

FIRST NEWS



February 10, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, February 12, 2023
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Rev. Jeanie Barnes
Sermon: "Telling It Like It Is?"
Scripture: [I Corinthians 3:1-9](#), [Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#)



NOTE ABOUT TRAFFIC - This coming Sunday, Feb 12, the St Pete Distance Classic takes place along North Shore Drive, behind the church. Access to the rear parking lot of the church will be permitted at all times. There may be delays, as runners will have the right of way. Inform the police you are attending the church and they will grant you access between groups of runners. That's right, YOU ARE A VIP! Plenty of parking will be available in the grass lot as well. We have a plethora of activities on this Super Sunday so come early! It is exciting to be God's Church in this vibrant and growing downtown! Remember, just tell 'em

God called you to church!

Click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

This link may also be found on the home page of the church's website (www.fpcstpete.com - click the "Watch 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 the link with family and friends!

Click [HERE](#) for the 11 AM worship service bulletin.

We have a **MASK-OPTIONAL** policy for worship services and on-campus activities.



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Ginger McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, Diane Nummi, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke

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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the many responses to last week's letter about church status. Your feedback is always helpful, and it was wonderful to share that things are going well.

Let me share some thoughts about the Congregational Annual Meeting and about Lent (coming up soon!):

- **OUR ANNUAL MEETING** is one week away: February 19, after the Sanctuary service. One big thing the congregation needs to do is consider and hopefully approve the Rules of Governance. Have you followed the link to read through that document (if not, [CLICK HERE](#))? Or picked up a copy at the church? Please do and let us know if you have any questions.

- **FOR LENT:** We will start with **Ash Wednesday** on Wednesday, February 22. Once again, we'll provide an opportunity to receive ashes in a drive-through format, in our front drive circle between 12 and 2 PM. There will be four "stations": scripture, prayer, communion, and ashes. **We NEED 3 TO 6 people to assist with this.** If you are willing, please let me know. You would be out in the circle from 12 to 1 PM (shift 1), or 1 to 2 PM (shift 2), and would read the scripture or prayer to each car, or offer communion or ashes. We will also have a **7 PM Ash Wednesday service** in the Chapel that evening.

Our Lenten study is **SAILBOAT CHURCH** – Author Joan Gray asks: "Is your church a rowboat church or a sailboat church?" Rowboat churches depend largely on human effort. When church budgets shrink and membership declines, rowboat churches frantically row harder against a current, often frustrated and disappointed at their efforts. Sailboat churches, on the other hand, take up the oars, hoist sails, and rely on the Holy Spirit to guide them. Arguing that churches should be "sailboats," Joan Gray encourages readers to shift concern from the many daily, practical concerns of their local church to fresh ideas that can be found using the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

IF you have had experience with sailing, will you send us a sentence or two about what sailing means to you? We would like to lift those thoughts up in worship or in First News in the weeks of Lent. We have heard that many of you have stories to tell!

GROUPS: We will be using the book *Sailboat Church* as we consider the future direction of our ministry. We will present the book's themes at worship beginning Sunday, March 26. Groups that I know of planning to study the book include: Faith Journey class (Sundays in Room 202 at 10 AM), the Power Hour class (Sundays in the Youth Center at 10:00 AM). There will be another Sunday study group at 12:15 PM in the Chapel, taught by Uneeda Brewer and Ginny Ellis. You can also attend a group on Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Chapel. The Choir will discuss the book on Thursday evenings at their practice, and I will be glad to help you plan a group if you would like to. Call to discuss schedules with me.

Copies of the book are available in the Church Office or can be ordered online. **HINT:** the PCUSA store has them on a discount for \$13!

Blessings to each one of you!
Pastor Ginny Ellis

Lectio/Visio Divina

Join in the Zoom devotion time at 10 a.m. on Mondays for the practice of Lectio/Visio Divina, a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

Please join us tomorrow, **Saturday, February 11, 2023 at 6 PM** at St. Thomas Episcopal Church (1200 Snell Isle Blvd NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704).



Health for Honduras Fundraiser

Tickets are available at FFIM.org (\$50 per person). Heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine generously provided by Red Mesa.

It's a SUPER SUNDAY at First Pres this week!

First, come worship with us at 9 AM or 11 AM. (There will be a baptism at the 11 AM service!). Squeeze in Sunday School in between at 10 AM! (Remember - childcare is available from 8:30 AM till 12:30 PM).

At noon, join us in Fellowship Hall for a **Valentine's Family Fun Event** including another cookout by Dave Hunt – hamburgers and hotdogs, fixings, sides, and dessert. Bring something to share, if you like. Then stay for some fun! We'll be decorating heart-shaped cookies and creating colorful Valentine's Day cards and window hangings to give to someone you love or to someone who needs to know they are loved! After all, God is Love, and we want the world to know it! ALSO, there will another FREE children's book giveaway. Make Valentine's bookmarks to slip into the books you choose! Then find somewhere to spread the love!

The **Men's Meatloaf Ministry** will fire up the kitchen ovens by 2 PM to start cooking for Pinellas Hope to help feed some hungry neighbors an evening meal. Volunteers are always welcome to help.

Finally, at 4 PM, the **Transparent Sound Concert** played with glass armonica will start creating magical music in the Sanctuary.

Come to any or all of the above for a great, Super Sunday at First Pres, then you can go home to cheer for your favorite team at this year's Super Bowl!

See you in church! Pastor Jeanie

Concert: *Transparent Sound*

This Sunday, February 12
at 4 PM in the Sanctuary

Featuring: [Dean Shostak, glass armonica](#)

Experience the enchanting and historic reverberation of the glass armonica in our incredible Sanctuary.

Dean Shostak will delight our audience with his knowledge and expertise in this special musical

medium. Offering will be taken for First Presbyterian Church Concert Series.



Concert: *The Helpers*
Saturday, February 18



at 7 PM in the Sanctuary

Featuring:

[The Festival Singers of Florida](#)

Providing community performances of the highest quality, the Festival Singers of Florida is dedicated to engaging and inspiring through impassioned singing while expanding awareness and appreciation of the choral arts. Offering will be taken for The Festival Singers of Florida.

New Member Inquirer's Class **Next Sunday, February 19 at 10 AM in the Chapel**

Whether you have been visiting FPC St. Pete for a brief time or for longer, you will want to join us for a new member inquirer's class. This is your 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 Chapel on February 19, 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. Please RSVP by calling the Church Office (727-822-2031). This is a great chance to learn about and join downtown's most welcoming church!

Annual Congregational Meeting **Next Sunday, February 19, at the 11 AM service**

As Ginny mentioned above, the Session has called our Annual Congregation meeting for the close of the 11:00 Sanctuary service on Sunday February 19. At this meeting, the congregation will hear reports on our ministry in 2022, will elect the 2023 Officer Nominating Committee and our corporate officers for 2023, will be asked to approve Rules of Governance for the church (click [HERE](#) to view a copy of that document; paper copies will be available on Sunday mornings). The church has had corporate bylaws for years but has not had a set of ecclesiastical governing rules. This document is an important addition to the church operations manual.

College Scholarships - It's Time to Apply!

We are now accepting applications for college scholarships! These scholarships include the Ohrns Scholarship for undergraduates and the Osborn Scholarship for Theology students. We only require one application is for both Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters (awards are split); the applicant needs to let us know if they only need it for one semester.

For further details about these scholarships (including downloadable application forms and deadlines), [CLICK HERE](#). Please note to apply for either of these scholarships, you will need to include:

1. a completed application form;
2. a copy of your most recent high school or college transcript;

3. a 500-word essay describing your involvement in church-related activities as well as extra-curricular and community involvement activities, why you want this grant, and what you expect to do following the completion of your education.

The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and the Session will approve the final awards. Successful applicants will be asked to provide proof of enrollment and acceptance by their educational institution. Funds for the scholarship will be sent directly to the institution so be sure to give the proper name and address to which the funds are to be sent. Questions? Please call the Church Office (727-822-2031).

“Hope for Ukraine” Concert, Saturday, March 25



Our church will host a “Hope for Ukraine” Concert on Saturday, March 25. This performance will be presented by the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. There are numerous opportunities for our members and friends to ensure the success of this event. Watch First News to find out how you can help!

The Kiev Symphony Orchestra and Chorus was started in 1993 by a couple from Florida who sold all they owned and moved to Ukraine to teach classical sacred music which was banned under Communist rule. As the Iron Curtain lifted and this music became known to Ukrainian musicians, they described it as “an explosion of light.”

The Kiev Symphonic Choir and Orchestra performed at our church on September 4, 1996. Housing had to be found for 150 people! FPC was one of 27 on their tour of the United States. This year the tour has 30 women and will visit at least 12 locations in the southeastern states. Due to the ongoing war, the men are not allowed to leave the country but are doing a concert in Kyiv.



Clover has a new friend!

We need to name our new bunny! Just like we did when we chose the name "Clover" for our frog, we'll have a contest! Anyone can suggest a name and we will vote for the one we like best! Email the Church Office (office@fpc-stpete.org) with your pick for a name. We have five suggestions so far....keep 'em coming! Meanwhile, keep an eye out for our bunny friend in our Moment for All Ages!

Easter Eggstravaganza is coming...Please help us prepare!

We are excited to welcome the St. Pete
Preschool children to join our Easter Egg

Hunt this year, so we need LOTS of filled Easter eggs! Collection baskets for (preferably) filled eggs, OR any plastic eggs, candy, or small toys, will be in both the 9 AM and 11 AM worship spaces during the months of February and March.

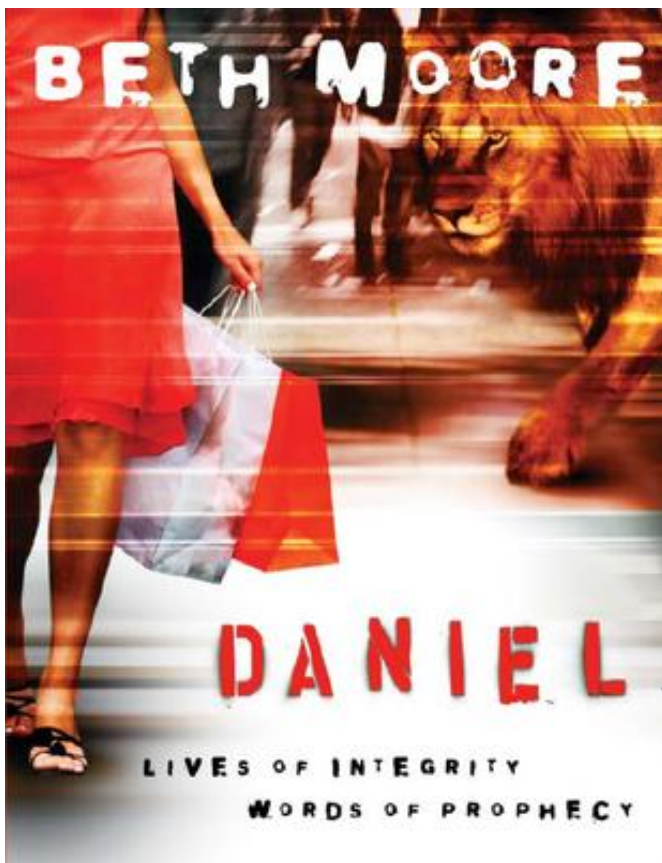


The Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt itself will be held on **Palm Sunday, April 2, promptly at 10:30 AM** on the Front Lawn.

If you would like to volunteer to be an expert Eggstravaganza egg hider or safety helper on the lawn that morning, please sign up at the Sanctuary Welcome Center or call the Church Office. Thanks!

Daniel: Lives of Integrity – Words of Prophecy

Tuesdays, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center



Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is necessary! This 12-week study will be in 2 parts:

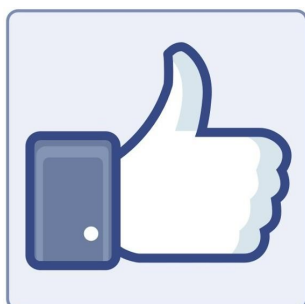
- Part 1 (through Feb. 21) we will study Daniel's life as he faced the kind of pressures and temptations Christians encounter today. Daniel models how to develop integrity in an enticing world. (there will be a 2 week break between Part 1 & Part 2)
- Part 2 (6 weeks: March 14 – April 18) we will explore the thrilling prophecies from the time of Daniel through the coming of Christ.

Workbooks will be available for \$20. Sorry, there is no childcare available at this time. Questions? Contact April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.

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!

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 February 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, 9 AM,** Connect Worship Service, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM,** Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Room S-202
- **Sundays, 10 AM,** Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 11 AM,** Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)

- **Mondays, 10 AM,** Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)

- **Tuesdays, 9 AM -** Ladies' Beth Moore Bible Study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM,** Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th 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, 7:30 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)

Upcoming Events:

- Saturday, February 11, 6 PM, "Health for Honduras" Fundraiser
- Sunday, February 12, 12 PM, Valentine's Family Fun Event
- Sunday, February 12, 4 PM, *Transparent Sound* Concert
- Saturday, February 18, 7 PM, *The Helpers* Concert
- Sunday, February 19, following 11 AM worship service, Annual Congregational Meeting
- Wednesday, February 22, Ash Wednesday, 12-2 PM, Drive-Through ashes, prayer, scripture and communion; 7 PM service in the Chapel
- Saturday, March 25, "Hope for Ukraine" concert

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.

First Presbyterian Church
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 822-2031 | 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.



First Presbyterian Church | 701 Beach Drive N.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2618

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