

First Presbyterian Church St. Petersburg

8:15 Service on Summer break til Sept

9

Your weekly news & updates

This Sunday at FPC

- Join us for worship at 9:00 a.m. -Contemporary Service in Fellowship Hall or 11:00-Traditional Service in the Sanctuary with the Chancel Choir.
- Welcome back Pastor Dawn! Join us on Sunday when Pastor Dawn continues her summer series on "Heroes and Heroines of the Faith." This Sunday we'll hear about Noah.



• This Sunday we welcome back Sarah Hellman-Spatafora who will sing "God Bless America" at the 11:00 a.m. service.

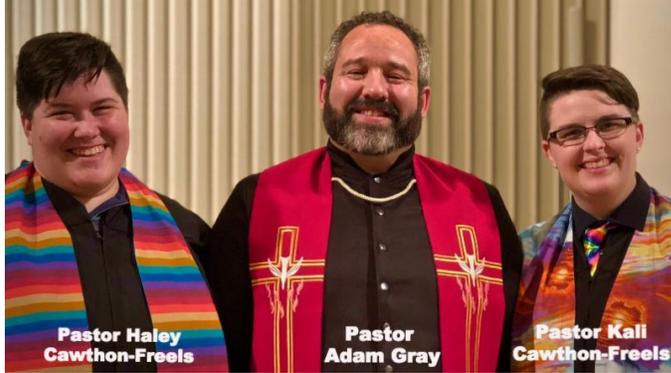
Session Notes

Shared Facility Use Agreement with Church of the Beatitudes and Redeeming Church

Last week in eNews, we discussed the proposed shared facility use agreement with Church of the Beatitudes and Redeeming Church. We also introduced you to Church of the Beatitudes and Pastor Phil Miller-Evans. If you miss that, please [click here](#) to view last week's eNews (June 22nd).

Continuing with our series of communication, meet Pastor Adam Gray and learn more about Redeeming Church.

Introducing Redeeming Church and Pastor Adam Gray



Redeeming Church was founded in January of 2017 by a group of people committed to a vision for a church where everyone is welcome and everyone is loved. Redeeming Church is partnered with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and the Alliance of Baptists, but our congregation is made up of a wide group of post evangelicals – we were Southern

Baptist, United Methodist, non-denominational, and Catholic – God has brought us together to create a community where hard questions are engaged instead of shamed, where difference is celebrated rather than hidden, and where salvation is for the whole world and not just those who think as we do.

"Redeeming Church" might strike you as a strange name for a congregation. But choosing to name our church with a verb instead a group of nouns (First Baptist Church) is an intentional statement about our hope for the work of our congregation. Primarily, it means two things to us:

First, it speaks to the fact that Jesus is always redeeming us and always redeeming the church. Every day, God is exchanging the brokenness of our lives and communities for the mercy and healing of grace. God never gives up on us, and we believe that one day God will make all manner of things good, right, just, and whole again.

Second, "Redeeming Church" speaks to the reality that the church has been a place of condemnation instead of love for too many people, a place of rejection instead of welcome, a place of disappointment instead of hope. And while we don't have any illusions about the fact that we will fail and we will disappoint, we hope to be humble and transparent enough about those failures that even our brokenness is an opportunity for a healing expression of Christ's mercy.

Our core values are faith, hope, and love; this leads us to three commitments:

1. We will be a church of faith, living in steadfast commitment to the reality of Christ's love and salvation, even when we can't see how it will all work out.
2. We will be a church of hope, announcing and working for the coming kingdom of God, even as we recognize the kingdom of God which is already among us.
3. We will, most of all, be a church of love, endeavoring to love in the unlimited, unconditional, life-changing and world-changing way that God loves us.

Adam Gray is the lead pastor of Redeeming Church. A former Southern Baptist pastor, Adam grew tired of the politics of exclusion that dominated the faith of his youth, and began looking for new ways of doing church. After attending seminary at McAfee School of Theology – a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship partner school – Adam joined with two other McAfee graduates, Kali and Haley Cawthon-Freels (also in photo above) to make the vision of Redeeming Church a reality in St Petersburg. Redeeming Church is a welcoming and affirming congregation, with LGBTQ persons enfranchised as members at every level of service and leadership.

Adam has been married to Lauren Gray, the Director of Advancement for The Reformation Project – a national organization committed to bringing full inclusion for LGBTQ people to the global church – for 11 years. They have a 4 year old son, Elias.

You can contact Adam at adam@redeemingchurch.org. He'd love to hear from you.

In next Friday's eNews, we'll provide details that will have been approved by session at the July 2nd meeting to include the date the pastors move into the office space, date of first worship, times of their worship, office hours, activities, parking and some Q&A.



Higman experiences the St. Louis GA meeting up close and personal

While a group of Seminarian's observe the workings of the GA meeting, Becky finds herself invited to be a participant in signing off on the Social Justice report. Read all about it . . . at [click here](#).

Tips from Faith Community Nursing

Making your wishes known

Make your choices about future healthcare decisions known to your family, friends and healthcare providers. Share your wishes in conversations and complete your advance directive documents so that your decisions matter.

Rolling River Rapids at VBS



"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." Isaiah 43:2

A big Thank You to all of those who came out to help with Vacation Bible School. 75 children have learned about finding adventure, acceptance, joy, rest and peace on the river with Jesus.



Volunteers Needed

The NEW client pantry has opened and is already very popular. More volunteers are needed in all roles. [Click here for details.](#)

Memorial Service for Tom Lippert



Here is a link to the memorial service for Tom Lippert for those of you 'snowbirds' who are out of town and not able to attend. [Click here.](#)

Interfaith Pride Worship



If you missed the Interfaith Pride Worship, you can [click here](#) to view it. Many thanks to the dozens of FPC volunteers who showed up to greeter, usher, fellowship and sing. Radical Hospitality at its very best!

SCHOLARSHIP Opportunity

We are pleased to announce that we have endowment funds to support some scholarships. If you have interest, please contact Marien Mitchell, Executive Assistant to the Pastor (mmitchell@fpc-stpete.org) for an application. Deadline to apply this year is July, 15, 2018.

[Click here](#) for details about the two scholarships available.



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