

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.
- For special music this Sunday at 11:00, we welcome back Matt Clear and our wonderful Chancel Choir.



Women's Bible Study - "JOB: A Story of Unlikely Joy"

In this 7-session study, we will discover the redemptive facet of Job's suffering. We will learn to view pain as a way to strengthen your faith, point others to the gospel and trust in the Lord.

Join us either on Tuesday mornings or Tuesday evenings
August 14-September 25, 2018

Morning class: 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center

Evening class: 6:30 – 8:45 p.m. in the Youth Center



F irst P resbyterian D ay S chool

"Back to School Anxiety"

Date: Wednesday, August 15th

Time: 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Place: Youth Center

Note: The Day School extends this invitation to all FPC parents of school-age children.

Join us for an informative evening full of strategies for a smooth transition back to school. Many children and parents suffer from anxiety during these transition times. The Costello Center will be speaking on ways to ease anxiety, how to help children be successful as they head to school, and how to manage your anxiety as the parent.

This event is sponsored by First Presbyterian Church Day School and is free of charge.

Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal cancer is on the rise, even in those under the age of 50. What can you do?

1. Know the signs and symptoms,
2. Listen to your body and see your physician if something is not right,
3. Know your family history and when you should schedule a screening.



This summer health information series has been brought to you by our Faith Community Nursing team. Our thanks to all of them!

FPC Supports CASA

**I don't know who you are
but I care about you...**

**I don't know what you
like, but imagine you're a
superhero like Hulk....**

**You're safe now
and you will be safe.**

From "A note for the kids at CASA," by Evan, age 11

First Presbyterian Church St. Petersburg provides support to CASA through our mission committee.

CASA provides Safety, Empowerment and Prevention programs to end domestic violence.

Learn more about CASA; [click here](#) to read their current Newsletter.

The article below is taken from "Today's PCUSA News;" a daily publication from the PC(USA) on a variety of topics. You can subscribe to either a daily or weekly edition of PCUSA News by [clicking here](#).

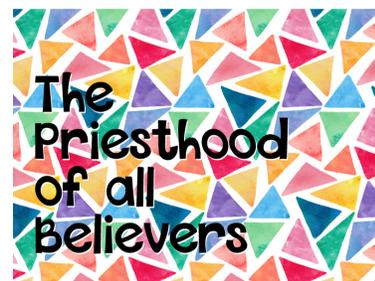
We are all ministers

By Rebecca Lawson Putman | Presbyterians Today

As we approach the fall kickoff to the church program year, my thoughts keep coming back to the Protestant idea of the priesthood of all believers. This doctrine teaches that because of Jesus Christ, there is no need for someone to act as a mediator between the people and God. Everyone is just as spiritual, just as capable of speaking to God, and just as called to deliver God's message to the world. Everyone is equally called to do God's work and to minister to God's people.

The question, though, that many of the people in the church I serve ask is, "What does ministering look like if you're not a minister?" The answer is complex, and it looks different for different people, but the short answer is that it looks like you serving others and showing God's love as you go about your daily life.

The best example I have of this is a story of John and Raul. In 1986, they worked at the corporate headquarters of a retail chain in New York City. They were both supervisors and frequently spent 12-hour shifts working together. They developed a friendship. Eventually, John was promoted to manager. One day, John noticed Raul had a lesion on his right cheek and that he hadn't been feeling well. Raul went to see a doctor in June



and went out on disability. In August, Raul asked if he could come back to work, though he would need some accommodations because of his health. John, John's boss and the vice president of the human resources department all agreed. However, Raul's co-workers soon learned that Raul had been diagnosed with AIDS. They were afraid and angry that he was coming back to work.

The first morning when Raul came into work, John walked out of his office, smiled, shook Raul's hand and told him how glad he was that he was back. As the weeks passed, Raul continued to grow weaker until he went out again on disability in October.

When Raul died that December, John and his boss attended Raul's funeral, which surprised and touched Raul's partner. When John recounted this story to me, he said that he still remembers the sound of Raul's voice and the look of his face. John also mentioned that in retrospect, he's amazed that he and the company were so willing to stand by Raul to the end, especially given the fears about AIDS at that time.

The story about John and Raul is an example of what it means to be a priest amid our daily lives. John was just doing what he thought was right. He would never describe what he did as something godly, Christ-like or priestly. Like the lepers in Jesus' time, Raul was visibly marked as ill by the lesion on his face. People didn't want to work with Raul, let alone touch him. But John accepted Raul with an outstretched hand.

In that moment, John proclaimed God's message to Raul loud and clear: You are my beloved child. John's handshake and smile delivered a more perfect sermon than even the most gifted preacher on her best Sunday.

How we can minister to each other will look different in our various contexts. Few stories will be quite like that of John and Raul. In my congregation, we seem to do a good job of taking care of each other. We'll work out a schedule so that the person whose loved one is ill is never alone at the hospital. We bring meals to those recovering from surgery. We show up and eat cake with someone celebrating his birthday after coming through a major health scare a few months before. We show someone who has lost her spouse how to do the chores that her spouse had always done. We visit those in our community who are lonely, even if they have no direct connection to our congregation. The thing that gives me the most joy as the pastor is, I don't normally organize these things. They aren't a planned initiative to live out our faith. We're just a bunch of people wanting to live out our faith.

When people from my congregation ask what it looks like to minister if you aren't a minister, I smile and say it looks a lot like what they're already doing.

Rebecca Lawson Putman is the pastor of Northville United Presbyterian Church in Northville, New York. She also serves as the co-chairperson of Albany Presbytery's Committee on Ministry



FPC Ministry in Action - Thank You FPC

As the result of your generosity First Presbyterian donated \$1,745 and two shopping carts of school uniforms, socks and underwear to Operation Attack for children in need.

Join us for worship on Sunday

Come to the 9:00 a.m. Contemporary service in Fellowship Hall, the 11:00 a.m. traditional service in the Sanctuary.

If you are away for the week or for the summer, we miss you. The

sermons are on the church web site. [Click here.](#)



[Join us for Worship](#)

[Sunday Bulletins](#)

[Join a Bible Study/Sunday School Class](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Faith Community Nursing - Learn more...](#)

[Subscribe to news from PC\(USA\)](#)

Quick LINKS

First Presbyterian Church St. Petersburg, FL | [Phone](#) | [Email](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#)
A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.

First
Presbyterian
Church

