fruits of the Spirit).

As always, I ask that you surround our church staff, the Session, the Nominating Committee, and ultimately the PNC with your faithful prayers. Give your support, your encouragement and your patience to this process. And then watch and wait with expectation for the good and wonderful things God is doing, and will do, in our very midst.

Blessings,  
Ginny

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**Pizza and Movie Night TONIGHT**  
...from 5-7 PM in the Youth Center! Invite your friends, kids, and grandkids and come enjoy some hot pizzas and cold



drinks, ice cream and movie snacks! (PB&J fixings also available for any who may choose an alternative to pizza!)

Kids, bring your sleeping bags and pillows if you want to lounge on the floor while watching the beloved G-rated movie

classic, "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs!" Grown-ups don't worry, there are plenty of comfy chairs with arms available too! Please [SIGN UP HERE](#) or contact the church office to RSVP so we can properly prepare for the fun! Please make note of how many adults and children. Thanks!

## Backpack Giveaway is happening this weekend!

LiveLoveStPete needs YOUR help packing a truck full of the MissionSunday backpacks we stuffed at church last weekend! The truck will be outside of Fellowship Hall from about 6-7 PM TONIGHT. Please come help as you are able....the more hands, the faster it happens!



The Great Backpack Giveback will happen tomorrow, Saturday, August 5, at Tropicana Field Lot 4 from 11 AM - 5 PM (look for LiveLoveStPete in the yellow tent!) if you would like to participate! Any questions, please call Melody Proud at (865) 599-6767.



### Kickoff Sunday

We're Making Plans for the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus Concert

Performing in our Sanctuary on September 17 at 4 p.m. will be the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (KSOC). Thirty women of that organization are on a "Hope for Ukraine" Concert Tour throughout

the southeastern United States. Their mission is to raise funds for humanitarian aid to women, orphans, war victims, and anyone in need of hope and physical comfort. These world-class musicians will present selections including sacred

classical masterpieces, Ukrainian folk songs (performed in Ukrainian dress), and contemporary jazz works. For more information about the tour or the Music Mission Kiev organization, click [HERE](#).

**This Sunday, August 6, at our Kickoff Sunday, we will share with you more detailed information about this exciting event and ask for your help.** We have agreed to host the musicians in 20 homes on Sunday and Monday nights – Sept. 17 and 18 – and to provide some meals for the group. At the end of each service this coming Sunday, you can sign-up for hosting in your home, helping provide food for some meals in our Fellowship Hall, helping set-up, serve, and clean up, as well as providing transportation.

We also committed to give \$20,000 to help support their worthy mission of humanitarian aid. **100% of donations goes to humanitarian aid.**

**Here's how you can give:**

By credit card

- Go online to [fpcstpete.com/give](http://fpcstpete.com/give), click the "Give Now" button, then in the Fund box, scroll down to "Hope for Ukraine."

By cash or check

- A freewill offering will be taken at the concert.
- Write a check to FPC-St. Pete and designate 'Ukrainian Concert' in the memo line. Please mail to First Presbyterian Church, 701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 or place in the offering plate any Sunday morning leading up to the concert date.
- Write a check directly to Music Mission Kiev. Please mail to First Presbyterian Church, 701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701.

Invite your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to this free concert...it promises to be an amazing and unforgettable event! We look forward to seeing you there.

PS – Festive cupcakes will be served after each worship service this Sunday to celebrate Kickoff Sunday.

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**FAITH DAY AT THE RAYS - AUGUST 12th**  
**Come enjoy a game in the air-conditioned Tropicana Field**  
**with the Rays and your FPC family!**



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN DAY AT THE RAYS 2023



**SATURDAY,  
AUGUST 12TH**

**START TIME: 4:10 P.M.  
GATES OPEN: 2:10 P.M.**

### Don't Miss Out

FREE Rays Hat

Post-Game: Team Chaplin & Player Testimonies

**Tickets are \$35 (\$70 Value)**

**Kids 2 years old and younger do not need a ticket**

EVENT WRISTBANDS\* AND RAYS HATS CAN BE PICKED UP FROM DAVID AUMACK IN SECTION 137

*\*Event wristband is required for entrance to post-game event (down LF line in Sections 127-137).*

If you have questions or want to buy tickets, contact Dave Aumack; you can find him after either worship service, call him (727-304-3167), or email ([daumack@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:daumack@fpc-stpete.org)). Deadline to purchase tickets is this Sunday, August 6. Cash or checks are accepted (checks should be made payable to FPC with "Rays Game" in the memo line).



### Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, August 20

As hard as it is to believe, the end of summer is right around the corner! As kids get ready to return to school, we would like to send them

off to the new school year with a blessing! On Sunday, August 20, Pastor Ginny will be blessing backpacks as a part of the Moment for All Ages during both services. So be sure to encourage the school-age kids in your life to join us that weekend!

### A New Kids' Choir Will Be Starting in September!

Barbara Brownlee and Kathy Swanson will head up our new Kids' Choir for children Pre-K through 5th grade. Choir practice will be held once a month, on the second Wednesday of each month (Sept. 13, Oct. 11 and Nov. 8), at 6:10 PM, following Wednesday Night Suppers. In December, we'll shake it up and practice will

move to Tuesday, Dec. 12, as we bring back Taco Tuesday. The Kids' Choir will also practice with Ms. Barbara on Sunday mornings during the 9 AM service



(Kids' Choir will go to the Childcare Room following the Moment for All Ages). Sign-ups will start in a few weeks...stay *tuned!*

NOTE: Parents of Kids' Choir kids are welcome to stay in Fellowship Hall after the meal for good conversation with other parents and friends...or to help with clean up! No pressure either way!

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## Seeking Church Van Drivers!

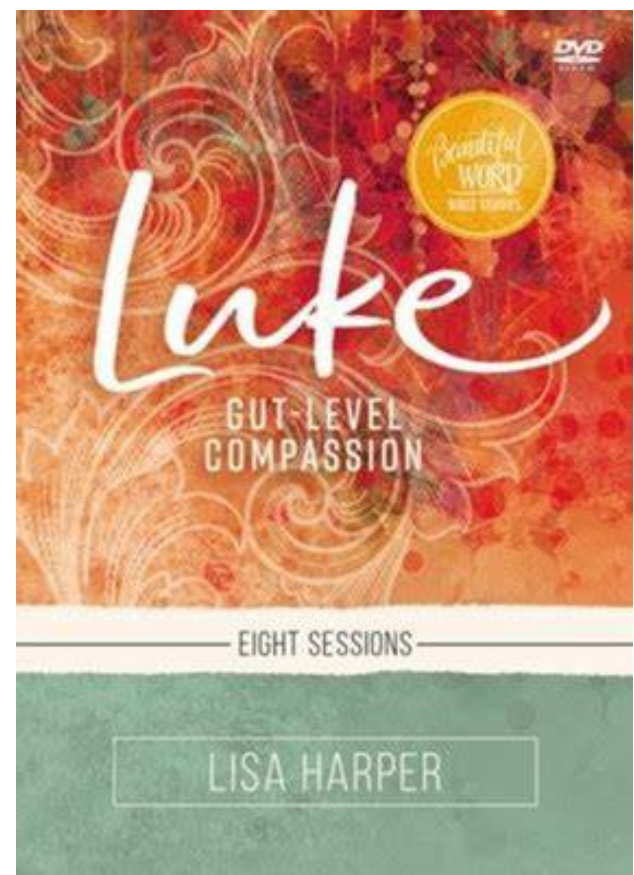
If you might be ready, willing, and able to drive the church van one Sunday a month, please reach out to the Church Office (727-822-2031). We are in need of more drivers. Thanks!

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## Ladies, you are invited to Lisa Harper's new Bible Study! Luke: Gut-Level Compassion

We will be studying the humanity and compassion of Jesus shared by Luke. The great news woven throughout the Gospel according to Luke is that perfection is not a prerequisite for deep and personal relationship with Jesus!

Join us on Tuesday mornings  
(August 8 is the last summer meeting!)  
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
in the Youth Center



Workbooks (including streaming video access for all sessions) will be available for \$25. We know it's summer – come when you can! No previous Bible study experience is needed. Bring a friend! Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. Questions? April Hussung: 727-420-1758 or [stapler39@aol.com](mailto:stapler39@aol.com).

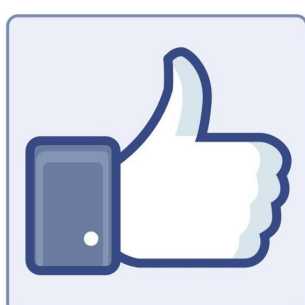
Stay tuned for information about our Fall study...coming soon!

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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!
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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 August 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 203
- **Sundays, 9 AM**, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center or [Online](#)
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Room S-202
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, (on summer break until September 10)
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
  
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina (on summer break until August 14)
  
- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center (summer session ends August 8)
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel
  
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center
  
- **Thursdays, 6 PM**, Bell Choir Rehearsal (on summer break)
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal (on summer break)



- Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study (on summer break until September 8)
- 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:

- Tonight, August 4, 5-7 PM, Pizza and a Movie Night, Youth Center
- Tonight, August 4, 6-7 PM, loading the truck with MissionSunday Backpacks
- Saturday, August 12, 4 PM, Faith Day at the Rays (deadline for getting tickets is this Sunday, August 6)
- Sunday, August 13, 2 PM, Men's Meal Ministry cooking for Pinellas Hope
- Sunday, August 20, Blessing of the Backpacks

## 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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