

Your
Weekly News
from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

September 13, 2019

Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM - Contemporary Worship Service, Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM - Classic Worship with Choir, Sanctuary

The sermon for this Sunday is "The Ministry of Presence"

Scripture: [1 Samuel 3:1-20](#); [Psalm 30](#); [Mark 1:40-45](#)

Dr. Dawn Conti

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

Next Sunday is Stephen Ministry Sunday



Stephen Ministers: The "After People"

What is a Stephen Minister? One way to define them is that they are the "After People."

Stephen Ministers are there

- After the phone call you hoped you'd never get.
- After the funeral, when everyone has left, and the emotions you held at bay come crashing down.
- After the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."
- After the last child waves and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty.
- After your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Contact Pastor Dawn, Ginger McCoy, (727) 804-2494, or Terry Schoenberg, (727) 667-1023.

Stephen Ministers are the After People, ready to come alongside you – or your friends, neighbors, coworkers or relatives – and provide comfort and support for as long after as needed.

Next Sunday During Both Services

All families are invited to FPC's annual Blessing of the Backpacks Sunday, September 15. Children (as well as their siblings) are encouraged to bring their backpacks for

Blessing
of the
Backpacks



a special blessing. What a great way to start the school year!

Gun Violence Prevention Discussion Begins September 18



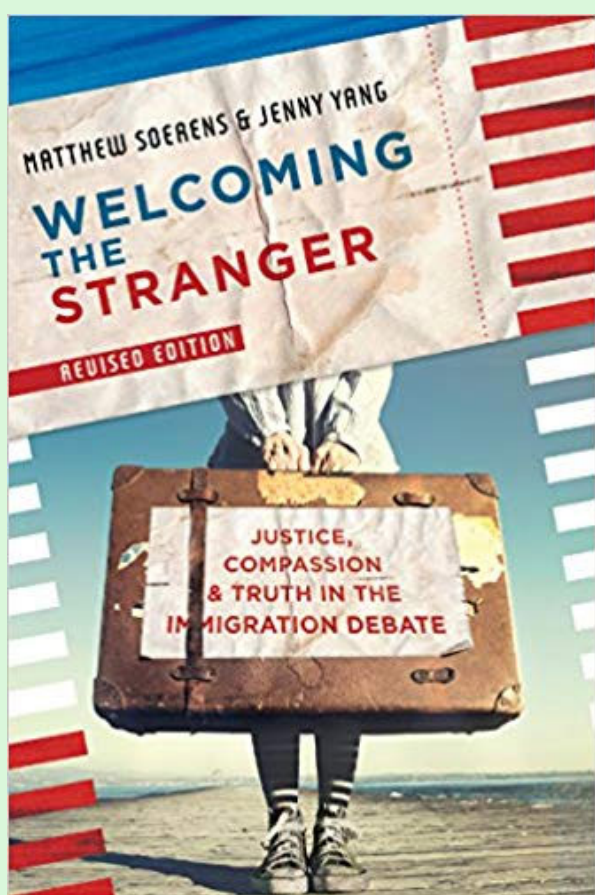
In the wake of recent mass shootings, our nation once again finds itself mourning the senseless loss of innocent life. In response to these tragedies, we will be holding a five-week study and discussion (using the "Gun Violence Prevention Congregational Toolkit" by Presbyterian Peace Fellowship as a resource), on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 AM – noon, starting on September 18 in Room N-123. Those who would like to participate in this discussion or who have any questions, please contact Amy Grossenbacher at (727) 822-2031 or amyg@fpc-stpete.org.

Wednesday Night Live - Begins Sep. 18

5:00 PM Children's Choir, Choir Room
For ages 4 - 10 years old

5:30 PM Dinner catered by the fantastic Debbie Brown
(as we have done in the past)
Dinner: Spaghetti with Meatballs (or Veggie Lasagna),
Bread, Brownies + a child-friendly meal option *

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

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

has some problems. But that's sometimes as far as the agreement goes, with discussions quickly 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.

open discussions about life and Christ.

Messy Church for Children: Super Heroes of the Bible

* Call the church office if you will be joining us for dinner (727) 822-2031

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



Help set up, serve, and clean up at Wednesday Night Live

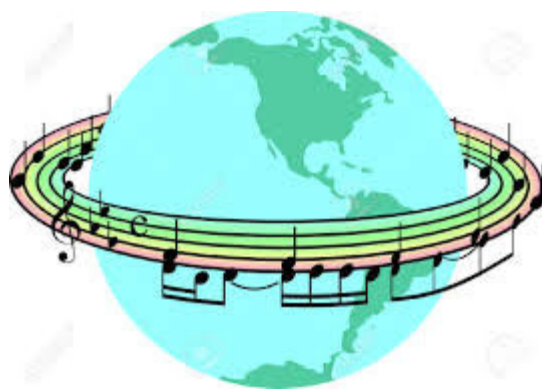
If you are ready, willing, and able to be part of a team which serves on at least one Wednesday night, September 18 - October 23, please email Amy Grossenbacher at amyg@fpc-stpete.org



New Sermon Series Begins
September 22

*What happens when our world falls apart?
How do we press onward when our tightly-knit plans unravel into loose threads?*

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



Presbyterian Women's General Meeting "Sing The World Round"

Rev. Noel Koestline will present "Sing the World Round," Sacred Song Unites Global People of Faith, Worship Songs from Five Continents. The event will be held on Saturday, September 28 at 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall with brunch provided.

RSVP through your circle or to Rachel Bowron (rbowron@aol.com or (727) 433-0571) by September 23.



Revitalization Team Reports at Town Hall Meeting

Identifying areas in which we can make a difference in our church

On September 11, Don Doddridge lead a meeting explaining The Revitalization Team's visioning process for the future of our church. Information was given on two initiatives approved by the Session as well as the Top 10 Good Things Happening at FPC.

Church members and friends may help make a difference by volunteering in one or more of the areas numbered one through ten on the attached handout. [Click here](#). Volunteer by emailing [Amy Grossenbacher](#) and mentioning the area with which you would like to help. Also you can volunteer by filling out a "sticky note" available at both Sunday services.

Another [handout](#) from the meeting shows a timeline for prioritizing projects.



Last Sunday's Rally Day Reception

Following the 10 AM worship service last Sunday, a Rally Day reception was held on the front porch of the Sanctuary.



Highlighting the educational opportunities offered by the church were:

- Kyle Brinkman – Moderator, Christian Education Committee
- Beth Houghton – Faith Journey Sunday School
- Marilyn Mulcahy – Westminster Sunday School
- Becky Higman – Faith-Filled Families (Coordinator is Dennis Zuercher)
- David Aumack – Youth Ministries
- Ken Young – Men’s Midweek Bible Study
- Vit Gulbis – Contemporary Faith Sunday School

Marie Huber – Women's Studies

The reception was set up by Ken Young, Mary McLean and Linda Champion.



**Become a Lunch Pal
at Lakewood Elementary School**

Lunch Pals is a mentoring program to provide students with an additional presence of a caring, consistent and committed adult in their lives. Attend the on-site mentor training at First Presbyterian Church on September 18, 12 to 1 PM, room S-100. [Access a flier about this program.](#)

[Click here](#) to sign up for mentor training. For a volunteer application [click here](#).

Part-Time Positions in FPC Child Care The Perfect Job!

Applicants must:

- LOVE working with children
- Be DEPENDABLE and FLEXIBLE
- Be able to work evenings and weekends
- Be totally OK getting FREE CHILD CARE for their child(ren) during hours of work!
- Be 18 YEARS OLD or older

This is the perfect job for a stay-at-home parent! Interested? Send a bio or resume to childcare@fpc-stpete.org

FPC Calendar At A Glance

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

Coming up in September

- [September Birthdays](#)
- [September Parent Calendar](#)
- Beth Moore Bible Study, Youth Center, 9:15 AM or 6:30 PM (Tuesdays through October 8)
- Faith Development Bible Study, S-100, 9:30 AM (Tuesdays)
- Yoga With Adam, 3 PM, Fellowship Hall (Sunday afternoons, refer to church calendar for any variation)
- Sunday, September 15 - Commissioning of Stephen Ministers and Blessing Of The Backpacks
- Tuesday, September 17 - GriefShare Support Group, 10 AM, Chapel (meets Tuesdays, refer to church calendar for any variation)
- Tuesday, September 17 - Melodies for the Mind, 2 PM, Choir Room (Contact: kbenn21188@aol.com)
- Tuesday, September 17 - Meditation for Christians, 7 PM, Chapel (Contact: [Carlen Maddux](#))
- Wednesday, September 18, 10:30 AM until noon, Room N-123, First of Five Week Study, "Gun Violence Prevention"
- Wednesday, September 18, 12 PM, S-100, Lakewood Lunchpals Training
- Wednesday, September 18, Wednesday Night Live begins (5:30 PM Dinner in Fellowship Hall followed by study groups)
- Saturday, September 28, 10:30 AM, Fellowship Hall, Presbyterian Women's General Meeting, Rev. Noel Koestline presents "Sing the World Round." Brunch is provided.
- 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

