

FIRST NEWS



First News, May 3

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, May 5, 2024
Sixth Sunday After Easter / Lord's Supper

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 Our Relationship with God"
Scripture: **[1 John 5:1-5](#), [John 15:9-17](#)**

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.

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



COMMUNION SUNDAY: We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this Sunday during both 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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

"Beloved" is the word 1st John uses and what Guest Preacher Amy Santamaria used for you. I thought I would try it.

So: Beloved,

Last week Harry Ellis and I went to join 15 of his cousins and spouses at Lake Martin in Alabama. With 17 of us gathered there, we needed a big house. Cousin Clinton found one with 11 bedrooms! We had a really good time, with lots of talk and lots of food.

Out in the yard, there were some neglected kayaks and canoes, so I decided to try a little kayaking. No one else was interested, but I went out and flipped the single-person kayak over. Goodness it was yucky, full of old pollen and dirt. Grrr. Harry went to the garage and found a life jacket, which when I went to put it on turned out to be an "extra small." Like any kid who grew up in Florida and knows how to swim, I sneered a little at wearing a life jacket, but Harry was worried, so I went to the garage and found one that said "adult-medium." That would work. Then I got a broom, swept off some of the worst of the yuck and dropped the kayak in the water. Off I went. Harry's sister Ann recorded the moment for posterity. In case I didn't get back I guess.



It was a short ride, about 20 minutes all told, with the wind blowing against me, and a motor boat sweeping by. I was using muscles long-dormant and I would have been glad to have some kayak gloves to keep blisters away. But it was a bright, sunny day, with lovely views of the lake and the houses along the shore. I was frankly proud of myself for trying something new, something a little challenging. Okay, it rated "Very Little" on the challenging scale, but still something new. And I actually did it.

What are any of us doing new? As individuals, as families? As a church? What long-dormant muscles are we flexing? It's not a bad idea to try new things, to think new thoughts, to build new relationships and habits.

If we go back to that house next year, I think I'll take some kayaking gloves.

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.

Join the Explorers of First Presbyterian (Fun, Fellowship, and Friends group) **this Sunday, May 5**, for a casual afternoon experience at [Boyd Hill Nature Preserve](#). We're planning to meet around 1 PM at church and



carpool over together OR you can meet us there (the entrance is at 1101 Country Club Way S., St. Petersburg, FL 33705; [CLICK HERE](#) for park map). We'll set up at Nature Center picnic shelter #2 around 1:30 for a brown bag picnic lunch. After lunch, feel free to, hike, sit and relax at the picnic shelter, or go looking for wildlife: birds, alligators, fish, etc.....all for no cost! We'll have a cooler for storing lunches and a cooler with ice for drinks. The picnic shelter reserved for us until 6 PM.

Questions? Want to participate? Contact Dave Hunt (513-604-6090, dhunt@fpcstpete.org).

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 19

For more information, please contact Carol Riley at 727-822-2031, ext. 104 or criley@fpc-stpete.org.

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.



Don't Miss Our Upcoming Wednesday Night Dinner COOKOUT!

Can you feel the summer breeze? It's coming...and we are going to celebrate! Join us **Wednesday, May 8** at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for our Second Annual Summer Fun Cookout. We'll have grilled burgers and hot dogs plus awesome sides and dessert! 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](#) (be sure to click the "YES" button!) or by calling the Church Office (727-822-2031) - thanks!

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

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.

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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)).



## Happy First Birthday, Beach Drive Forum!

We've explored St. Pete and Tampa's architectural treasures, religion and the universe, the history of the Tuskegee Airmen nurses. We've been taught poetry technique and learned how to tame Florida allergies. We've been awed by marine science in our own backyard.

That's only a sampling of the enlightening programs presented by Beach Drive Forums at First Presbyterian Church since these monthly community conversations began in April 2023, all topics presented by local and interesting experts in their fields.



"We wanted to provide a variety of interesting speakers in a setting that would feel welcoming to community members as well as church members," said Ann Murray, chair of the BDF planning team. " In this first year we have received very positive feedback that we are on the right track."

The team (church members Ann Murray, Vicki Fox, Sarah Helck, Gretchen Letterman, Lynne Mormino, and Pastor Ginny Ellis) has had a fabulous time choosing interesting topics, securing dynamic speakers, planning and presenting the first year's forum series. The events have drawn church and other community members as well, and we think they're not just coming for the fun snacks!



You won't want to miss the last forum of this season on May 22 (note the change from our usual third Wednesday schedule), when artist and executive director of the Palladium Theater at St. Petersburg College Paul Wilborn comes to talk about the state of the arts in Tampa Bay. Doors open in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. for a light repast and mingling, with the presentation beginning at 6 p.m. Beach Drive Forums are free and open to the public.



After a summer break from June through August, the forums will resume with another exciting program lineup, including Gary Mormino (Saturday Afternoon Lights: Florida and Football) and William Felice (Colleges and Free Speech). Stay tuned for more details!

The planning team thanks you for making the first year of Beach Drive Forums



a huge success, and hopes you will continue to attend and invite your friends to make year two even better!

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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!

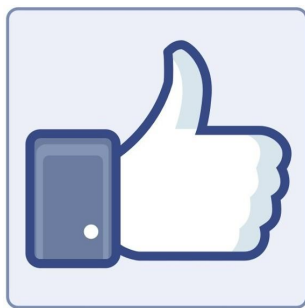
[www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates](http://www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates)

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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!
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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!

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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!

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## 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 5, 1 PM**, FPC Explorers go to Boyd Hill Nature Preserve
- **Wednesday, May 8, 5:30 PM**, Wednesday Night Dinner
- **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

## **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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