

FIRST NEWS



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

October 21, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM
this Sunday, October 23, 2022
in the Sanctuary or online

*20th Sunday after Pentecost / Presbyterian Heritage Sunday /
Kirkin' of the Tartans*

Rev. Ginny Ellis

Sermon: "On Prayer: The Humility of Faith"

Scriptures: [Jeremiah 14:20-22](#), [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

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

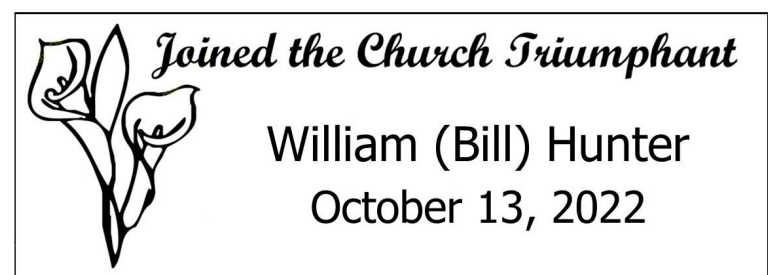
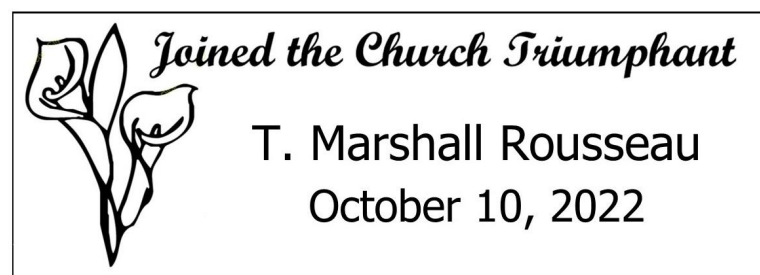
This link may also be found on the home page of the church's website
(www.fpcstpete.com - click the "Watch Here" button)
as well as on the church's Facebook page.

If the 10:00 hour on Sundays does not fit your schedule, the service is available for viewing on [our YouTube channel](#) throughout the week. Feel free to share the link with family and friends!

PLEASE NOTE: we have a MASK-OPTIONAL policy for worship services and on-campus activities.



Please remember in prayer: All the victims of Hurricane Ian, Faith Bedford, Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, Michelle Carothers, John Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Nina Glover, Margo Hart, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Larry Kirsch, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke



Please keep in prayer all those who have been physically, emotionally, and financially affected by the coronavirus, and join us in praying for an end to this situation.

Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: Marc-Antoni Juliá, USN LT; 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,

LOOKING AHEAD: This Sunday, we will celebrate our Scottish and other heritages. Among the tartan banners, there are two special, unusual banners; one made with an African cloth, and one with a rainbow design. These banners lift up the welcome presence of those who are not necessarily of Euro/Scottish descent. All are welcome here! We do hope if you are here this coming Sunday you will especially enjoy the Scottish bagpipes and drums. It will be a wonderful day, as we worship God!

LOOKING BACK: *The Road Ahead* Town Hall Meeting was held last Sunday,

October 16 (see photos below). There were 70-75 in the Fellowship Hall, enjoying lunch together. Then the group got to see boards presenting themes that surfaced during *The Road Ahead* Conversation Groups. The boards were set up like a gallery, so that people could walk along and read the comments. Folks were given "dots" (like you might see pricing items at a yard sale) and were invited to put dots by any idea they especially liked. The theme boards began to be quite colorful as dots proliferated! The multitude of ideas generated good conversation. There was a short time for discussion and for questions, but most of the meeting involved seeing the thematic boards and posting dots to show what folks found most interesting.

For those who tried to participate by tuning in to YouTube: I want to say that I know that didn't work very well. The event was mostly informal and therefore harder to include online participation. For those of you who faithfully participated in the Zoom conversation groups: Thank you. I'll do all I can to keep you apprised of what is going on.

NEXT STEPS: There were no decisions being made at this Town Hall Meeting. All this feedback is now going to the church elders, who will be praying about and making the next series of decisions. Stay tuned!

Blessings,
Ginny Ellis



Lectio Divina on Monday mornings

We would love for you to join us on Monday mornings at 10 AM via Zoom for Lectio Divina, when we reflect on scriptures that will be used in the coming Sunday's worship service. To join, just click the link: [HERE](#).

We need you to

HOLD YOUR BANNERS HIGH!



First Presbyterian Church will celebrate Presbyterian Heritage Sunday this Sunday, Oct. 23. This grand service includes the "[Kirkin' of the Tartans](#)," the procession and display of our 20-plus tartan and other cultural banners, along with the stunning music of St. Andrew's Pipes and Drums. The bagpipe and drum corps will process and play during the service and present a short concert on the

front patio after worship.

We need at least 10 volunteers to process down the aisle carrying tartans that are attached to poles that are then placed in standards on the chancel steps.

Please email Gretchen.Letterman@gmail.com TODAY to let her know you are willing to take part in the processional. If you wish to carry a family or friend's tartan, please let her know that, too. Banner carriers will gather in the choir room at 9:30 a.m. that Sunday, Oct. 23.

CHURCH BUS!!!

On TV they called out "Move that bus!!!" We plan to move our bus, returning it to service driving folks to and from church on Sunday mornings.

Here's what we need to know:

- Who is willing to be on our driver list?
- Who will want rides?



Please call the Church Office if you are able to volunteer to drive, or if you will be wanting a ride! We'll be putting the bus route together and hopefully starting in November. Stay tuned!

TRUNK OR TREAT AND

GREAT CHILI COOK-OFF!



Saturday

October 29

4:00-6:00 p.m.

North Shore Parking Lot

Gather all your little ghosts and goblins and head over to First Pres for our annual Trunk or Treat and Great Chili Cook-Off next Saturday, Oct. 29 from 4-6 p.m.

How can you participate?

- Decorate the trunk of your car and hand out candy! We are looking for a few more decorated trunks for the many Trunk-or-Treaters we are expecting! Please sign up in the Sanctuary or online [HERE](#).
- Enter your greatest hit chili in the Great Chili Cook-Off! OR be a taste-tester and vote for your favorite!
- Mingle with St. Pete Primary School families!
- Donate candy to be handed out (thanks for all the donations so far!)



We will also have fun games, an inflatable slide, a photo booth, and St. Pete Firemen will be there with one of their big red fire engines to explore! Plus, in addition to chili, we'll have hot dogs, chips, and lemonade.

Invite your grandkids, neighbors, and friends to come join this Halloween extravaganza!

PIPE SCREAMS

This year's annual Halloween concert, *Pipe Screams*, takes place next Tuesday night, October 25, at 7 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church (467 1st Avenue North) in downtown St. Petersburg. Sponsored by the St. Petersburg Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the concert features chapter members, including our own Jack Rain, performing spooky organ works to get us into the festive mood for Halloween. Performers and audience members are urged to come in costume with the opportunity to win some prizes. A reception of punch and cookies will follow afterwards.



Crazy Socks-y Sunday

Are you ready? Are you ready for Crazy Socks-y Sunday?! Come to church on **October 30** wearing the craziest socks you have. As pastor Ginny Ellis says, "You don't have to wear the socks on your feet. Be creative!" [Now that should be interesting!] Yet don't worry, if you're an ol' fuddy-duddy like some of the Meat Loaf Ministry guys, we'll still accept you if you're wearing plain ol' white, brown, gray, black or blue socks.

What's this about, you might ask? Wear your craziest pair of socks...**BUT ALSO** bring bundles of **NEW** regular socks and **NEW** underwear for the homeless—adult and children, men, and women. In other words...**Let's Go Crazy Bringing Socks and Underwear!!!**

When is it? Our 5th Sunday MissionSunday

on October 30; 10 AM service, 11 AM to help sort and pack the new socks and underwear. After sorting, sit down for a fun potluck lunch with a chance to catch up with friends. So also bring a dish to share with others. Kyle Brinkman is bringing the meat (unless you're vegan or vegetarian).



Where will it be? The service will be in Fellowship Hall (and NOT in the Sanctuary) as will the sorting and packing the new socks and underwear, all followed by the potluck lunch.

What non-profit will be getting these gifts, you may wonder? More than any other St. Pete agency, St. Vincent de Paul is on the front line for taking in our homeless neighbors and working with them. Located at 384 15th Street N, it's "the primary emergency shelter for homeless families," says session member Beth Houghton and CEO of the Juvenile Welfare Board of Pinellas County.

If you have any questions about all this, please contact the Mission Committee's Co-Moderator Beth Houghton (727.422.6864; bethannehoughton@gmail.com) or member Susan Schlecht (727.735.5332; schlecht21975@gmail.com).

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The 2022 Officer Nominating Committee has begun meeting and invites your suggestions of members who might serve as elder or deacon, the lay leaders in the Presbyterian church. Elders and Deacons are elected by the congregation. After election they are trained for their work and ordained and/or installed at worship to their office. Elders at FPC work in the areas of Worship, Education, Mission, Finance, Administration and Property. Deacons are engaged in the ministries of Congregational Care.

Feel free to contact any member of the Committee with names you would like to recommend. The committee is made up of Karen Mossman, chair; and members Peter Bardin, Jim Garnett, Brad Hussung, Gretchen Letterman, Sally Lyle, and Dottie Young. Thank you for your prayers and your support!

Childcare/Kids Ministry Updates



- A new childcare & kid's room is **COMING SOON!** New flooring, fresh paint, and new mini-blinds will soon be installed in Room 203!
- Interviews for new Childcare staff are underway. (We hope to have someone in place soon!)
- Donation request: if you have any clean, new or gently-used children's books, toys, or furniture that would be appropriate OR if you're redecorating yourself, we could use a couple of cute, comfy

chairs. Before dropping off any large items, please send pictures to Pastor Jeanie at jbarnes@fpc-stpete.org.

- If you would like to volunteer to help the new staff once a month during church, please sign up in the Sanctuary or contact Pastor Jeanie (727-822-2031). THANK YOU!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Here's your chance to share some of your talents with your church! We are in need of ALL SIZES (child and adult) costumes for our Family Christmas Eve Pageant.

IF YOU CAN SEW:

- Sheep, donkey and cow EARS (or even a few kitty, doggie or other favorite animal ears and tails)

IF YOU CANNOT SEW (but you can create!):

- Wise men head dress or crowns
- Shepherd head dress (like a cotton tea towel and tie)
- Representations of gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh

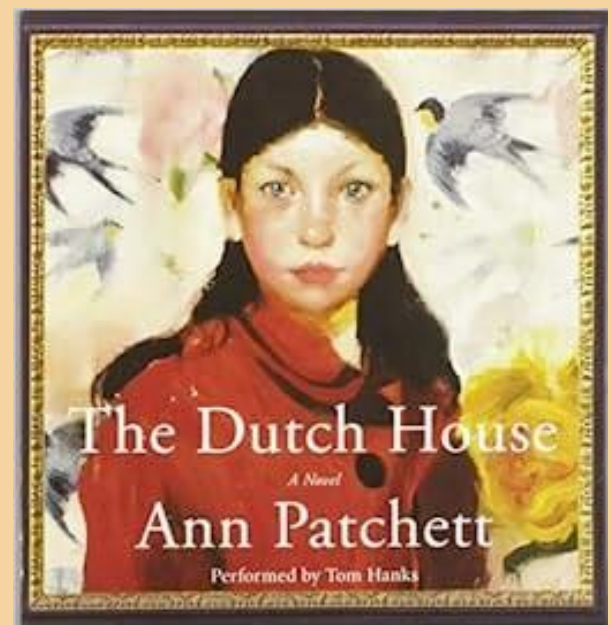
IF YOU CAN DO SIMPLE CARPENTRY:

- Construct a light-weight frame for sky as backdrop to stable below
- Construct a light-weight outline of stable

Please sign up in the Sanctuary and/or call the Church Office for further instructions and pattern/size ideas. Questions? Contact Pastor Jeanie (727-822-2031).

Faith & Fiction Monday, November 3 7:00 p.m., Room N123

This month, we'll be discussing *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett, which is a coming-of-age story about a brother and sister who grew up in a mansion known as "The Dutch House." The story follows them for five decades and was a Pulitzer Prize finalist. There are plenty of copies of this book (both electronic and hard copies) at the library, and, should you choose the audiobook, you will be pleasantly surprised to hear Tom Hanks reading this story to you! Al May will be our discussion leader.



2023 Honduras Mission Trip Interest Meeting Sunday, November 13

Our next mission trip to Honduras will be June 11-17, 2023. If you might be interested in going, or if you have any questions, please join us for an information meeting on Sunday, November 13, in the Chapel, directly following

the worship service. If you can't make the meeting, or if you have questions ahead of time, please contact Susan Schlecht at 727-735-5332 or schlecht21975@gmail.com.



Senior Luncheon!
*Sponsored by
the Deacons*
**Fun! Food!
Fellowship!**



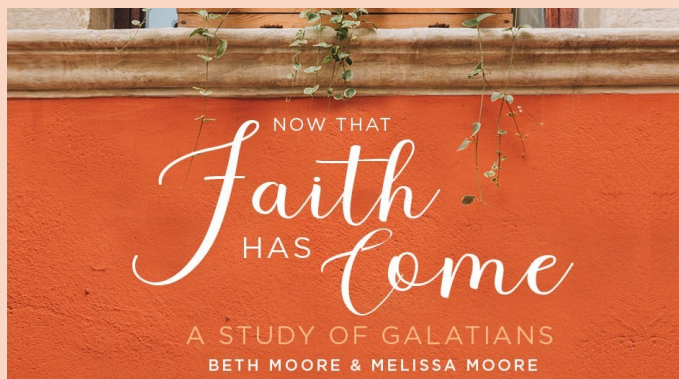
**Wednesday, November 16 from 12:00 - 1:00 PM
in the Fellowship Hall**

Please call the church office at 822-2031 to make your reservation no later than Monday, November 7th. Let us know if you will need transportation.

**Celebrate "Friendsgiving" with
your church friends** at the
Mossman's home in Tierra Verde on
Saturday evening, **November 12 at 6 PM.**



Bring a favorite Thanksgiving dish to share with others as we dine outside under the light of the moon. Please RSVP by Nov. 7 to Karen Mossman (karenamossman@gmail.com or 727-400-5079) and let her know what you will prepare so a balanced Thanksgiving dinner will be provided. Stargazing will follow, compliments of the Brinkman Observatory. Join us as we give thanks for each other and all our blessings!



"Now That Faith Has Come - A Study of Galatians"

Join Beth & Melissa Moore for a 7-week deep-dive into Paul's captivating letter to the Galatians. Let's study it's original context and embrace it's timeless relevance. We will discover - or perhaps rediscover - what makes the gospel of Jesus revolutionary to those who choose to believe.

**Join us on Tuesday mornings through November 1, 2022
9:00 – 11:30 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? April Hussung: (727) 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.

Be a part of FPC's participation in the **Downtown Santa Parade** on Nov. 26. Gather your friends and family and ride in the decorated church van or walk along side during the Santa parade. Santa hat will be provided for all participants. Parade begins at 6 PM with lineup at 4 PM. If interested,



contact Karen Mossman, 727-400-5079 or karenamossm@gmail.com.



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 October 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, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- Sundays, 9 AM, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- Sundays, 10 AM, 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, 7:30 PM, Praise Band Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall (Oct. 26 only)
- Thursdays, 6 PM, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- Thursdays, 7 PM, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- 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, October 23, Kirkin' O' the Tartans/Presbyterian Heritage Sunday
- Saturday, October 29, 4-6 PM, back parking lot, Trunk or Treat
- Sunday, October 30, MissionSunday, lunch followed by a mission project; we're asking for donations of socks and underwear
- Monday, November 3, 7 PM, Faith & Fiction
- Saturday, November 12, 6 PM, "Friendsgiving" potluck at the Mossmans' house
- Sunday, November 13, 11 AM, Honduras Mission Trip Interest meeting
- Wednesday, November 16, 12 PM, Senion Luncheon, Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, November 26, join FPC in participating in the Downtown Santa Parade

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
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(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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