



# FIRST NEWS



**First News, April 12**

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, April 14, 2024  
Third Sunday After Easter

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
New [Sermon Series](#) starts this Sunday: "Love Seen..."  
Sermon: "Love Seen....In Being Like Jesus"  
Scripture: [1 John 3:1-17](#), [Luke 24:36b-48](#)

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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](http://www.fpcstpete.com) - click the "Watch Live Streams 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 these links with family and friends!

Click [HERE](#) for the 9 AM worship service bulletin.

## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

*The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.* That's how I learned Psalm 24:1. This week, I found myself reflecting on that, and even beyond it: *Not just the earth: but the whole universe is the Lord's, and all there is.*

Wow! Probably like me, you paid attention to the full solar eclipse this week. Probably like me you said: **Wow!** Watching TV coverage on Monday, I kept hearing that word: **Wow.** I know several of our folks had gone to visit family or friends in the path of the eclipse, so they will have more to say about the experience. I expect them to use these words: **wow** and **awesome** and **amazing.** Maybe even **incredible!**

Here are some things I was noticing. First, in places where the eclipse was total or near-total, the eclipse affected everyone: rich or poor, young or old, immigrant or long-time resident, male or female, gay or straight. Each person had the chance to see the darkened sky, feel the sudden cooling, experience the incredible effect of moon's orbit intersecting the earth's orbit of the sun. (Do I have that terminology right?) There's no status, no condition favored by the experience: it is there for all. It's like grace. Free and open for all God's children. The earth is the Lord's. There to be enjoyed and studied and marveled at by all God's people.

The other thing that intrigued me was what I heard several times: that, as far as our scientists can figure out, the earth is the **ONLY** place in the universe where a planet's moon can pass between the planet and the star it orbits. A solar eclipse, when it happens, is totally unique in all creation. Now that's like you; you are totally unique in all God's creation. Me too; I am totally unique. And God made us, God loves us, God knows who we are, and God saves us.

I'm back where I started, my friends. I'm ready to say the word once again. You can say it with me: **WOW.** Just: **WOW.**

Thanks be to God. Thanks be to our amazing God.

Blessings indeed,  
Ginny Ellis



**Please remember in prayer:** Sandi Averitt, Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Carol Hunt, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Dottie McClure, Nancy McLaughlin, the Moorefield family, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Margie Richmond, Robert Safransky, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey

**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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

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## PARABLE QUEST: Transforming Stories Jesus Told

The everyday objects and real-life situations that Jesus described in His parables help children understand biblical principles.



All children Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome!

Class starts this Sunday, April 14, at 10 AM in Room S-202, and runs through May 19

For more information, please contact Carol Riley at 727-822-2031, ext. 104 or [criley@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:criley@fpc-stpete.org).

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## Lectio/Visio Divina - Mondays at 10 AM

We invite you to try a new way of studying the Bible with Lectio/Visio Divina, a guided practice of reading and discussing four different translations of a passage that will be used in the following Sunday's worship. The hourlong Zoom session meets at 10 a.m. on Mondays and includes discussion of art that corresponds to the scripture. Click [HERE](#) to join.

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Our next "Beach Drive Forum" will be this Wednesday, April 17!

*From Folk Medicines to Therapeutic Drugs* by Akiko Tanaka PhD, president, and co-founder of The Tampa

Bay Research Institute (TBRI). TBRI has spent over 40 years investigating the relationship between viruses, cancers, and the functioning of the immune system. As a result of our research, TBRI has uncovered the details of the healing properties of an ancient folk medicine – an extract of pinecones. Our on-going studies have now brought forth new synthetic molecules that are being developed into lifesaving immune-altering therapeutics.

Also mark your calendars for:

**MAY 22**

*State of the Arts in Tampa Bay* by Paul Wilborn, award-winning journalist, author, playwright, pianist, singer and executive director of the Palladium Theater at St. Petersburg College, who knows a thing or two about the arts! He'll share his wisdom about what's influencing the flourishing local arts scene, including whether artificial intelligence is a good or bad creative force. Learn more about our speaker [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

*Beach Drive Forums are monthly conversations for the community with intriguing speakers on thought-provoking topics. Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall (doors open at 5:30, presentation at 6:00). Refreshments and Q&A included. Open to the public; best parking is the church lot off N. Shore Drive.*

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## **New Member Inquirer's Class - Sunday, April 21, 10 AM, Church Office Conference Room**



This is a great opportunity to learn about what it means to be a Presbyterian, plus hear the answers to all those questions you may have about our church, faith, and what you need to do to become a member. We will meet in the Church Office Conference Room on Sunday, April 21, immediately following the 9 AM worship service, where we will enjoy a great program from Pastor Ginny. Elders will be on-hand should you wish to join the church following the class. This is a great chance to learn about and join downtown's most welcoming church!

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## **YOU'RE INVITED!**

On May 10, [Live Love St Pete](#) is hosting their first gala at the St. Petersburg Yacht Club. In appreciation for all the support First Presbyterian Church has given them over the past few years, *Live Love St Pete* is making a limited number of tickets available to church members at cost. Tickets include dinner and drinks, and there will be live music and fabulous raffle prizes. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for more info and tickets. Use promo code FPC1 to receive the discount. If you're interested in purchasing a table (for 8) at the same discount, please use promo code FPC8. See you there!

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## **SPRING FUN DAY AT CEDARKIRK**

Mark your calendars for **Spring Fun Day** at [Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center](#) on **May 11**. Spend a day at this beautiful camp and discover all they have to offer. Take a break half-way through for a delicious lunch. Bring your appetite for great food and an afternoon of



adventure. If you've never visited Cedarkirk before, this event is FREE to you so you can see the facilities and meet some of their staff! If you have visited the camp previously, there is a fee of \$16/person.

If you are interested please sign up THIS WEEK, as this is a very popular event and space is limited. You can access Cedarkirk's online portal [HERE](#); it lets you register online, pay, and complete any necessary consent forms for activities.

We would like to meet here at the church and travel up together (the camp is located at 1920 Streetman Drive in Lithia Springs). Please see details below; more details will be published as the event time approaches!

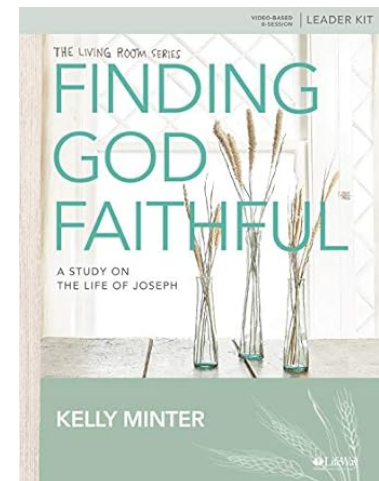
- Arrival: check-in at the camp at 10 AM
- Departure: Fun Day concludes at 3 PM
- Cost: \$16 per person covers all activities and lunch; this event is FREE if it's your first time at Cedarkirk! Please note that children and youth must have an adult present.

If you would like to participate, or need more information please contact Carol Riley at [criley@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:criley@fpc-stpete.org) or call the church office (727-822-2031)!

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## Ladies, you are invited to Bible Study: *Finding God Faithful - A Study on the Life of Joseph*

In this 8-session study from Kelly Minter, we will be reminded of God's faithfulness through Joseph's story. No matter what we walk through, God's presence is constant; His provision is enough, and His purposes are unstoppable.



Join us on Tuesday mornings through April 30, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the FPC Youth Center

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is required. Workbooks will be available for \$25 (includes streaming video access for all sessions). Bring a friend! If interested, please contact April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or [stapler39@aol.com](mailto:stapler39@aol.com). Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available.



## Theological Scholarships

We are now accepting applications for the Osborn Scholarship for Theology students! We only require one application is for both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters (awards are split); the applicant needs to let us know if they only need it for one semester.

The deadline for Theological Study Scholarships is **April 30**.

For further details about these scholarships (including downloadable application forms and deadlines), [CLICK HERE](#).

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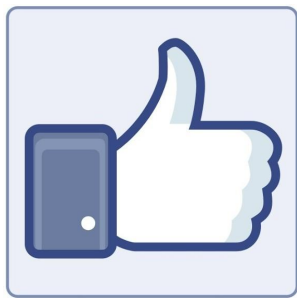
The Pastor Nominating Committee has a new page on our website:

You can visit it any time for the latest information  
on our Pastor Search!

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!



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 April 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 S-203
- Sundays, 9 AM, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center or Online
- Sundays, 9:45 AM, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- Sundays, 10 AM, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- Sundays, 10 AM, Young Adults/Parents "Next" Sunday School Class, Room S-100
- Sundays, 10 AM, Presbyterianism class, Church Office Conference Room
- Sundays, 11 AM, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or Online
  
- Mondays, 10 AM, Lectio/Visio Divina, via Zoom
- Tuesdays, 9 AM, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- Tuesdays, 7 PM, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month)
  
- Wednesdays, 7 PM, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center
  
- Thursdays, 6 PM, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- Thursdays, 7 PM, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
  
- Fridays, 8:00 AM, Men's Bible Study, Room N-123
- Fridays, 12 PM, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood ([pjfwon@gmail.com](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, April 14, Parable Quest kids' class begins
- Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 PM, Beach Drive Forum
- Sunday, April 21, 10 AM, New Member Inquirer's Class
- Tuesday, April 30, Theological Scholarship application deadline
- Friday, May 10, 6 PM, *Live Love St Pete* fundraiser
- Saturday, May 11, 10 AM - 3 PM, Spring Fun Day at Cedarkirk

## 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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

First Presbyterian Church  
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(727) 822-2031 | [www.fpcstpete.com](http://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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