

FIRST NEWS



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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, May 19, 2024
Pentecost / Mission Sunday

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
New **Sermon Series**: "What Our Mission Statement Says"
Sermon: "First Presbyterian Seeks"
Scripture: **Acts 2:1-21**

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** - 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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Beloved ones,

RED! Red is the code word for this week: PENTECOST 2024 is this Sunday! Pentecost is the day when the Holy Spirit came upon the church with the sound of a violent wind, with what looked like tongues of flame resting on the heads of the disciples, with unexpected power enabling those country bumpkin disciples to suddenly speak in languages they didn't even know. Wow. What a day that was!

It is the memory of the FLAMES that made the Christian church choose RED as the color for Pentecost. So I will be wearing my red stole. We will have red banners and red flounces in the church. I invite each of you to wear red: a shirt, or dress, or tie or scarf, or whatever. (Some like to wear red shoes! red socks! that works) Maybe even those of you who need to watch our live-stream at home can wear red. Gosh, maybe we need red cupcakes....

But more than the color: we may need a little excitement, a bit of surprise. Why? Because our God is a GOD OF SURPRISES!

That's why there was the sound of a violent wind. That's why, one day, Moses saw a bush burning but not burned up. When Moses turned aside to see what was going on, God spoke to him and sent him in a whole new direction in his life. That's why a young woman was chosen to bear a child who would be the son of God. (She then went a whole new direction in her life too!)

We Presbyterians believe that the power of the Holy Spirit has not been used up. It has not gone away. If we are open to it, we may see and feel and find in ourselves the power, the excitement, the exuberance that accompany the Holy Spirit. We might find ourselves a little surprised!

ONE MORE THING: Remember this Pentecost Sunday is also our Mission Sunday. Between the worship services, from 10:00 to 11:00, everybody is asked to come to the Fellowship Hall (downstairs, off the back parking lot) to help prepare items that are going with our Mission Team to Honduras in early June. It's not hard work, but it is important and needed, and you will make new friends as you work. Adults and children will find things to do.

See you there!

Ginny Ellis



Please remember in prayer: Jeanne & Jerry Alonso, 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.

PC(USA) Special Pentecost Offering: Nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come

A gift to the [Pentecost Offering](#) helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

We will have envelopes available in both worship services or you can give online [HERE](#).



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 this 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.

**Health Kits & Healthy Teeth
for Honduras
Mission Sunday: This Sunday,**

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 This 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!

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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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**Our Next Beach Drive Forum will be this upcoming 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.*

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## Fundraiser Luncheon at the St. Pete Yacht Club Thursday, May 23, 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Live Love St Pete will be having a fundraising luncheon this upcoming Thursday, May 23, at the Saint Petersburg Yacht Club. They will be raising funds for their annual backpack drive (we'll share more info about this with you in the coming weeks).

Normal ticket prices are \$40 for individuals and \$240 for a table of 8, but *for FPC members and guests* the prices are \$30 (per individual) and \$200 (per table)! Go to [LIVELOVELUNCH.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/live-love-st-pete-fundraiser-luncheon-tickets-16106717847) and use discount code FPC1 for individuals and FPC8 for a table. Sign up today! Thanks!!

For more information, contact Melody Proud ([Live Love St Pete](https://www.livelovestpete.org), [melody@livelovestpete.org](mailto:melody@livelovestpete.org), 865-599-6767)



### Presbyterian Women Honor Sally Lyle

During the Presbyterian Women's Coordinating Team meeting on May 6th, Sally Lyle was awarded the Honorary Life Membership. The Honorary Life Membership was established early last century to honor faithful service to the PW organization and to the church. Sally certainly meets that criteria by generously giving of her time and talents to PW and our church.

She has faithfully served since 2018 as PW Co-Moderator with an additional role of Spiritual Life Leader of the team since 2020. As a longtime member (since Nov. 1984) of FPC, she has served in numerous other roles; Deacon, Deacon Secretary, PW Representative to the Officer Nominating Committee, and volunteer helping serve meals at Missio Dei, to name a few.

Not least of her roles, Sally is the mother of 3 adult children who were all raised in FPC and she is now enjoying her first grandchild. We are very grateful for Sally's service!



### Wednesday Night Dinner Cookout - what fun!

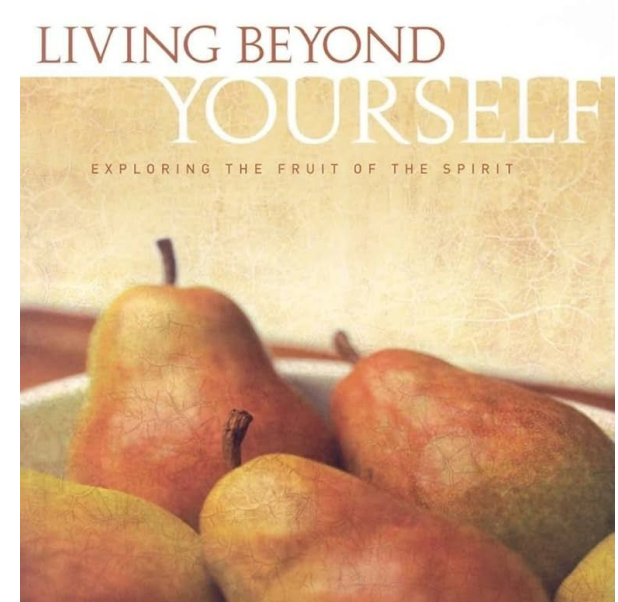
We had 68 folks join us in the Fellowship Hall last Wednesday night to *cook out and eat in!* Our fantastic volunteers helped set up (and clean up!) a wonderful meal and the kids worked on an arts & crafts project you might catch a glimpse of a little later this summer!



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**Ladies, you are invited to Beth Moore Bible Study: "Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit"**

Through this favorite Beth Moore study, we will come to appreciate the supernatural aspects of the fruit. As we walk with God, He develops in us the fruit of the Spirit. A Holy Spirit-filled life truly results in living beyond yourself.



**Join us on Tuesday mornings:  
June 4th - August 13, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
in the Youth Center**

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is required. Workbooks will be available for \$20. Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. Questions? Contact April Hussung at 727-420-1758 or [stapler39@aol.com](mailto:stapler39@aol.com).

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

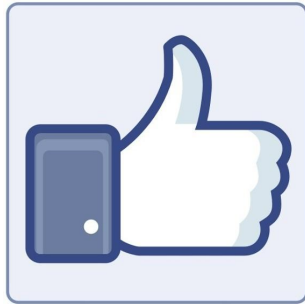
[www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates](http://www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates)

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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!



## 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 (not meeting May 19)
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Presbyterianism class, Church Office Conference Room (not meeting May 19)
- **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**, 10-11 AM, Mission Sunday, Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday, May 19**, 12 PM, New Member Inquirer's Class, Chapel
- **Wednesday, May 22**, 5:30 PM, Beach Drive Forum
- **Thursday, May 23**, 11:30 AM, Live Love St Pete fundraiser luncheon, St. Petersburg Yacht Club
- **Monday, May 27**, Church Office closed for Memorial Day
- **Tuesday, June 4**, 9 AM, New Ladies' Bible Study starts!

## 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**  
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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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