

# FIRST NEWS



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

**December 17, 2021**

## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary  
for an In-Person or Online Worship Service  
this Sunday, December 19  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon: "A Visit Between Mothers"  
Scriptures: [Micah 5:2-5a](#), [Luke 1:26-38](#), [Luke 1:39-45](#)

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If you are unable to worship with us in person,  
you can click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

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## Praise Band (*Partial*) Preview

This Sunday, we've got two more great tunes to share with you. The first is a fun version of *Joy to The World*, which features guitar & trumpet. You can click the link below to check out our video. Our second tune, *O Holy Night*, is brand new so there is no video just yet. So, if you want to hear our version of this holiday classic, you'll have to tune in on Sunday. See you then!

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*As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM,  
so please plan to arrive a few minutes early!*  
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If you would like to give to the PCUSA Special Christmas Joy Offering, your gift will honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

There are special envelopes in the pews and at the Welcome Center, or you can give online [HERE](#).

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**FPC Mask Policy**

We now have a **mask-optional policy for fully vaccinated individuals** which applies during worship service and while on church campus. Everyone is welcome to wear a mask in any setting; however, we recommended that masks be worn for those not yet fully vaccinated.



**Christmas Flowers**

Christmas is almost here, and the church is decorated with greens and beautiful poinsettias! If you would like to make a donation to help decorate our church in memory of or in honor of a loved one or a friend, please fill out the green envelope in the pews and put it in the offering plate. Be sure to designate the individual to be honored or memorialized on the outside of the envelope. A listing the names of those honored or remembered will be compiled for inclusion in First News.



**Please remember in prayer:** Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Peter Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, the Pav family, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, Carol Lee Wathen

Please keep in prayer all those who have been physically, emotionally, and financially affected by the coronavirus, and join us in praying for an end to this situation.

**Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military:** Marc-Antoni Juliá, USN LT; CPT. Taina Specie, USA; 1st LT. Liam Shelton, USA; 1st LT. Mallory Wasik, USMC; 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).

## Two Christmas Eve Services @ FPC!

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Procession of the Nativity

Children and Family

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2021 4 pm



We invite you to bring a single figurine from your own nativity set at home, a small action figure/toy, or small stuffed animal to join in on the procession.

*You will get it back and extras will be available.*

The Christmas Eve Children and Family service at First Presbyterian Church will be at 4 PM in the sanctuary. It will be a procession of the nativity. Each child or family is invited to bring a figurine from their own nativity set at home, a small action figure/toy or stuffed animal to join in on the procession. They will get it back and we hope to have extras. Join us! All are welcome!





At 7 PM, join us for a traditional Lessons and Carols service in the Sanctuary. We will end the evening with a beautiful candlelight celebration.

### Pastor's Christmas Basket

As you address your Christmas cards this season, please consider bringing a card for the Pastor's Christmas Basket with a donation for the Pastor's Assistance Fund. All the monies collected are used at the pastor's discretion throughout the year to provide confidential financial support. Please be sure to write "Pastor's Fund - Christmas" on the memo line to ensure your donation is recorded properly. Thank you.



### FPC Church Ladies' Christmas Tea

at the Chattaway (358 22nd Ave S)  
Tuesday, December 21 at 2:30 PM

Please RSVP to Karen Mossman (727-400-5079); first 20 ladies are guaranteed a spot! \$45.75 per person, includes tax & tip.

### Mission Corner

On Friday, December 10th, winds came in the night and leveled out many areas in central USA. Tornadoes touched down and devastated areas across 6 states, ranked as the longest tornado track in US history. Mayfield, Kentucky got the worst of it, as you may have seen on the news. The death toll is up to 74, and first responders are still sifting through the rubble.

This hits me (Pastor Megan) on another level, because my dear friend, Mason,



was the pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Mayfield from 2012-14 and it was completely destroyed (photo below). They are in touch with church members about immediate needs on a day-to-day basis right now. I know we're all hearing from all over the place about ways to help in KY, but I thought I'd share what I'm being told by people on the ground.



First, please go make a donation to Presbyterian Disaster Relief as they have already been in touch with First Presbyterian Church in Mayfield and will be on the ground shortly. You can give online [HERE](#).



Next, if you'd like to contribute to food resources (click [HERE](#) to donate), a local volunteer is a part of Mercy Chefs, who is on the ground. Mercy Chefs is providing hot meals and bottled water to anyone and

everyone who needs to eat. It's cold in Mayfield right now and people don't have heat.

Next, if you like to do tangible things, Costco, Amazon, and Walmart are all currently delivering to the area. Please contact me for a shipping address at [meganm@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:meganm@fpc-stpete.org).

Here is the most recent list from my friend:

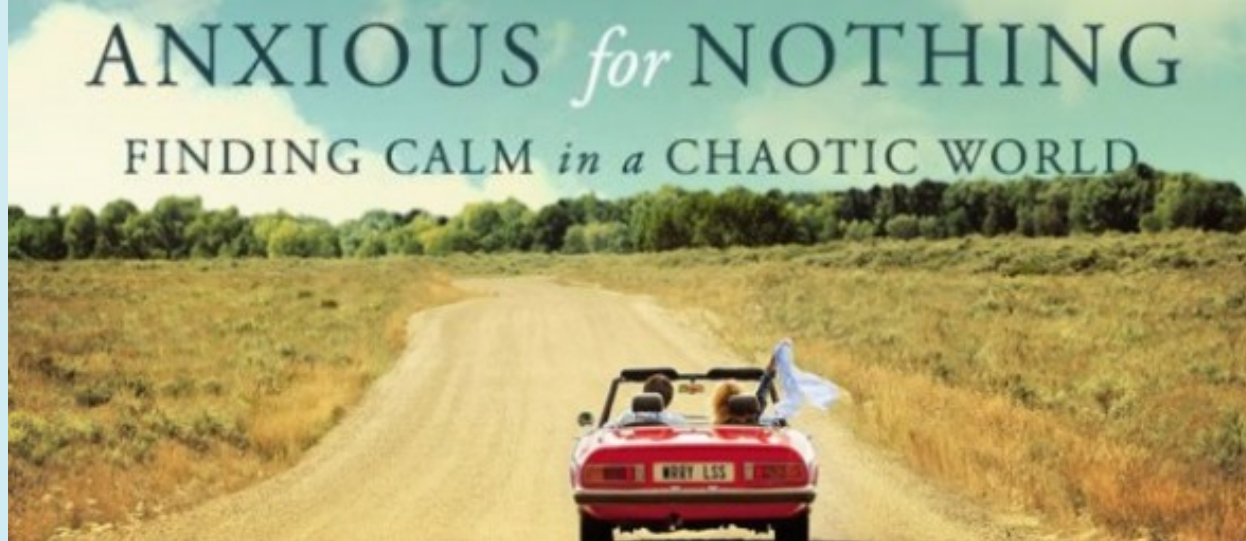
- \*new\* clothes (not used)
- baby items
- water
- canned foods, can openers
- boxed foods (not requiring heating)
- chips, snack foods
- flour, sugar
- hygiene products
- blankets, tarps
- flashlights & batteries
- laundry detergent
- dog food, cat food

Most importantly, please keep the people of Mayfield (and other areas) in your prayers. They joke is that nothing exciting ever happens in "sleepy little Mayfield" and this is the most exciting thing to happen...ever, but it's not the type of excitement any of them want.

On a happy note, the FPC of Mayfield congregation has plans to begin having church services, including Christmas Eve at a church member's business warehouse. They said, "it won't be pretty, but we'll be worshipping together and that's what matters."

**"The Power Hour" Adult Sunday School Class  
Sundays at 9:00 AM in the Youth Center**





It is not too late to drop in for the "Power Hour" Sunday school class. It's a fun group studying Phil 4:5-8, God's treatment plan for anxiety. Join us as we discover A life of calm and develop tools for combating the onslaught of anxiety. Using Max Lucado's DVD study "Anxious for Nothing". Join us for coffee, pastries & fellowship too!

### Thank You Christmas Angel!

A big THANK YOU to the Christmas angel who brought lunch to the church staff on Tuesday. Your generosity, thoughtfulness, and delicious food were much appreciated!





# First Presbyterian Church is hiring!



We are looking for qualified individuals to provide pre-school care during worship and church events.

- ⇒ Regular hours would be 8:45 - 11:15 AM on Sunday mornings
- ⇒ Occasionally other hours can be added (fellowship events, concert events, Christmas Eve services, etc.)
- ⇒ \$20 per hour
- ⇒ Background check will be required, as well as interview and references.

**To apply**, please submit the following information to the Church Office (email to [office@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:office@fpc-stpete.org) or mail to 701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701):

- Name
- Address
- Phone number
- Date of birth
- Experience working with children
- Religious affiliation
- Permission to run a background check

All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.



- 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!

**Pastoral Emergency Number**

If you have a pastoral emergency, please call (561) 805-1514.



## Online Giving



During this season, we are especially thankful for the generosity of all of the people who continue to financially contribute to the church.

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 December Birthdays



Some groups are continuing to meet 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.

- **Sundays, 8:30 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel.
- **Sundays, 9:00 AM**, Hour of Power Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, In-Person Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#).
- **Sundays, 4 PM**, GriefShare (via Zoom)
  
- **Tuesdays, 1 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Fellowship Hall (12/21 only)
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting every other week in the Chapel at 7 PM (next in-person meeting is **Dec. 21**). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).
  
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Choir rehearsal, Choir Room
  
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, in-person, Room N-123. For more information, please contact Ken Young ([youngkd1492@comcast.net](mailto:youngkd1492@comcast.net)).
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study; the last Friday of the month is in-person in Room N-123; otherwise, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood ([pjfwon@gmail.com](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))



- Sunday, December 19, 11 AM, Christmas Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
- Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve
  - 4 PM, Family/Children's Service
  - 7 PM, Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service
- Friday, December 24, and Monday, December 27 - Church Office closed for the Christmas holiday.

## 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

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

