

FIRST NEWS



September 1, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, September 3, 2023
Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost / Lord's Supper

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon Series: **Fruits of the Spirit**
Sermon: "**Self-Control**"
Scripture: [Galatians 5:22-23](#), [2 Samuel 12:1-7a](#),
[Romans 7:15-20b](#)

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.



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



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



Please remember in prayer: All those affected by Hurricane Idalia, Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, 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, Ann Murray's parents (Gloria & Edson), Nancy Ogden, Alan Pfeider, Richard Pfeider, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke

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,

I am writing this on Thursday, after evacuating from Hurricane Idalia and returning, safely, to our home. It looks like we can be singing hymns of

thanksgiving and praise as this storm went north of us and pretty far west in the gulf, thus sparing us much of the brunt of its fury. If you suffered water or other damage and need help, please let me/us know. The church property came through fine; Johnny says we lost a few limbs and had damage to a couple of the lights in the parking lot. Many thanks to our God!

It looks like a couple of our sister churches in the north part of our Presbytery, specifically, the churches in Crystal River and Tarpon Springs, suffered more damage to members' homes and perhaps to the church property. If we find out ways to help them, I will let you know on Sunday at worship or next week.

This Sunday is Communion Sunday and the last week in our "Fruits of the Spirit" series of sermons (Self-Control!). I hope you will be able to join us in worship at 9:00 in the Youth Center for Connect or in the Sanctuary at 11:00. Or you can watch either of the services online from wherever you are. If you are watching online, please remember to have bread and cup ready for the sacrament.

And, once again, I pray that we all remember the promised strength we have in our God: *Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.*

Be safe, my dear friends. Hold onto your faith and watch for the ways God's love upholds us and those we love, in the days to come, no matter what happens in our lives.

See you at church!

Blessings,
Ginny Ellis



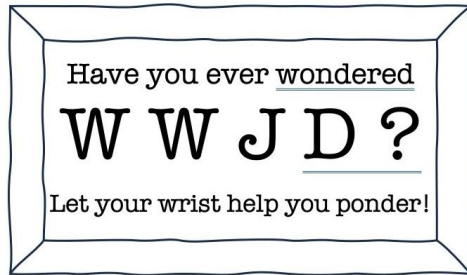
The Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of Labor Day.

Lectio/Visio Divina

Join us in a Zoom devotion time at 10 a.m. on Mondays (meeting on Labor Day) for the practice of Lectio/Visio Divina, a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

The roll-out of our updated database system (**Realm**), which was originally scheduled for earlier

this week, was postponed due to Hurricane Idalia. It has been re-scheduled for next week; you will see the first email (in a series of informational and instructional emails) on Monday.



God Squad Craft Night

You are invited to a fun night of creative crafting, finger foods, and socializing!

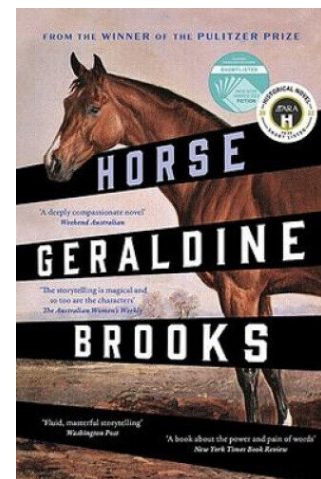
Thursday, September 7th at 5:30 PM

Create a "WWJD" bracelet from a large collection of beads, charms, and even crystal birthstones. Guidance and advice will be available, if desired. Please invite all your friends to this adult-only evening. Registration is requested so we may properly prepare for this evening: [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP.

Reminder: now is the time to start reading (or reviewing if you read it a while ago) our first book for the coming Faith & Fiction season. The book is *HORSE* by Geraldine Brooks.

Discussion will be on Monday, October 3rd in Room N-123. PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME: 4 PM

For the list of Faith & Fiction reads for the season, click [HERE](#).



GET CONNECTED AT FPC!

You are invited to grow in faith and fellowship here at FPC! We have new groups that are starting as well as several on-going groups that are starting back up after a summer break. There are so many opportunities for community and spiritual growth, for adults and children...we invite you to join one (or more)! Click the button below to see the complete list of Sunday school and weekday options we have available!

[CLICK HERE FOR COMPLETE LISTING OF FPC GROUPS!](#)

The Power Hour Class Resumes September 10

Are you looking for a sense of belonging at FPC St Pete? Then, you will want to join the fun, welcoming, God-loving group called The Power Hour Sunday School class. We will meet beginning Sept. 10 for coffee time & lively Bible study and discussion on topics relevant to the lives we live today. we meet at



Presbyterian Women resume our circle bible study in September.

The 2023–2024 PW/Horizons Bible study is “Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts” by Olive Mahabir.

Within the pages of this study, the author invites you to consider Jesus and Jesus’ disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people. The Gospel according to Luke and the book of the Acts of the Apostles, or Luke-Acts, “one story in two parts,” demonstrate the unfolding of God’s redemptive purposes in human history and present a distinctive perspective on the person and work of Jesus Christ. Written by Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul, the message to the early Christian community (and to us) is radical, inclusive, and hope-filled.

If you are not currently a member of a PW circle and would like to join, please leave your name and contact number with the Church Office. We would love to talk with you about it! [CLICK HERE](#) to see this year's circle meeting times and places.

Ladies, you are invited to a new Bible Study starting September 12

Isaiah Striving Less & Trusting God More

This 7-session Bible study by Melissa Spoelstra will encourage us to let go of striving and learn to trust in God’s character, His comfort, and even His correction. Isaiah was human like us, and yet he radically trusted God and called anyone who would listen to do the same.



Join us on Tuesday mornings
September 12 – October 24
9 AM - 11:30 AM in the Youth Center

Workbooks will be available for \$25 (includes streaming video access for all sessions). Bring a friend! No previous Bible study experience is needed. Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. To register: call or text April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or email at stapler39@aol.com.



Coffee Hour Crew Needed

We're looking for discerning, insightful, and fun folks for a committee to help kick off the new after-Sanctuary-church "coffee hour."

Email eva1popo@gmail.com or call Eva Popovich at 707-217-6030 or NOW. We need you!

Kitchen Volunteers Needed

Starting Sept. 13, once or twice a month (usually Wednesday evenings) we will need kitchen volunteers when food is served for church events, to help with set up and/or clean up. If you are able to help, please contact Pastor Jeanie Barnes (jbarnes@fpc-stpete.org) or Amy McCutcheon in the Church Office (727-822-2031).

Wednesday Night Suppers Start September 13

Mark your calendars, because you won't want to miss any of this fall's line-up for Wednesday Night Suppers! They are scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month (except December when it will be on the second Tuesday for essential reasons!)



OUR KICKOFF will be September 13 at 5:30 PM! We'll have Kyle's World-Famous BBQ, including beef brisket, sliced pork and sausage, and all the fixings – cornbread, baked beans, coleslaw, soft green beans, along with Greg Helck's dreamy 3-cheese Mac 'n' Cheese and a variety of desserts.

The New Kids' Choir also will kick off at 6:10 PM! Our first night together on Sept. 13 is set aside for making props for our performance in December! While the kids are busy there, parents are invited to listen to BBQ Master Kyle Brinkmann enlighten us regarding the regional differences when it comes to BBQ. You will even get to vote for your favorite, all while listening to some blue grass music and visiting with friends old and new around the tables! Pick up your kids at 6:40 PM and you'll still have them home and getting ready for bed by 7!



Beach Drive Forums Are Back!

Your Beach Drive Forum planning team is excited to welcome you to our fall season. Please mark your calendars to join in these community conversations at 6 p.m. **Sept.**

20, Oct. 18 and Nov. 15 in Fellowship Hall.
Light delectable bites will be served.



September 20: *What Makes a Poem?* by St. Petersburg Poet Laureate Gloria Muñoz.

Gloria Muñoz, an award-winning Colombian-American writer, translator, and advocate for multilingual literacy, will talk about her career, read from her work and lead the audience in some poetry writing. One lucky person will win a copy of one of her books.



"Hope for Ukraine" Concert Planning: Success Beyond Our Imagination

An opportunity to host a Ukrainian world class Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and to offer financial help for their humanitarian aid to Ukrainian widows, orphans, and war victims landed in our laps early this year. Members of our FPC congregation were excited and got to work planning for the event. Then it was postponed due to the lengthy process of applying for visas. The plans were put on the shelf.

Early this summer the concert was rescheduled. Plans were immediately taken off the shelf. Four task teams were formed and the successes to this point are beyond our imagination! The result is:

"Hope for Ukraine" Concert - free
Performed by
The Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus (KSOC)
Sunday, Sept. 17, 4 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church of St Petersburg

An early decision was to have this as a community-wide outreach event, going beyond the membership of FPC to serve a critical need in a war-torn country.

The Communications Task Team, led by Mary Johnson, has done a mammoth job of publicizing to 57 pastors/churches, local neighbor newsletters and TV and radio stations. They have written the weekly articles in First News. The responses to each effort have been heartwarming.

The Donations Task Team, led by Al May, had the task of meeting our \$20,000 commitment to KSOC's humanitarian aid mission. 100% of donations will go to their work with widows, orphans, and war victims. Four weeks prior to the concert, donations have totaled \$19,212.00! The cause is a worthy one and donations will continue to come, including the freewill offering taken during the concert. The

need in Ukraine is beyond our imagination.

The Hospitality Task Team, led by Marilyn Mulcahy and Lynne Mormino, has planned in detail the welcoming and feeding of our guests. Many members have volunteered to donate food as well as preparing, serving, and cleaning-up after meals. Gift bags will include a selection of items reminding the musicians of their time with us.

The Housing Task Team, led by Ronn Johnson, has the task of securing 15 homes for the musicians. The KSOC women are paired with at least one who speaks English. Folks within our congregation as well as in the community have opened their homes to these women.

In addition to performing the concert, KSOC will be singing for the St. Pete Primary School kids on Monday morning, then travel to Gibbs High School to sing for the gifted singers there, then have a free tour of the James Museum, a bus tour of downtown St. Petersburg by Sherry Oliver and Joan Karins, an All-American Bar-b-que dinner ala Kyle Brinkman, and a visit to Pass-a-Grille Beach to see the sunset! What a day for these special women!

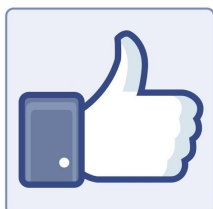
Still needed: food, helping hands to prepare, serve, and clean-up after meals, financial donations for their humanitarian efforts, and for you to continue **SPREADING THE WORD!**



All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.

stay
CONNECTED

- 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!

Online Giving



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 September 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 203
- **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, (resumes September 10)
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Forward Together Sunday School Class for young adults and parents (New! Starts September 10)
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)

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

- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center (resumes Sept. 12)
- **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 (on summer break)
- Thursdays, 7 PM, Chancel Choir Rehearsal (on summer break)
- Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study
- Fridays, 12 PM, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events:

- Monday, September 4, Church Office closed for Labor Day
- Thursday, September 7, God Squad Craft Night, 5:30 PM, Room S-100
- Sunday, September 10, Fall Sunday School Kick-Off, with new classes starting at 10 a.m. for adults, young adults, and children.
- Wednesday, September 13, 5:30 PM, Wednesday Night Dinner and 6:10 PM, Kids' Choir
- Sunday, September 17, 4 PM, [Hope for Ukraine Concert](#)
- Wednesday, September 20, 6 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.

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.



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