

FIRST NEWS



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

December 3, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
for an In-Person or Online Worship Service
this Sunday, December 5
Second Sunday of Advent

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "The Voice in the Wilderness"
Scriptures: [Malachi 3:1-4](#), [Luke 3:1-6](#)

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



COMMUNION SUNDAY: We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this Sunday during our worship service. If you are joining us online, please gather bread, crackers, or rolls and something to drink (juice, wine, milk, water) ahead of time for all in your home who will be participating.

Music This Sunday

The offertory anthem this Sunday is "Shalom" by Dan Forrest featuring the Chancel Choir, Jack Rain on piano, and guest violinist Maddy Klee. Maddy played violin when the Chamber Singers recorded "Shalom" during our virtual services last year. We are excited to share this beautiful piece of music with the congregation in-person and welcome Maddy back to our worship service.



Praise Band Preview - Advent Week 2

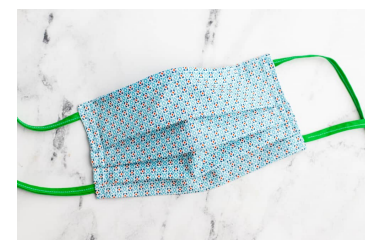
This week your FPC Praise Band has two more wonderful songs to share. First up is *O Come O Come Emmanuel*, which features our lead guitarist, Dick Lange. Our second tune, *The First Nowell*, is our own special arrangement and one of the band's favorites. Click the links below to hear our versions, and we'll see you on Sunday!

[O Come O Come Emmanuel](#)
[The First Nowell](#)

*As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM,
so please plan to arrive a few minutes early!*

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.



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, Peter Pav, 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.

After Thanksgiving

Some of you heard about my Thanksgiving Pumpkin Pie, made by my own hands: from crust to filling, from mixing bowl to oven to table. The pie came out of the oven truly beautiful, and I looked forward to that first bite. It really is too bad that I forgot to put in the sugar. It is amazing what a little sugar does for a pumpkin pie.

My pumpkin pie is a little like our moving into Advent, lighting first one candle, then one more each week, until the Advent wreath is glowing. We look forward to each bite, each candle, each gift, each carol. But how important it is to get the ingredients right: to include each item so the flavor is what it needs to be. This Advent and Christmas, let's stir in kindness, patience, and thoughtfulness. Let's bake it all with forgiveness, and with joy. Let's taste what God has done, a flavor beyond our imagining, bursting with the surprising grace of God's amazing love.

Let's give thanks and celebrate the gifts of light and of God's presence in this holy season!

Blessings, happy Advent, merry Christmas,
Ginny Ellis
ginnye@fpc-stpete.org, (813) 404-6723

"It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!"



These Sanctuary Guild ladies have been very busy this week hanging garlands, wreaths, and bows, plus decorating trees with handmade Christmas ornaments. You'll see it all on Sunday, plus a big basket to receive your cards and donations to the Pastor's Fund.

Members enjoy the time together to prepare for the special seasons. New members are always welcome! Call Chris Agee, 727-488-5217, if you'd like to

be a part of this group's ministry.

Pictured L to R above: Isabel Schoenberg, Debbie Factor, Sherry Oliver, Linda Santoro, Phyllis King, Barbara Brownlee, Chris Agee, Betsy Godbold
(Not pictured but participating: Evelyn Moorefield, Susan Schlecht, and JoAnne Malone).



Calling all First Presbyterian Church Members & Families!

This Christmas Season, we invite you to participate in a creative reading/ retelling of the Christmas Story. We invite you, (as an individual, a couple, or a family) to present

one verse of the Christmas story in a manner of your choosing. You would sign up for your chosen verse by using the below [Sign-Up Genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B45ADA72FA4FD0-first) link. To retell your verse, we invite you to be creative! Create a scene in your house, in your yard, in the neighborhood park, wherever you want, and, using your smart phone, record your household saying or reading the verse. This will likely be only one minute long, something simple but special. You then submit a video, or maybe just a still photo the words. While we certainly want to encourage our children and their families to sign up for this, this is a Christmas story for all ages to participate in! Here is the sign-up link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B45ADA72FA4FD0-first>

We ask that you submit your video or audio to Dave Aumack at daumack@fpc-stpete.org by Sunday, December 12th if you can, but NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 14th. If you have any technical questions or difficulties in submitting the video or audio, please contact Dave. For any other questions, please contact Pastor Megan at meganm@fpc-stpete.org.

On Sunday, December 19th we plan to have a fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall following worship to show the finished product of the video of the retelling of the Christmas Story by First Presbyterian Church, St Petersburg! Again, here is the sign-up link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B45ADA72FA4FD0-first>

St. Pete Primary School/DayStar Life Center Christmas Angel Tree

Be a blessing to a local child in need this holiday season! The Angel Tree will be available in our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, and outside near the entrance to the Fellowship Hall throughout the week. To participate:

- Take an angel from the tree and have fun shopping!
- Wrap your gift(s) and place the angel card with ID number on the outside of the gift (it needs to be clearly displayed on the outside so that we make



sure it gets to the right person!).

- Bring your gift(s) in to the Church Office between November 29 and December 10 (by noon; no gifts will be accepted after this time).

Thank you for your support of DayStar! For more information about this local ministry, visit their website: daystarlife.com

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays Being Offered Via Zoom Tomorrow!

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our Surviving the Holidays seminar helps participants discover:

- How to deal with emotions
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- What to do about traditions
- How to find hope for the future

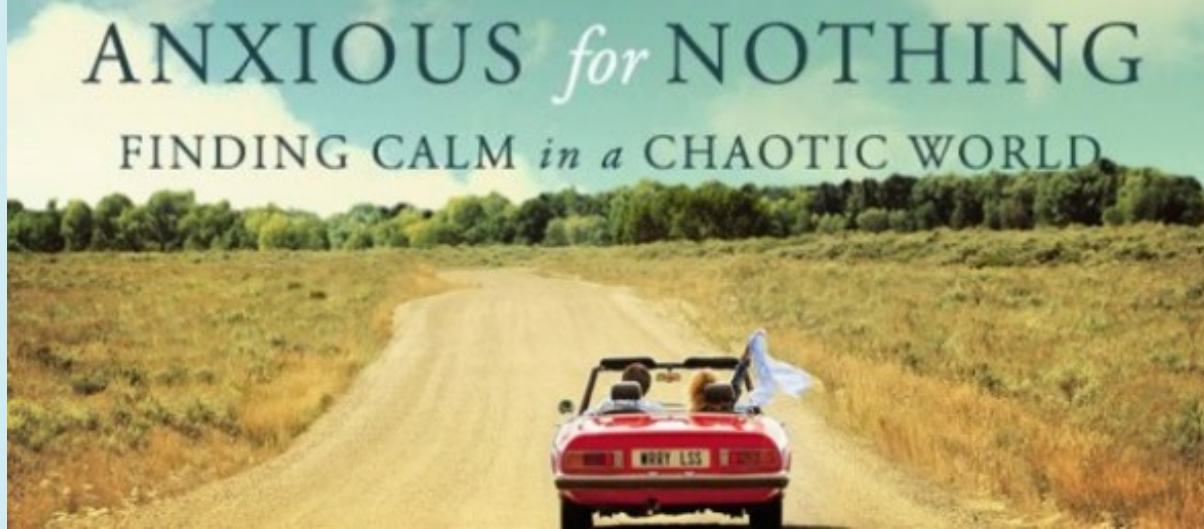
The Seminar will be offered via Zoom **Saturday, December 4th at 10 AM**. Please email Petra Garnett (petra.garnett@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if you would like the Zoom log-in information.

Click on the video below to learn more about this event:

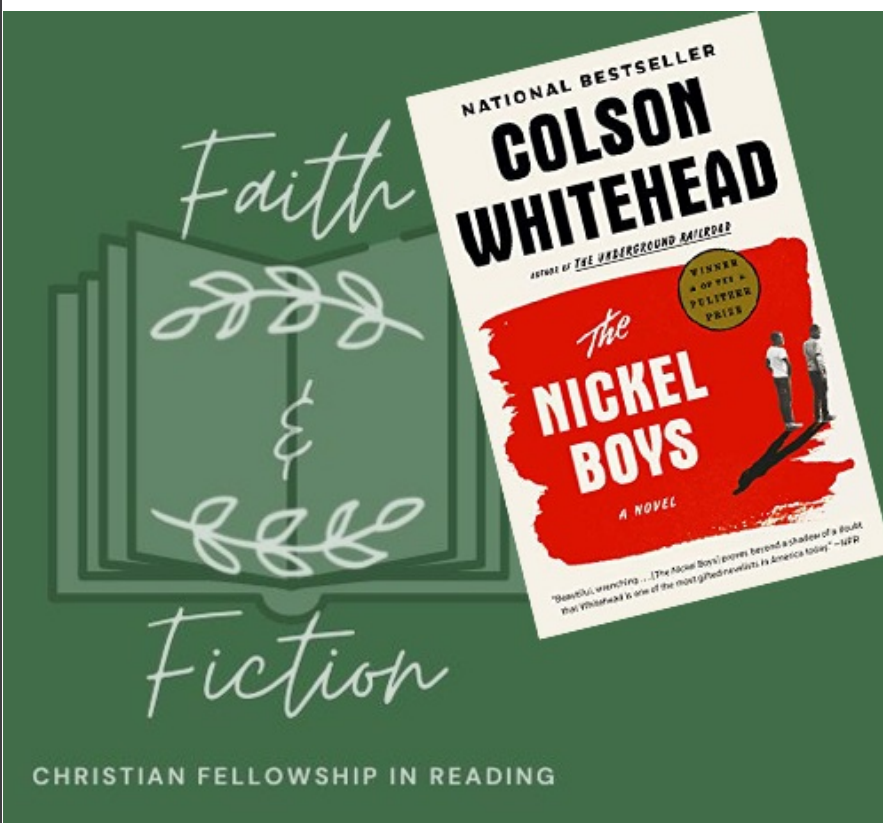


**Do you feel weighed down with worry?
Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night?
Are irrational fears your constant companion?**

**If so, join us for "The Power Hour" Sunday School Class
Beginning December 5th at 9:00 AM in the Youth Center**



A 5-week study with fun, fellowship, food, & a DVD based study "Anxious for Nothing" by Max Lucado. In this study, we will explore God's treatment plan for anxiety and learn how to find calm in a chaotic world. Reserve a spot by contacting Karen Mossman at karenamossman@gmail.com or text 727-400-5079.

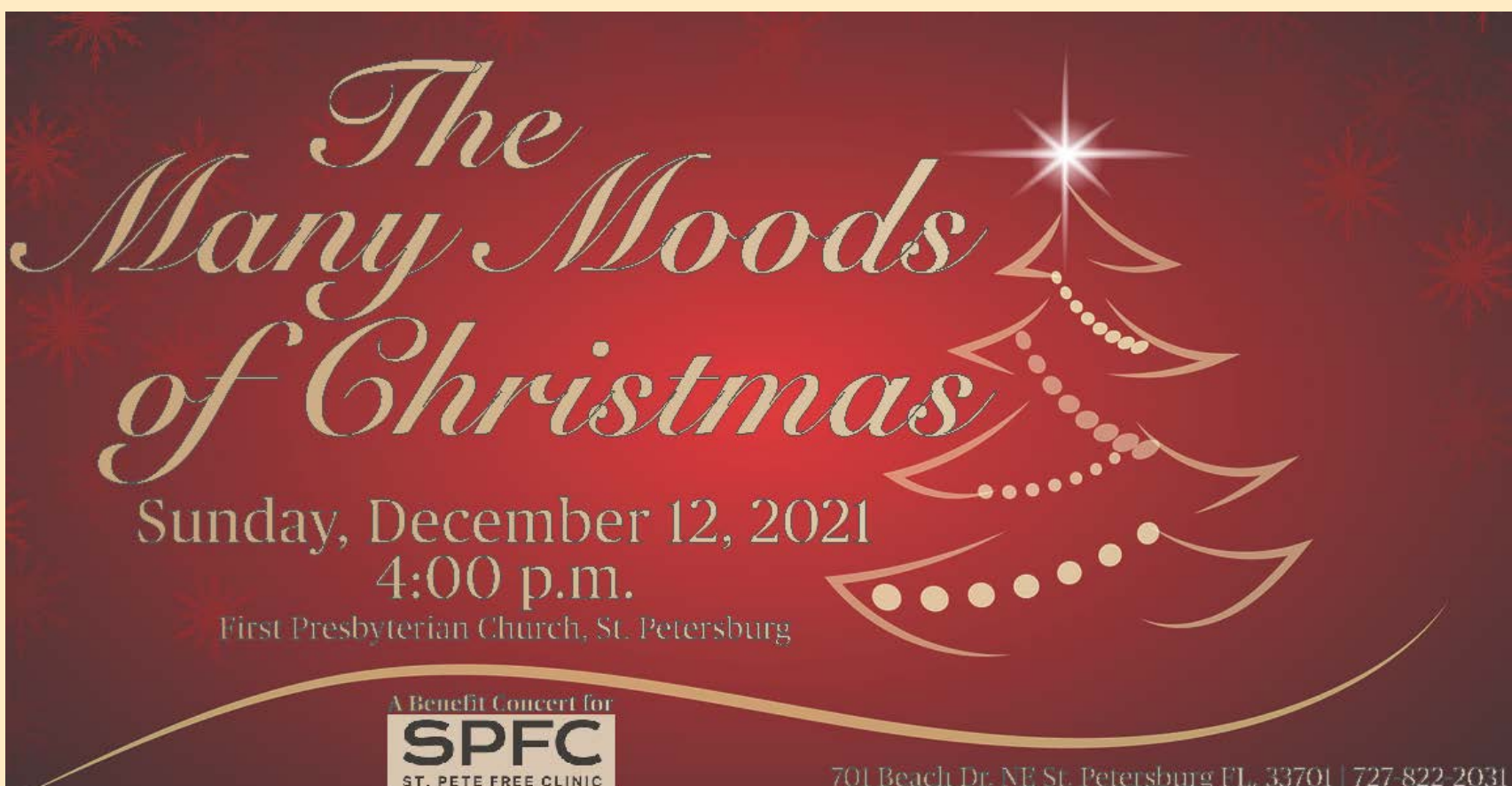


Faith & Fiction will meet next Monday on December 6th, at 7 PM, in person, in Room N-123 where we will discuss the Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead. If there is sufficient interest in meeting via Zoom, we will include that option and have a hybrid meeting.

Please let Linda Santoro know if you prefer to meet virtually via Zoom at lindajsantoro@gmail.com

Celebrate the miracle of Christmas with us through the
Many Moods of Christmas Concert
Sunday, December 12 at 4 PM

Featuring: Pinellas County Center for the Arts Choirs, Pinellas County Center for the Arts Instrumentalists, First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, and Guest Singers from the Tampa Bay Area



Two Christmas Eve Services @ FPC!



**Grieving?
Know someone who is?**

**Join us for GriefShare Sundays
at 4 PM, meeting virtually (via
Zoom).**



Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, you will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The 13-week DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. This is a great opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this

program.

Need more information? Want to sign up? Call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.

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, meeting in-person, Chapel.
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, In-Person Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#).
- **Sundays, 4 PM**, GriefShare (via Zoom)

- **Tuesdays, 9:15 AM**, Ladies Bible Study, Youth Center.
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting every other week in the Chapel at 7 PM (next in-person meeting is Dec. 7). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (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).
- **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)

- **Saturday, December 4, 10 AM**, GriefShare "Surviving the Holidays" (via Zoom)

- **Sunday, December 5, 9 AM**, "The Power Hour" Sunday School class begins, Youth Center

- **Monday, December 6, 7 PM**, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123

- **Sunday, December 12, 4 PM**, Many Moods of Christmas Concert, Sanctuary

- **Sunday, December 19, 11 AM**, Christmas Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall

- **Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve**
 - 4 PM, Family/Children's Service
 - 7 PM, Candlelight Service

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.

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

