

FIRST NEWS



May 19, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, May 21, 2023
[Seventh Sunday of Easter](#)**

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

**Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "His Prayer for Us"
Scripture: [Isaiah 45:1-7](#), [John 17:1-11](#)**

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 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 11 AM worship service bulletin.

We have a MASK-OPTIONAL policy for worship services and on-campus activities.

Music in May

Click [HERE](#) to see the exciting line-up of music we have for our 11 AM Sanctuary Service in May!



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Nina Glover, 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, Alan Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke

Pray for our Honduras Mission Team, leaving in early June.

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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

Pride Month is the month of June. As a church that is open, welcoming, and affirming of all, we will take the Sundays of June to look at and celebrate diversity. This focus could, of course, simply grow out of my own heart and mind as your preacher. But I believe it will be a more authentic and powerful message if some of you have experiences you are willing to share with me -- your own or your family's stories of challenge, of faith, and of hope. You could talk with me in person or on the phone (Yes, I do talk on the phone sometimes; is that old school, do you think?). Or you could write your story and send it to me. I realize this is like the sailing stories you provided earlier that we all found so meaningful. I imagine working some of those stories into sermons in June, anonymously, or with names as you are comfortable. We could perhaps create time and space for some of you to share your stories in person if you are willing.

We Presbyterians believe the scripture (John 3:16) that *God so loved the world*

that God gave Jesus, the Son, the Savior. God loves the world -- the whole world! No one is left out of God's love. We believe the scripture that *God created humankind, all of us, in God's very own image* (Genesis 1:27). In June we will think about how we live out that conviction and how we speak up in our world to affirm that this is really true.

I am looking to the month of June as a time for us to explore and celebrate this topic as a people of faith, a people who follow Jesus Christ. Oops, one more thing: I will be away June 25, so my chance to share any of your precious stories would be best earlier in the month.

Blessings,
Ginny Ellis

PENTECOST -- MAY 28 -- WEAR RED!

Pentecost is Sunday May 28. We invite folks to wear RED for worship on that day, because red is our Pentecost color: recognizing the flames of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:3-4: *Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.*)

Lectio Divina

Lectio/Visio Divina is a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. We meet Mondays at 10 a.m. via Zoom. If you haven't experienced this devotion practice yet, try it out this week! Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

Congregational Meetings to Elect Deacons This Sunday, May 21

The meetings will be conducted at the end of each worship service. The committee will nominate the following: Kathy Arsenault, Lynne Mormino, Nancy Ogden. Please plan to attend!



Don't Miss Our SUMMER FUN COOKOUT This Sunday!

Can you feel the summer breeze? It's coming...and we are going to celebrate! Join us at noon, after the 11 AM Worship **this Sunday, May 21**, for a Summer Fun Cookout in Fellowship Hall. Chef Dave and anyone who'd like to help, will be grilling burgers, hot dogs, onions and anything else you may bring along! We'll have all the fixings and any sides you may like to share! There will be tall, cool drinks, and an ice-cold desserts provided. After we eat we will head outside to blow bubbles galore... giant ones and little ones. There will be outdoor games and races...and if it's really hot...maybe even some water squirting! Come enjoy the fun as we welcome family, friends and neighbors to Summer Fun at FPC. All ages are warmly invited!

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by clicking [HERE](#)
or call the Church Office - thanks!

Sunken Gardens Outing

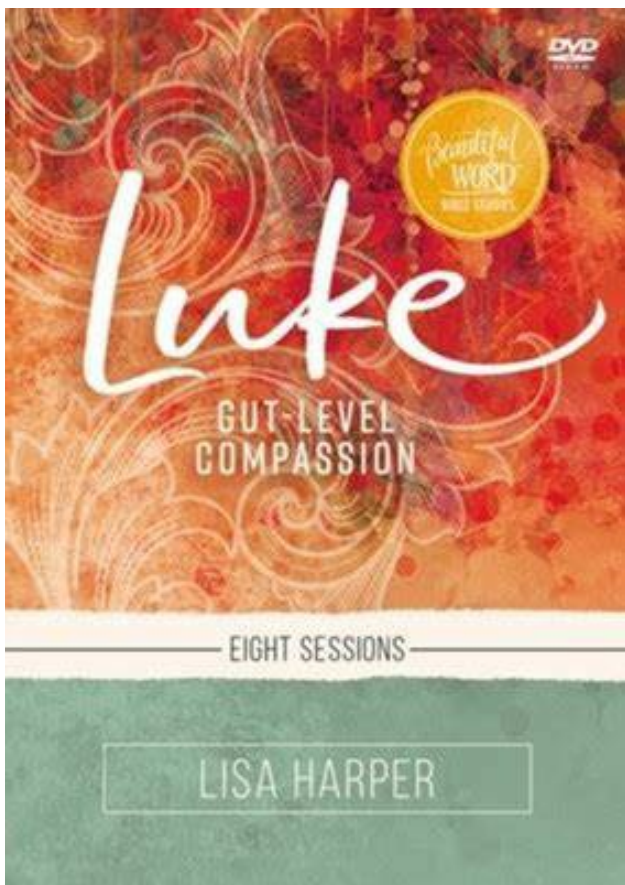
Thursday, June 1

10 AM - 12 PM



We have lined up a guided tour of the Sunken Gardens (1825 4th St N) for 10-14 people from 10 AM until noon on Thursday, June 1. We will be on ADA-accessible trails, and we got a group rate of just \$12.00/per person! The church bus will be available if you would like to carpool from the church. We are planning grab some lunch after the tour (restaurant to be determined). Please RSVP by calling the Church Office or by clicking [HERE](#).

This is the first of what we hope will be monthly adventures to explore things around St. Petersburg, and we want to make more events like this available to our FPC members and friends! We are not doing anything outrageous, nor expensive, nor dangerous, just some friends having some fun fellowship. If you are interested in the brainstorming and/or planning process, please contact Dave Hunt, or the church office for getting onto the e-mail list. Ideas and suggestions are encouraged!



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

For 8 weeks we will study 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
June 6th – July 25th, 2023
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.



Congratulations to Matt Clear! He ran his first 5k for Melanoma awareness and research last weekend.

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!



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

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, 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, Youth Center

- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center
- **Fridays, 7:30 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)

Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, May 21, 10 AM and 12 PM**, Congregational Meetings following each worship service
- **Sunday, May 21, 12:15 PM**, FPC Cookout
- **Monday, May 22, 1:30 PM**, Card Fellowship
- **Monday, May 29**, Church Office will be closed for Memorial Day
- **June 1, 10 AM**, Sunken Gardens outing
- **June 4, 12 PM**, Pride Month Reception
- **June 11, 2 PM**, Men's Meal Ministry cooking for Pinellas Hope
- **Wednesday, June 14, 6 PM**, Beach Drive Forum
- **Monday, June 26, 1:30 PM**, Card Fellowship

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.

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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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