

Your
Weekly News
from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

August 23, 2019

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

WORSHIP SERVICES:

9:00 AM - Contemporary Worship Service, Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM - Classic Worship Service, Sanctuary

The sermon for this Sunday is "Faith and Character: Compassion"

Scripture: [Psalm 71:1-6](#); [Luke 13:10-17](#)

Rev. Ruth Elswood

Special Music: Erin McGilvrey, soprano; Jack Rain, piano

"How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings" by Samuel Liddle

"Im Abendrot" (At Sunset) by Franz Schubert

Click [here](#) for Sunday's bulletin and announcements.



**Welcome Erin McGilvrey, Soprano Soloist
At the 11:00 Service**

This Sunday we welcome soprano and senior student at Pinellas County Center for the Arts, Erin McGilvrey. Erin regularly performs as a soloist and ensemble member in the local community. Erin is the granddaughter of First Presbyterian Church members James and Iberia Johnston.



**Church Music Department
Kickoff Party**

On Friday September 6th at 6 PM we will have our annual Music Department Kickoff Picnic at Barbara Mauger's House (5034 33rd Ave N). Please bring a covered dish to share and a beverage if you would like something other than tea or soda. Everyone involved in the music of our church from the chancel choir, praise band, bell choir, and office staff are invited as well as their friends and family.



A new season of church music will begin soon as our Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir members return from their summer hiatus. The Chancel Choir invites you to join us for our rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7 PM in the choir room and in the choir loft on Sunday mornings during the 11:00 service. Our Bell Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 6PM and plays during the 11:00 service throughout the liturgical year.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about these ensembles, please contact Matthew Clear, Director of Traditional Worship Music and the Arts at mclear@fpc-stpete.org

Please join us for a Congregational Dinner and Town Hall Meeting September 11, 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Earlier this year, the session assigned six sub-task forces the work of discerning God's will for the future of First Presbyterian by identifying recommendations (pertaining to the ministry area of the church they represent) that will best help our church flourish and grow. Their recommendations were recently submitted to a "Revitalization Team" and they stem from the prayers, hearts, thoughtful minds, and months of work of these task force members.

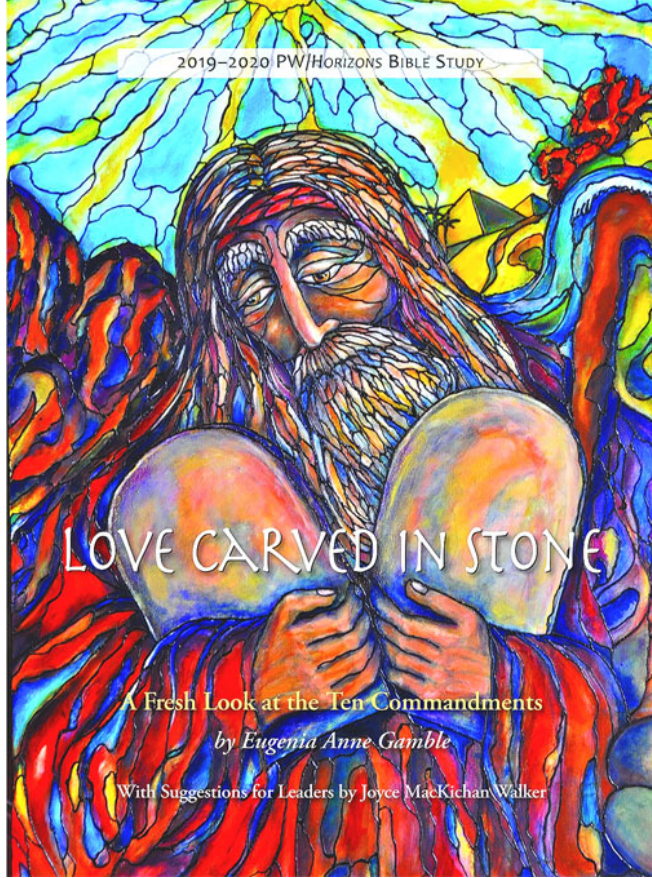
The Revitalization Team took the reports and recommendations from each of the sub-task forces (as well as other interested members of the church family), categorized them by subject as well as impact and cost, and came up with a final list of recommendations for the session. Remarkably (and admirably), the longest list of things we can do to revitalize and grow our church are things which are "doable" now, at little or no cost. We would like to share these recommendations with our congregation on September 11.

Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM, with a presentation by the Revitalization Team after. The dinner menu will be choice of Chicken or Cheese Enchiladas, Black Beans, Yellow Rice and Mexican Cheesecake. To make sure we have enough food ordered, PLEASE RSVP FOR DINNER by turning in a completed insert on Sunday morning or by calling the Church Office (727) 822-2031.

Love Carved In Stone A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments



Presbyterian Women's Bible study for



Our study this year is "Loved Carved in Stone, A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments," an exploration of the Ten Commandments from a new perspective. What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but instead a "love letter" from a loving God? Discover what author Eugenia Gamble suggests it could do.

Plan to refresh your spirit and enjoy fellowship with other women beginning in September and running through May. If you are not a current PW Circle member and would like to join, please contact Rachel Bowron (rbowron@aol.com or 727-433-0571) to be connected to a circle that works for you. For a current list of circle meeting times, you can also [click HERE](#).

Yoga With Adam

Yoga with Adam begins again on Sunday, September 8, 3 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Adam is a registered yoga teacher at the 500 hour level (500 RYT). He first began teaching 6 years ago and has been practicing yoga for more than 18 years.



Class meets each Sunday from 3:00-4:15 pm. Childcare available, but please RSVP to ensure there is enough coverage in the nursery. E-mail: childcare@fpc-stpete.org
Donations accepted for FPC, but not required.

Everyone is welcome. No previous experience with yoga needed, but you must be able to stand unassisted for long periods.



New Sermon Series starting
September 22

What happens when our world
falls apart?

How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads?
What do we become when our identity—or the path we're on—comes undone?
What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be?

In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope—with a new beginning we couldn't have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed. This series will explore stories in the Bible of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. May God meet us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new.

GriefShare Support Group Starting September 10

GriefShare is a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. The group will meet on Tuesday mornings from 10:00 to 11:30 AM, September 10 - December 17, in the Chapel at First Presbyterian Church and will be led by our Parish Associate, Rev. Ruth Elswood.

For more information, you can check out a [short video](#) about GriefShare.

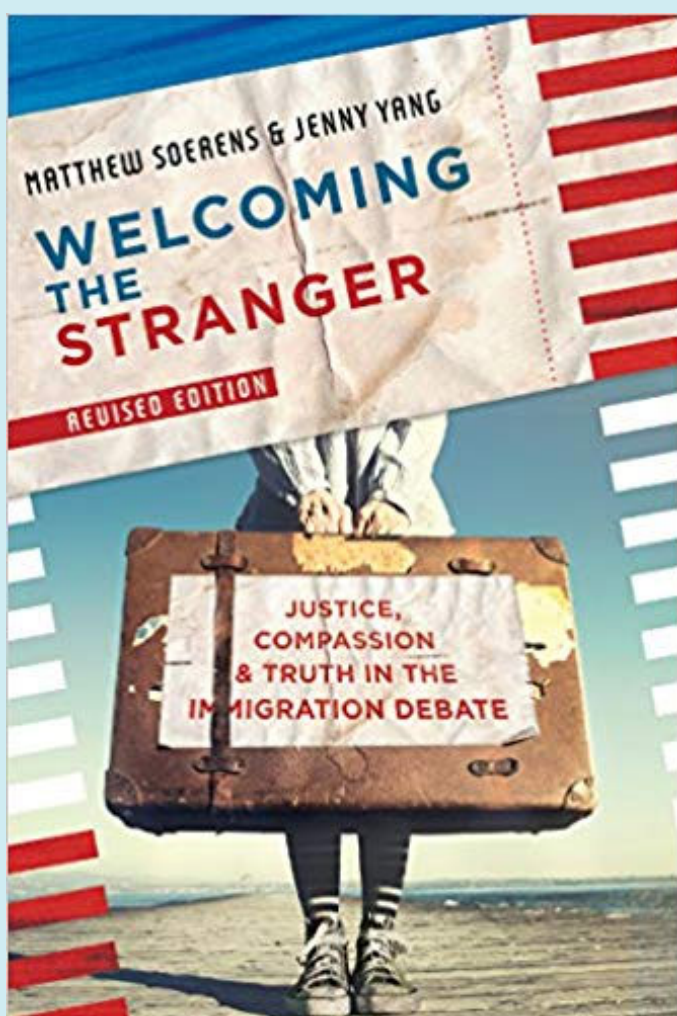
If you wish to attend the group or have questions, please email relswood@fpc-stpete.org (your information will remain confidential). Or you may just show up at any of the meetings. Attendance is open to everyone.



Starting Again on September 18 Mark Your Calendars!

5:30 PM Dinner catered by the fantastic Debbie Brown
(as we have done in the past)

6:00 PM Choose from the following:



Adult Group #1

Offered by Ruth Elswood

Immigration is one of the most complex and controversial issues of our time. Everyone seems to agree: the United States' immigration system has some problems. But that's sometimes as far as the agreement goes, with discussions quickly

Adult Group #2

Christian Coupling: A Way to Better Relationships

Offered by Dave Aumack

Couples helping Couples,
A guided discussion

Looking for a Couples Study Group?

Need to share life's frustrations with other couples?

This Study/Life Group is for everyone who is looking to improve their relationship, whether dating, newlyweds, or celebrating their 50th and everyone in-between.

Starting with the acclaimed Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage© Seminar series by Mark Gungor the group will also incorporate Fighting for Your Marriage PREP material and open discussions about life and Christ.

devolving into arguments over the best policy solution. How are we to sort through this complex issue? Join us as we think through and talk through a Christian response to immigration.

Messy Church for Children: Super Heroes of the Bible

These programs run Wednesday nights for 6 weeks (September 18 - October 23).

We will need a team of volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up. If you are ready, willing, and able to serve on at least one Wednesday night, please email Amy Grossenbacher at amyg@fpc-stpete.org

Who To Call With Pastoral Emergency

Pastor Dawn will be out of the office for the next few weeks on study leave (August 18-24) and then vacation (August 25-September 1). In the event that there is a pastoral emergency during that time, there are two people filling in (see below):

August 18-August 21 - Rev. Ruth Elswood, Parish Associate (352) 278-0757
August 22-August 24 – Rev. Ken Young (207) 841-8562
August 25-August 28 - Rev. Ruth Elswood, Parish Associate (352) 278-0757
August 29-August 31 – Rev. Ken Young (207) 841-8562

You can also call the Church Office (727-822-2031) during regular business hours.

FPC Calendar At A Glance

[Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online.

Coming up in August

- [August Birthdays](#)
- [August Parent Calendar](#)
- Beth Moore Bible Study, Youth Center, 9:15 AM or 6:30 PM (Tuesdays through October 8)
- Tuesday, September 3 & 17 - Meditation for Christians, 7 PM, Chapel (Contact: [Carlen Maddux](#))
- Sunday, September 8 - Rally Day! One service at 10 AM
- Sunday, September 8 - Yoga With Adam, 3 PM, Fellowship Hall (regularly scheduled on Sunday afternoons, refer to church calendar for any variation)
- Tuesday, September 10 & 17 - Grief Share, 10 AM, Chapel
- Wednesday, September 11 - Congregational Dinner & Town Hall Meeting, 5:30 PM, Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, September 17 - Melodies for the Mind, 2 PM, Choir Room (Contact: kbenn21188@aol.com)
- Sunday, September 15 - Commissioning of Stephen Ministers
- Wednesday, September 18, 10:30 AM until noon, Room N-123 First of "Five Week Study, Gun Violence Prevention Discussion". Meets every Wednesday through October 16.

- Sunday, September 22 - New Sermon Series begins, "Unraveled"
- Monday, October 7 - Faith & Fiction, 7:30 - 8:30 PM, Room N-123 (meets the 1st Monday of each month through April 2020). [Here](#) is the Reading List.

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. Send copy to [Mary Johnson](#) and [Amy Grossenbacher](#).

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.



First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg, Florida

