

# FIRST NEWS



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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, May 12, 2024  
Seventh Sunday After Easter

CONNECT SERVICE at 9 AM (Youth Center)  
or  
SANCTUARY SERVICE at 11 AM (Sanctuary)

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
**Sermon Series:** "Love Seen..."  
Sermon: "Love Seen...In the Final Gift: Eternal Life"  
Scripture: [John 17:6-11](#), [1 John 5:9-13](#)

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 **Happy Mother's Day** 

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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 Live Streams 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 these links with family and friends!

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

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

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The flowers this Sunday were donated to the glory of God and in honor of Mother's Day by Al May.



## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dearly Beloved,

In one of my sermons in this LOVE SEEN series, I spoke about God loving us through all things. One of you passed me a note after worship: *What is the difference, you asked, between being beloved and being respected or accepted?*

Well, there is a difference between those things, for sure.

I am reminded of a paper I wrote back in seminary. I was doing a course as a chaplain intern in a psychiatric hospital. My paper was about how patients needed to know that you understood and loved them in order for you to be able to help them. The prof, a down-to-earth pipe-smoking dude, read my paper, stroked his chin, looked over his glasses at me and said, sort of slowly: *I don't think people want to be understood or loved. I think they want to be enjoyed.*

Thinking about that, over the years, I have come to see how different a thing it is: to be understood or even to be loved seems to carry the sense of meeting some standard, while being enjoyed feels like being accepted for who you are. I really like knowing that someone enjoys me, the me I really am. And I think that God does enjoy me. After all, God knows me better than anyone. That seems to be part of the way God loves me.

My friend Nancy tells about how she once spilled a bottle of nail polish on her mom's new carpet. Her mother immediately began cleaning up the mess, without fussing. When the job was done, Nancy's mom said, *From now on let's polish nails in the bathroom.* She still didn't fuss. What a lovely way to parent your child. It would be so easy to sound mad, but that was not her choice.

I think there's a big difference between being respected and/or accepted on the one hand, and being loved on the other. Both are important. But here's the thing (I'm quoting Doug Oldenburg, former president of Columbia Seminary on this): *People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care.*

That's true for us. Knowing God cares for us is the first thing and it is true. God cares for us; we are *beloved*. Then, being honest and worthy is what we try to

offer in response, in our love for this loving God.

Blessings,  
Ginny Ellis



**Please remember in prayer:** Sandi Averitt, Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Carol Hunt, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Dave & Pam Malone, Dottie McClure, Nancy McLaughlin, the Moorefield family, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Margie Richmond, Robert Safransky, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey

**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).

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## PARABLE QUEST: Transforming Stories Jesus Told

The everyday objects and real-life situations that Jesus described in His parables help children understand biblical principles.



**All children Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome!**

**Sunday mornings at 10 AM in Room S-202; runs through May 26**

We will not have Parable Quest **NEXT Sunday, May 19**; instead, we are encouraging all kids (and their families!) to participate in our Mission Sunday project (for more information about that, please see below!)

For more information, please contact Carol Riley at 727-822-2031, ext. 104 or [criley@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:criley@fpc-stpete.org).

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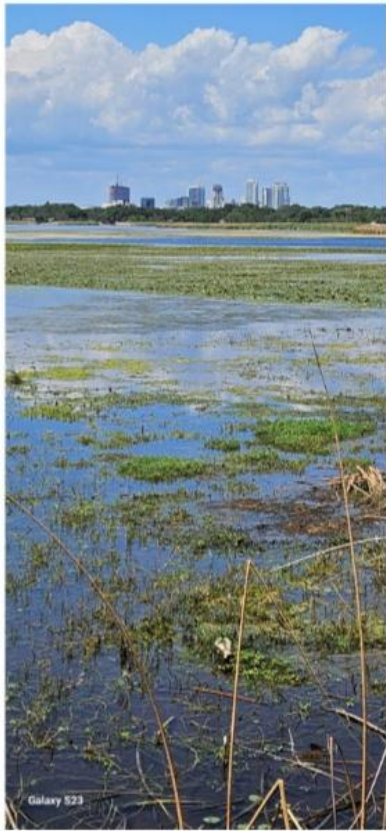
## Lectio/Visio Divina - Mondays at 10 AM

We invite you to try a new way of studying the Bible with Lectio/Visio Divina, a guided practice of reading and discussing four different translations of a passage that will be used in the following Sunday's worship. The hourlong Zoom session meets at 10 a.m. on Mondays and includes discussion of art that corresponds to the scripture. Click [HERE](#) to join.

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**FPC Explorers' Adventures!**

Yes, we visited Boyd Hill Nature Preserve last Sunday in 88-degree weather and the picnic-ing was great! So QUIET! And no alligators at the picnic shelter! We hiked and saw LOTS OF WILDLIFE! Ducks, warblers, alligators and some awesome fishies! Next year we'll probably go a little earlier in the sp!



Join us **NEXT MONTH (June 9th at 1:30 PM)**! Dave Hunt has planned an outing (in air conditioning) to the [St. Petersburg Fairgrounds Interactive Art Adventure](#). We will be literally **IN THE ARTWORK**! We can carpool from church at 1:00, but there is plenty of parking at the Fairgrounds! Cost is \$22 each, unless we get enough people to get a group discount (12 needed ahead of time). See Dave Hunt or call to reserve a place (513-604-6090).

## Health Kits and Healthy Teeth for Honduras For Our Next Mission Sunday On May 19, 2024

**MISSION** ♥  
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Our Mission Committee is once again partnering with our Honduras team for their upcoming trip June 9-16, 2024. For this Mission Sunday, we need toothbrushes for both adults and children.

We also need spooled dental floss, waxed or unwaxed (but *NOT* the plastic "pick" kind that can create litter in Honduras). Also needed are Band-aids for adults and children. And if you're unable to bring any of these items, **\$\$money\$\$** will work just fine (make checks out to FPC and mention Honduras trip in the memo line).

Collection boxes labeled "For Honduras" will be below each of the Giving Trees in the Youth Center and the Sanctuary.

The assembled health kits will be distributed in each of the five villages visited by our team where they perform health screenings for adults and offer activities for children.



*So how can you help in addition to providing the items above?*

Our Mission Committee needs many hands this Mission Sunday to remove all donated items from their packaging and then to bag the items in zip lock bags. As usual, committee members will be there to offer guidance.

**Date:** Sunday May 19

**Time:** 10-11 AM, between our two services

**Where:** Fellowship Hall

**Items needed:**

- toothbrushes (for adults and children)
- spooled dental floss (waxed or unwaxed)
- band-aids (for adults and children)

So come, enjoy your friends while assembling these health kits! Refreshments will be offered.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Also NOT needed are toothpaste and soap because of the additional weight to the Honduras team members' baggage. These items will be purchased in Honduras.

Our effort in Honduras is one of our church's longstanding missions. Your Mission Committee appreciates all that each and every one of you do to help move this mission and others forward.

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If you have questions about this Mission Sunday, please contact Susan Schlecht (727.735.5332, [schlecht21975@gmail.com](mailto:schlecht21975@gmail.com)) or Mission Committee Chair Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300, [sanaveritt1@gmail.com](mailto:sanaveritt1@gmail.com)).

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## **New Member Inquirer's Class Next Sunday, May 19, 12 PM, 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 Sunday, May 19, immediately following the 11 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!

## New Sermon Series Starts Next Week!

We invite you to join us as Pastor Ginny preaches through our new mission statement (approved by session on April 22, 2024):

*First Presbyterian Church seeks to be a welcoming beacon of Christ's love so all people may experience God's beloved community through connection, healing, and renewal.*

May 19 (Pentecost, Mission Sunday) - *FPC seeks*  
Acts 2:1-13, 14-21

May 26 (Memorial Day weekend) - *To be a beacon of Christ's love*  
Acts 2:3, Mt 5:14-16, John 8:12-16

June 2 (Pride Month begins, Communion Sunday) - *So that all people*  
Acts 2:5-11, John 3:16-17

June 9 - *Experience God's beloved community*  
I Peter 2:9-10, I Peter 3:8-12

June 16 - *Through connection, healing, and renewal*  
Acts 4:32-35, Acts 5:12-16, Luke 23:39-43, Mt 9:35-38



**Our Next Beach Drive Forum will be Wednesday, May 22, 5:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall**

*An Evening with Paul Wilborn: St Pete Arts and more!* by Paul Wilborn, award-winning journalist, author, playwright, pianist, singer and executive

director of the Palladium Theater at St. Petersburg College, knows a thing or two about the arts! He'll share his wisdom about what's influencing the flourishing local arts scene, including whether artificial intelligence is a good or bad creative force, as well as the success and coming renovation the Palladium Theater and his side gig as an award-winning novelist. The evening will include a reading from his upcoming novel: *The Everlasting Life of Charlie*. Learn more about our speaker [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

*Beach Drive Forums are monthly conversations for the community with intriguing speakers on thought-provoking topics. Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall (doors open at 5:30, presentation at 6:00). Refreshments and Q&A included. Open to the public; best parking is the church lot off N. Shore Drive.*

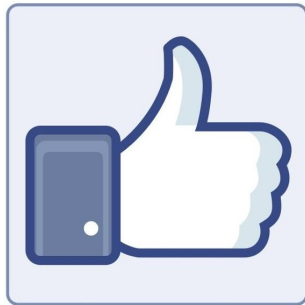
Remember, the PNC has a new page on our website! You can visit it any time for the latest information on our Pastor Search!

[www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates](http://www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates)

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!



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 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-12:30 PM, childcare is available, Room S-203
- Sundays, 9 AM, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center or Online

- **Sundays, 9:45 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Young Adults/Parents "Next" Sunday School Class, Room S-100
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, "Parable Quest" class (for kids pre-K through 5th grade), Room S-202
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Presbyterianism class, Church Office Conference Room
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or **Online**
  
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio/Visio Divina, via **Zoom**
- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month)
  
- **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, 8:00 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:

- **Sunday, May 19**, Mission Sunday
- **Sunday, May 19, 12 PM**, New Member Inquirer's Class, Chapel
- **Wednesday, May 22, 5:30 PM**, Beach Drive Forum
- **Monday, May 27**, Church Office closed for Memorial Day

## 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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