

FIRST NEWS



First News, February 9

February 9, 2024

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, February 11, 2024
Transfiguration of the Lord

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "Down the Mountain"
Scripture: [2 Kings 2:1-12](#), [Mark 9:2-9](#)

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

First Presbyterian Church is a **Stephen Ministry congregation**, and this Sunday, we are celebrating 25 years of this ministry here. Our volunteer Stephen Ministers will be available after the service to provide information and answer questions.



NOTE ABOUT TRAFFIC - This coming Sunday, Feb 11, 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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

Next week we have an interesting day: February 14. That is, of course, Valentine's Day. Get your cards and flowers and be ready to tell special people how much you love them! BUT pay attention that this year February 14 is also ASH WEDNESDAY, one of the days when we recognize how much GOD LOVES US! Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, leading us to Holy Week and Easter.

You can begin Lent with us by coming to one of our Ash Wednesday services: the drive-through experience with imposition of ashes and communion from 12-2 PM in the front circle drive, and the evening Ash Wednesday service at 7 PM in the Chapel. All are welcome to each service. For the evening service I will be using, once again, poems by Ann Weems, including this precious one:

TO WORSHIP

*When the people of God
Gather for worship
The whole earth trembles
and the angels sing.*

Next week the earth may tremble, and the angels may sing once again, as we recognize God's gift of love, knowing that *From Dust we have Come, to dust we will go*. We belong to God no matter what life brings. I give thanks for you and send love.

Blessings,
Ginny Ellis



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Carol Hunt, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Ginger McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, family & friends of Helen Rogers, Robert Safransky, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey, family & friends of Ken Young

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.

New Member Inquirer's Class This Sunday, February 11, 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 this Sunday, February 11, 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!

Lectio/Visio Divina, Mondays at 10 AM

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.

Ash Wednesday Wednesday, February 14

Drive-through imposition of ashes and communion in the front circle drive from 12-2 PM.

There will be an Ash Wednesday service in the Chapel at 7 PM.



SNEAKERS & SOX MISSION SUNDAY
Next Sunday, February 18, 2024

Lakewood Elementary School has been telling our Mission Committee for a while now that many of its students have a real need for sneakers. So our committee decided to see if we at First Presbyterian are able to do an all-in, can-do effort and donate 160 pairs. All sizes are needed, from size 5 to 12, boys and girls.



We're asking for three things from our generous members:

1. Sneakers
2. Money for Socks
3. To help us box and pack the sneakers during our next Mission Sunday, February 18. We will do this between the two services, from 10-11 AM.

Let's first discuss the boxing and packing. We need as many hands as possible to help us box and pack during our next **Mission Sunday, February 18. Time 10-11am**, the hour between our two services. Our Fellowship Committee has graciously offered to provide light refreshments.

Where? Fellowship Hall.

(P.S. The Mission Committee has learned its lesson: At the previous Mission Sunday we didn't wait for church members to show up while we did much of the work with little left for others to do. From now on, we'll help organize and assist but let you do the work. Scout's honor.)

Now let's talk socks. Rather than ask members to buy socks individually at a higher price, we're asking you to contribute \$money\$ so the committee can purchase the socks in bulk.



Finally, the sneakers. To make sure our generous members don't all contribute one size—say, size 5 boys—a board will be at each service with tabs on it that you can pull off. This tab will designate a shoe size and kind (boy or girl) for you to purchase. Select whatever color you like. And take as many tabs as you like!

What to do with the sneakers? You can bring your sneakers to church prior to February 18.

Bins labeled *Lakewood Sneakers* will be available beneath the Giving Tree at each service for you to place them in. If you would like to contribute money for the socks, please place your check in the offering plate, made out to First Presbyterian; Memo line: *Lakewood socks*. Or, you can deposit cash or check made to FPC in an envelope attached to the tab board.

Thanks to each of you for your generous spirit. Let's see if we can reach our goal of 160 sneakers!

If you have any questions or concerns, contact committee member Melody Proud (865.599.6767; melody@livelovespete.org) or Michelle Heinsimer (727.510.2045; michelle.heinsimer@gmail.com). Or you may contact Mission Committee Chair Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300; saveritt@tampabay.rr.com).



Mark your calendars for our "Beach Drive Forum" Spring 2024 line-up!

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.

Join us on Wednesday, February 21 for: *Standing on the Promises: The Woodson African-American Museum of Florida on the Historic Gas Plant Site* by Terri Lipsey Scott, Executive Director of the Carter G. Woodson African-American Museum. Come learn the history of this cultural asset and the exciting plans for the future of the museum, which is named for the founder of Black History Month, Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Mrs. Lipsey Scott is a retired administrator who served in the Office of the St. Petersburg Mayor and City Council.

Also mark your calendars for:

- **MARCH 20:** *The Dynamic History of St. Petersburg's Marine Science Complex* by Peter R. Betzer, PhD, Founding Dean Emeritus of the College of Marine Science at USF. Dr. Betzer will talk to us about what propelled him to create the marine science program, why it was needed then, and why it is important today to have this academic program in our own backyard.
- **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 ongoing studies have now brought forth new synthetic molecules that are being developed into lifesaving immune-altering therapeutics.

SAVE THESE DATES!

The Explorers of First Presbyterian (Fun, Fellowship, and Friends group) are starting the new year with some events for EVERYONE:



- **Thursday, February 22**, at 5:01 PM for an evening at the **Dalí Museum**. Discounted admission for adults after 5 PM is \$14.50/person. Enjoy the current exhibit of *Dali & the Impressionists: Monet, Renior, Degas & more!*
- **Sunday, March 17**, at 1:30 PM at the **Tampa Bay Automobile Museum** which features a unique collection of vintage cars and vehicles that demonstrate special creativity and imagination in their history and engineering.

More details to come! See Dave Hunt on a Sunday morning or contact him any time (513-604-6090, dhunt@fpc-stpete.org).



The Foundation for International Missions (FFIM), which created and operates the Honduras medical clinic that is supported by FPC, would like to invite you to their annual Health for Honduras Fundraiser.

Saturday February 24, 2024

6:00 PM

at St. Thomas Episcopal Church

1200 Snell Isle Blvd, St. Petersburg

Tickets are available online at FFIM.org for a \$52.00 per person donation. (\$50.00 per person by check).

Heavy hors d'oeuvres are generously provided by Red Mesa. Wine and beer included.

We hope you can attend, have fun, and learn more about this special Honduras medical mission program!

**AFRO OPERA LLC
PRESENTS**

A MESSAGE FROM THE ROOTS

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2024
6:00 PM**

**WHERE: CATHEDRAL CHURCH
OF SAINT PETER**

**140 4TH STREET NORTH
ST. PETERSBURG, FL 33701**

**[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/A-MESSAGE-
FROM-THE-ROOTS-TICKETS-763702403447](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-message-from-the-roots-tickets-763702403447)**



**FEATURING:
MAIYA STEVENSON
(OPERA SINGER)**

**TEIA WATSON
(OPERA SINGER)**

&

**AUSTIN GASKIN
(ACCOMPANIST)**



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 2024 and Spring 2025 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).

Ladies, you are invited to join us for a Beth Moore Bible Study:
"A Study of Philippians -
The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ"

Let's start the new year by doing the Beth Moore & Melissa Moore 5-week study of Philippians. By the power of the same Holy Spirit who took the gospel to Europe by way of Philippi, let's discover what Paul magnificently called "The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ."

BETH MOORE & MELISSA MOORE

THE
SURPASSING
VALUE
OF
KNOWING
CHRIST

Join us on Tuesday mornings
through February 13
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center

A STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is required. Workbooks will be available for \$15. If interested, please 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.

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 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, 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, Room S-202
- Sundays, 10 AM, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- Sundays, 10 AM, Young Adults/Parents "Next" Sunday School Class, Room S-100 (new room!)
- Sundays, 10 AM, Teens' Sunday School Class, Room S-205 (meets every other week)
- 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)

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, February 11, 10 AM, New Member Inquirer's class
- Wednesday, February 14, Ash Wednesday. Drive-through ashes and communion from 12-2 PM and a worship service in the Chapel, 7 PM
- Sunday, February 18, Mission Sunday! Bring kids' shoes and/or help package them up for Lakewood students, 10 AM
- Wednesday February 21, Beach Drive Forum, 5:30 PM
- Thursday, February 22, Fun evening at the Dalí Museum, 5:01 PM

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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