

FIRST NEWS



February 3, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, February 5, 2023
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany / Lord's Supper

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "Where is the Power?"
Scripture: [Matthew 5:13-20](#), [I Corinthians 2:1-8](#)

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!

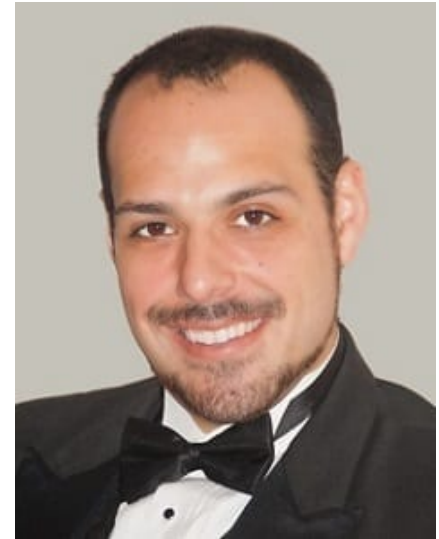
Click [HERE](#) for the 11 AM worship service bulletin.

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



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.

**We will be joined by GUEST SOLOIST,
Chris Romeo, this Sunday!**



Chris Romeo, Tenor, is an active singer in the Tampa Bay community and received his Masters in Vocal Performance from the University of South Florida. Performing with Tampa Opera, New Century Opera, and regularly performs with the St. Petersburg Opera Co. Some rolls include: Don Ottavio from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Don Curzio from Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Toby from Menotti's *The Medium*. Mr. Romeo can also be seen regularly performing with his group Klassika (klassikashow.com), as well as at St. Mary Our Lady of Grace Church. When Chris is not performing, he enjoys helping individuals with music therapy through his company Creative Leaps (creative-leaps.com).



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, 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, Marsha Starkey



Joined the Church Triumphant

Anthony P. (Tony) McCoy
January 31, 2023

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: 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 Members and Friends at First Presbyterian Church,

Not long ago I sent a letter asking you to consider making a financial pledge to First Presbyterian Church for the 2023 budget year. As God has moved among us at the end of 2022, we saw amazing things happen with the church budget: an encouraging reduction in the budget deficit for the year just ended and more in pledges for 2023 than we are dared to hope!

In real terms:

- THE DEFICIT we expected for 2022 was \$235,000, BUT the year-end report shows a loss of only \$117,000! Such wonderful news!
- Last year's budget was built on \$345,000 in pledges, BUT our actual year-end giving total for 2022 was \$450,000. More great news!
- Pledges for 2023 are almost but not quite \$500,000!

We still have a long way to go as we strengthen this church, but this good budget news reflects the energy and enthusiasm I am feeling around the church. Let me take a moment to THANK each of you for your thoughtful and generous 2023 pledges. Your commitment to the church and your financial giving enable us to continue to bring the message, love, and joy of Jesus Christ to the St. Petersburg community.

If any of you have not had a chance to offer your pledge for this year, it is not too late. All gifts, of whatever size, are signs of our commitment to Christ, and of our intention to walk together in this ministry. You can call the Church Office for a pledge card, pick one up on Sunday morning, or [CLICK HERE](#) to pledge electronically, if you have not yet had a chance to do so.

I am grateful to you, as is the Church Session. Thank you.

Ginny Ellis

Annual Congregational Meeting - Sunday, February 19

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.

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*.

STAFF MATTERS

Five Questions for Rev. Jeanie Barnes

For a PK, or Preacher's Kid, Jeanie Barnes defies the stereotype. She became a minister herself. And she's currently serving as our Parish Associate for Community Life and Worship. Jeanie was born in Pakistan where her parents were missionaries. Her grandparents also were missionaries in India, when "my grandfather had the opportunity to visit with Gandhi—his pacifism was influential on my parents." Specifically, Jeanie was born in Lahore, Pakistan, in a hospital on the college campus where years later our Dr. Peter Armacost served as president.

"I grew up in Pakistan and India, where I attended a missionary boarding school." From there, she jumped halfway around the world to attend college at the University of the Pacific in Stockton, CA, and was able to spend a year abroad in Japan. She graduated with a Liberal Arts degree. As for the emphasis of that degree, you'll have to ask her, she had such a variety of interests.



As you know by now the Personnel & Administration Committee shares a brief profile of our staff members the week of their birthdays. Jeanie's birthday is today, Friday February 3.

"I needed to find a paying job, so I subsequently earned a bachelor's degree in teaching at the University of Kansas (in Lawrence)." She met future husband Greg when introduced by a mutual friend. "Greg and I next crossed paths in Ohio. After several such serendipitous meetings, we finally got the message." Jeanie and Greg have one daughter, who is married, and two grandsons.

Jeanie earned her seminary degree at the St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City. "I finally decided I could be a pastor after being the only chaplain on call at a hospital one night when I had to deal with seven people dying."

We'd like to ask you a few questions, Jeanie, if we may?

Q1: What was the first church you served in?

Jeanie: It was a small, 100-member church in King City, MO (population 1,000 when they were there). I was the solo pastor. It was a beautiful red-brick church in a wonderful farming community a couple hours north of Kansas City, which several Scottish families had settled. Greg and I were there nine years. He was the mayor of King City for a while, and I was on the school board. This small church was such a contrast to the next church I served in Prairie Village,

KS, which had 6,000 members and where I was one of three Associate Pastors in the Pastoral Care department. We ultimately moved to Tampa to be near our daughter and her family.

Q2: What do you enjoy doing here at First Presbyterian?

Jeanie: I love the engagement with our members and staff. I loved fixing up the room for our children. Really, I enjoy everything I've gotten to do so far. And I love preaching out of that big pulpit.

Q3: What's your favorite dish?

Jeanie: Greg loves my Japanese dish called 'donburi.' Named for the large bowl it's served in called a 'don,' it's steamed rice, veggies, and sauce. And then I pour and steam a beaten egg over the top of it.

Q4: What are your hobbies?

Jeanie: During the pandemic I really got into Zentangle art. Well, it starts out Zentangle, but then it evolves into something unique. Animal and music spirits keep wanting voice as well. I also enjoy making Japanese pottery and doing nature photography.



Q5: By the way, Jeanie, you've lived in a lot of places, overseas as well as in the States. Just how many languages do you speak and/or know?

Jeanie: I grew up jabbering like a native in Urdu and Hindi and Punjabi, which is more of a dialect. I'm conversant in Japanese, having lived with a family there. I took French in middle and high school, but I'm not fluent. I don't speak Hebrew or Greek, but I learned enough to pass the ordination biblical language exam requirement. And oh yes, I do speak English.

Thanks so much, Jeanie, for giving our members and friends a peek into your life and interests. Happy birthday!

Deacons need your help!

Church family, remember all those flower vases that you keep thinking to donate to our Church? The Deacons are ready to accept all medium-sized vases, which are really needed. We have plenty of large ones, and way too many of the small-necked ones. Your Deacons deliver 3-5 vases of flowers weekly so they are quickly used, and all that you give us are greatly appreciated. Drop them off at Church or call for a pick up by a Deacon. Thanks!

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. Meanwhile, keep an eye out



for our bunny friend in our Moment for All Ages!

Faith & Fiction

Monday, February 6, at 7 PM in Room N-123

The book for February is *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles. A wonderfully moving and interesting fiction book about the American Library in Paris during WWII. Although it is not a book about the war, the war does affect the characters' lives. In essence, it is about books and lovers. Cynthia Garrels will lead our discussion. We will meet on the first Monday of the month, February 6th, in Room N-123, at 7:00 p.m.



Also, it is time for us to begin collecting book possibilities for next year. If you have any books that you think would fit our description of a book containing an element of faith, please contact Linda Santoro (lindajsantoro@gmail.com). Most of our choices are fiction, but we do like to include a non-fiction or classic read every once in a while.



Health for Honduras Fundraiser

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

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



Valentine's Family Fun Event Sunday, February 12 at noon

Sign up now to be part of a sweet deal! Sunday, Feb. 12 at noon (immediately following the 11 o'clock worship service), come downstairs to Fellowship Hall for a fun cookout (hamburgers, hotdogs and ice cream sandwiches)! Then we'll get busy creating some sweet treats for family, friends and neighbors! We'll have all you need to

make beautiful paper Valentines and decorate heart-shaped cookies for sharing! OK, kids, we'll get out the red solo cups for bowling on the other side of the

room, too! Come, let's all have some fun being creative together!

[CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#)

Concert: *Transparent Sound*

Sunday, February 12, 2023

at 4:00 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, 2023

at 7:00 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.

Save The Date - March 25!
"Hope for Ukraine" Concert

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.



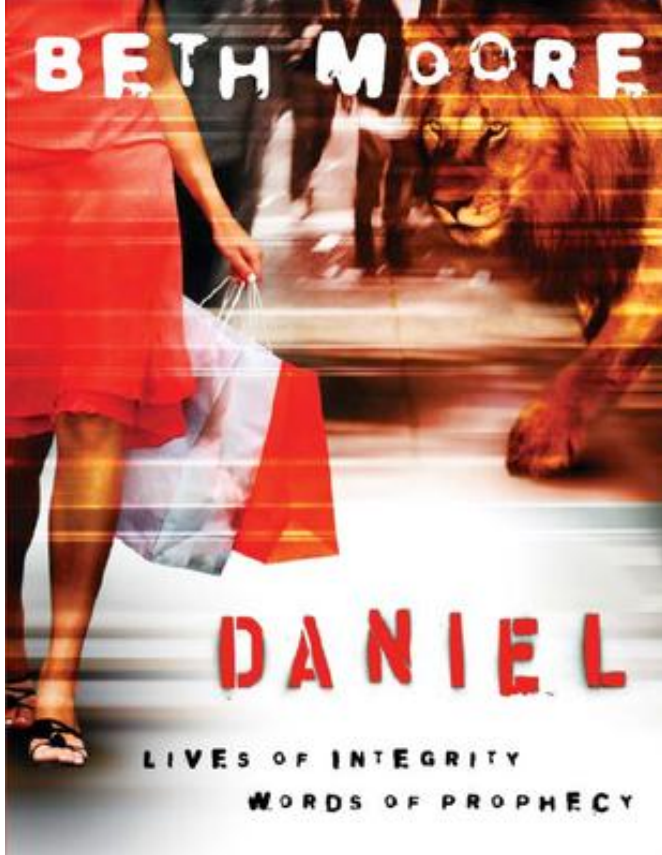
There are numerous opportunities for our members and friends to ensure the success of this event. Watch First News to find out how you can help.

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!



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:

- Monday, February 6, 7 PM, Faith & Fiction
- 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

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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