

FIRST NEWS



November 3, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

this Sunday, November 5, 2023

23rd Sunday after Pentecost/All Saints' Sunday/Lord's Supper

CONNECT SERVICE at 9 AM (Youth Center)

or

SANCTUARY SERVICE at 11 AM (Sanctuary)

Rev. Ginny Ellis

Sermon: "In White Robes"

Scripture: [Revelation 7:9-17](#)

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 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.

**Daylight Saving Time
ends this Sunday, November 5.**

Don't forget to set your clocks back!



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

Dear Friends,

We're caught in a bit of a bind, my friends, and I hope you will do what you can to help. MissionSunday, **November 12**, is coming up fast, and we have learned that is also the day of the St. Pete Fun Run half-marathon. **We have decided to continue with our morning as usual.**

PLEASE HELP US! HERE'S WHAT WE NEED:

1. **Connect worshippers:** Please plan to park on Beach Drive, either on the street, in the front circle drive, or in the grass corner lot at the corner of 7th Ave and Beach Drive. If there is a police officer, just tell them you are parking for church service. Walk to the Youth Center from that level: no stairs!
2. **Everybody:** Please come downstairs to the Fellowship Hall between our 9 AM and 11 AM services to help as we assemble 200 hygiene kits for kids at CASA, 200 more for women at CASA. It's an ambitious goal and we need many hands!
3. **Anyone who wants to:** You can help with the water station for runners out along North Shore Drive. Our station is at Mile 5 and mile 9, as the runners run past our church, on up Coffee Pot Bayou, then double back.
4. **Sanctuary worshippers:** Things should be more normal by 11 AM. We think the parking lot in the back will be open by then. We'll let you know at the Sanctuary service if the mission project still has work to do, if so, **PLEASE HELP** us finish up after the 11:00 service.

Our challenge is a **MISSION OPPORTUNITY** as we take on **TWO** missions on MissionSunday November 12 - (1) outside: staffing a water station for runners, and (2) inside: assembling care packages for families struggling with abuse.

Next Monday (11/6), I am heading to Montreat, NC to do some sermon prep and worship planning. See you when I get back!

Ginny Ellis



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Will Catul, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, friends and family of Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Ginger McCoy,

Nancy McLaughlin, Gloria & Edson Murray, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Vivian Ramirez, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey, Denny Zuercher

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.

Humanitarian response in Israel/Palestine



Through PDA, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of neighbors and strangers in their midst, no matter their religious beliefs, political views or nationality. We are called to care for all of God's children, especially those in war-torn communities, by responding to the urgent needs of those directly affected by the current conflict. The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — **[GIVE](#). [ACT](#). [PRAY](#)**. (click each word to learn more!)

Join the Power Hour Sunday School Class this Sunday at 10 AM (right after the Connect service) in the Youth Center. We will be reading and discussing Barbara Battin's article on a *Christian Response to War*. Interesting and timely! If you'd like to come, email Karen (karenamossman@gmail.com) to get a copy of the article to read before class.



Lectio/Visio Divina on Recess

Our Monday morning zoom devotion time is taking a three-week break. We'll resume Monday Nov. 27. Join us for a great hour of prayer, Bible reading and discussion about the following Sunday's scripture passages.

What a Great Trunk or Treat 2023!
Thanks from Pastor Jeanie
and the CE/Fellowship Committee!

HUGE and HAPPY THANKS to every one of you who helped



with another fabulous *Trunk or Treat* this year! We had the most creative line-up of trunks and kids' activities ever (from the Flintstones to a costumed turtle, Harry Potter and friends, friendly witches, to the Wild, Wild West settlers in covered wagon and so many more!

The amount and fun assortment of candy and popcorn balls donated was just the right amount! The Men's Ministry guys grilled 200+ hotdogs to perfection (so popular they ran out!), along with chips, cool lemonade, water and more candy. The many pots of chili each were delicious, but Susan Schlecht and Rue Ann Porter report that the top votes went to Bloody Mary Chili (non-alcoholic) made

by Lo Presti and the close runner up was White Bean Chicken Chili made by Kula.

We are so grateful for the generosity of Danny (owner of Quality Bounce House Rentals and also a St. Pete Primary School parent), who donated two big bounce houses along with corn hole, giant Jenga, and Connect 4. This year, a cookie walk by the Brownlees, a haystack hunt by Carol Riley and Ron, and a most impressive gem sluicing opportunity by Brian Bardin were also added. Ben Wanless ran the booming background music all afternoon. The SPPS set up a colorful fall harvest photo shoot set and three St. Pete Firemen came with their big red fire truck. Kids were thrilled to climb inside and learn things about being a fire fighter and fire safety!



Most of all, people visited and connected with one another, spreading the joy of

being part of a big, fun-loving Christian community here at FPC and SPPS! God bless you for coming and helping make this such a special big event by sharing your time, talents, treasures, yourselves and of course your darling children and grandkids!




St. Pete Primary School will be having a give-away for local flood victims of Hurricane Idalia tomorrow, Saturday, November 4, and they're asking for donations (please see below for details). They will have a moving truck in the back parking lot of FPC today, Friday (11/3, from 10 AM - 4 PM and Saturday morning (11/4, 9 AM-noon) so people can drop off donations, then the "give-away" hours will be from noon until 5 PM. If you have any questions, please call the school office (727-894-5889).

ATTENTION:
CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER!

DONATIONS NEEDED!

GENTLY USED FURNITURE AND TOY DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO HELP LOCAL FLOOD VICTIMS OF HURRICANE IDALIA.

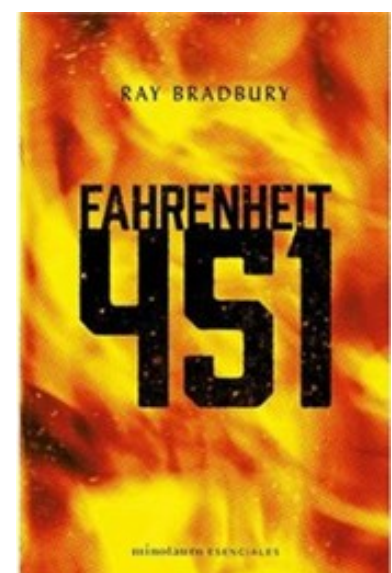
DONATION HOURS:
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD 10AM-4PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH 9AM-12PM
DROP OFF IN ST PETE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARKING LOT
700 N SHORE DR NE



Faith & Fiction
Monday, November 6, 4 PM in Room N-123

Our book this month is *Fahrenheit 451*, by Ray Bradbury; our discussion leader will be Rue Ann Porter.

Seventy years after its publication, this novel remains a classic. Set in a bleak, dystopian era, -- banning books is suddenly current again!



Questions about MEDICARE?
Join us next Tuesday, November 7
at 6:30 PM

On Tuesday, November 7th, at 6:30 PM in the Youth Center, our very own Bill and Marianne Ferrari will be sharing answers to basic Medicare coverage questions. Bill and Marianne are SHINE volunteers who have asked to

help the congregation by hosting a question/answer seminar on the MEDICARE BASICS. Please register online [HERE](#), sign-up on the sign-up sheets after worship services, contact Dave Hunt (513-604-6090), or leave a message at the Church Office.

Wednesday Night Dinner November 8 MEATLOAF NIGHT!



Everyone is invited to join us next Wednesday, **November 8 at 5:30 PM**. After years of practice, the Men's Meatloaf Ministry has perfected their meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and green beans. It will be delish; you won't want to miss it! There will, of course, be other accompaniments, green salad, drinks, and desserts, and yes, all the fixings for PBJ's if you just want a sandwich! Or bring something else you'd like to share! Please sign up [HERE](#) if you plan to attend.

Make a Joyful Noise Music Makers (Kids' Choir) will head upstairs to the big choir room at 6:15 PM with Barbara Brownee, Carol Riley, Cathy Swanson, and Deidra Flora.

Meanwhile, adults will meet Jennifer Gonzalez (Theo and Clarrisa's mom and Fernando's wife) as she takes us through a fascinating tour of her workplace – The U.S. Library of Congress - and answers all our questions about anything we ever wanted to know about what's there and why, and what exactly she does! Greg Barnes has pointed out that Jennifer is an attorney AND a librarian...which means she can sue herself if she reads a banned book! Haha!

WE CARE ABOUT CASA

"Stand Up to Silence" is the mantra of CASA in St. Petersburg. And First Presbyterian is designating our next Mission Sunday to help CASA fight and protect and comfort women and families who've been trapped in abusive situations. **November 12 is the date of our next Mission Sunday.** (We no longer call it "Fifth Sunday Mission" because of too many conflicting dates at our church.)

MISSION ♥
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We need two main things from our membership: 1) Many hands to help pack items for CASA to distribute to their clients and 2) Items to put into these packs or to give separately.

To pack these items, we will meet in Fellowship Hall on November 12, between 9 and 11 AM. So come when it's convenient for you. Members of the Mission Committee will be there to let you know what needs to be done. Light refreshments will be available. (Thank you, Fellowship Committee!)

CASA has approved the below items for adults and for children. If you bring these items in advance of November 12, buckets marked "For CASA" will be by the Giving Trees in each of the worship services. We will then pack the items

below in hygiene bags on November 12.

ITEMS FOR WOMEN:

- Hairbrushes and combs
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Deodorant

ITEMS FOR CHILDREN:

- Hairbrushes and combs
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Body wash
- Kids' toothbrushes and toothpaste

Other items not for packing but which are a Wish List of CASA's are shown below. If interested in getting any of these, you may bring them on November 12 or if in advance place them by the CASA buckets. (All should be new unless indicated otherwise):

- Air mattresses with pumps
- Blankets
- Bras/sports bras
- Socks for women and children
- Car seats (new or gently used and unexpired)
- Pack 'n Plays
- Strollers
- Umbrellas
- Accordion files
- Dish soap



If you're unfamiliar with **CASA**, its mission statement should help you understand what they do: "Challenging the societal acceptance of all forms of domestic violence, CASA stands up to silence through advocacy, prevention,

intervention, and support services. Our Vision: A society free from domestic violence."

According to [CASA's website](#), some facts you may not realize:

- **1 in 3** women are victims of domestic violence.
- **1 in 4** men are victims of domestic violence.
- **1 in 15** children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.
- **7 in 10** survivors reported that their abusers also targeted pets.

Thank each of you for the many ways you help our church's missions. If you have any questions, please contact Mission Committee Chair Sandi Averitt (sanaveritt1@gmail.com; 727.424.9300) or Beth Houghton, who's on the Mission Committee and is CEO of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County (bethannehoughton@gmail.com; 727.422.6884).

Epiphany of Our Lord
Ukrainian Catholic Church
is hosting
its 43rd **Ukrainian
Autumnfest, November
11-12.**

They advertised our
recent hosting of the Kyiv
Symphony Orchestra and
Chorus and several of

their members attended the concert. Last year some of our First Pres members enjoyed their Autumnfest and they have invited us to go again this year. Please see the flyer to the right for more information.



Beach Drive Forum
Wednesday, November 15, 6 PM
Understanding Mental Health Challenges Faced by Transgender Youth
by Jenny Gould, M.D.



Jenny Gould, MD will explore mental health issues experienced by transgender youth, and why it is often to a disproportionately greater degree in comparison to the 'general population.' Dr. Gould will also provide an overview of the growing restrictions related to provision of gender-affirming health care, in Florida and nationwide.

Bio: Jenny Gould, M.D.

Dr. Gould, Board Certified in both General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, has worked in private practice, community mental health centers, academic psychiatry, and as Medical Director of a non-profit mental health agency in Atlanta. Dr. Gould served as adjunct faculty at Emory University in Atlanta for many years. She is currently in solo private practice in St. Petersburg, focusing on children, adolescents, and young adults. Dr. Gould spent much of her childhood and adolescence in the Upper Keys and was an honor graduate at Eckerd College. Dr. Gould lived in the Atlanta area for nearly 30 years. Because of their love for St. Petersburg and the natural beauty of this area, Dr. Gould and her wife Robin moved to St. Pete in 2017.

Childcare will be provided with advance reservations only. Please call the Church Office.

Friendsgiving! Nov. 18



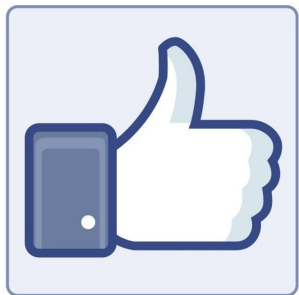
It's time to give thanks for all of our blessings, especially for our church friends and staff. Join us for a Thanksgiving potluck dinner under the stars on Saturday, November 18 at 6:00

PM at the Mossmans' home in Tierra Verde. Turkey and mashed potatoes will be provided. Please bring a side, salad, appetizer or dessert. Please RSVP to Karen (727-400-5079 or karenamossman@gmail.com) and let her know what you're bringing. Come and give thanks!

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 November 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, Room S-202
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Young Adults/Parents Sunday School Class, Room S-206
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Teens' Sunday School Class, Room S-205 (meets every other week)
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)

- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)

- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- **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

- **Thursdays, 6 PM**, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite

- **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)

Upcoming Events:

- **Friday & Saturday, November 3-4**, St. Pete Primary School's collection for hurricane victims
- **Monday, November 6**, 4 PM, Faith & Fiction
- **Tuesday, November 7**, 6:30 PM, Medicare Presentation
- **Wednesday, November 8**, 5:30 PM, Wednesday Night Dinner, 6:15 PM, Kids' Choir
- **Sunday, November 12**, MissionSunday, packing hygiene bags for CASA; St. Pete Fun Run (see note from Pastor Ginny for details)
- **Wednesday, November 15**, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum
- **Saturday, November 18**, 6 PM, Friendsgiving
- **Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24**, Church Office closed for Thanksgiving

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.

First Presbyterian Church
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(727) 822-2031 | 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.



First Presbyterian Church | 701 Beach Drive N.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2618

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