

FIRST NEWS



January 20, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, January 22, 2023
Third Sunday after Epiphany

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "Same Mind and Same Purpose"
Scripture: Matthew 4:12:23
1 Corinthians 1:10-18

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 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.

We will be joined by GUEST SOLOIST,
Todd Donovan, this Sunday
at the 11 AM service!



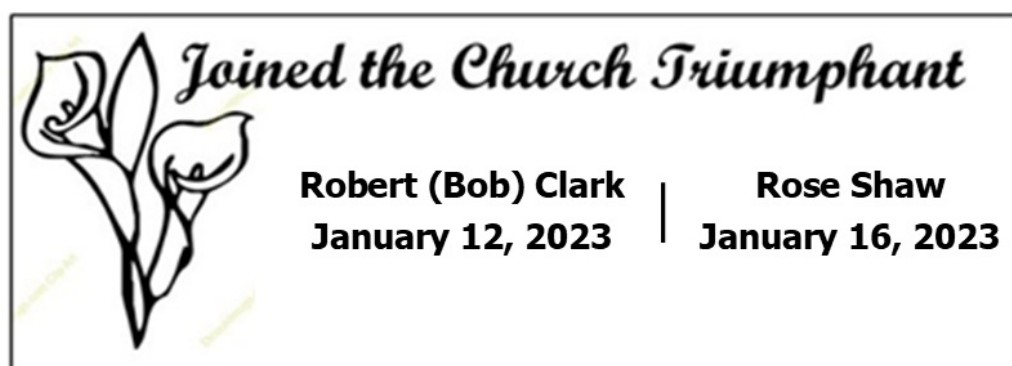
American Bass-Baritone, Todd William Donovan, has been described by critics as a singer full of confidence, dominating the stage. He is known for his powerful and resonant voice and expressive acting. Mr. Donovan is comfortable both on the Opera and Musical Theater stage where he has performed throughout the United States. Mr. Donovan has sung at the Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria for eight seasons.

Mr. Donovan's musical theater experience includes the roles of Amile de Becque in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*, Alfred P. Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, the Baker in Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, and Count Carl Magnus in *A Little Night Music*, and The Beast in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*.

Some of Mr. Donovan's operatic roles include: Figaro in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Olin Blich in Floyd's *Susannah* (Naxos Records 2014 DVD), Scarpia in Puccini's *Tosca*, and Mefistofele in Boito's *Mefistofele*.



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, John Daniel, 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, Tony McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, Marsha Starkey



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; 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,

This coming week, January 22, I'll let you know a little about how I am trying to "go deeper" in my own faith journey and as your pastor. I'll be preaching out of Paul's letter to the church in Corinth, and from the story of Jesus calling some guys to follow him. They left their boats and nets and their fishing behind to discover a new life with Jesus. How do we do that? How do we let ourselves be open to change, to follow Jesus, and to go deeper in our faith?

BUT ONE MORE THING. A confession: I FORGOT to announce about the Pancakes! We are having a pancake breakfast next week -- Sunday 1/29 at 9:00 a.m. I can't believe that I forgot to announce this last Sunday. (Maybe I wanted more pancakes for myself! I do like to eat breakfast, especially pancakes!)

Anyway, as many of you know, on Fifth Sundays we have celebrated MissionSunday, with a mission project we could do together as a congregation and usually a meal. This time we are FOCUSING ON CHILDREN: gathering diapers and baby wipes and children's books. These will be distributed to agencies and/or schools in our area and will make a big difference for families in need, and for children who don't have books. Please plan to bring these items to the church that day or any time before then. The Men's Meal Ministry team will be cooking stacks of pancakes for us to enjoy; the Praise Band will sing some of their best worship songs while we gather and eat; children from St. Petersburg Primary School will sing some of their songs for us in Fellowship Hall. After, as we complete our work, we can go up to the Sanctuary for worship with the organ and the choir at 11:00.

This is our first MissionSunday since we began having two separate and different services. Last year (May, July and October) we combined our MissionSunday events: worship, mission project and meal into our (one) Fellowship Hall space. This time we will do it differently, with the pancake breakfast and mission project in the Fellowship Hall, and formal worship upstairs at 11 AM. Those who especially like to attend the Connect service will miss their 9 AM service, but we will be "connecting" with good food, important service work, toe-tapping, hand-clapping music, and a chance to connect with each other in this Christ-filled way. I hope you will bring diapers, wipes or children's books to share and join us on Sunday January 29 for some of the important mission work of our church. It will be a spirit-filled way for us to gather together.

Blessings to you all, Ginny Ellis



Surrounding FPC With Prayer

Did you feel something special Monday afternoon? It might have been the prayers uplifted around the church campus! During the day of celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., nine members and staff of First Presbyterian Church, led by Parish Associate Jeanie Barnes, circled the church campus with prayer. The prayer walk stopped at various places inside and outside First Presbyterian, with a different person leading prayers of thanks, protection and guidance for the future for each location. Prayer stops included the church office, playground, St. Pete Primary School, the parking lot, Presbyterian Women's room, choir rooms, men's Bible Study and Alcoholics Anonymous room, Fellowship Hall, the Church Garden, the chapel and sanctuary. The spirit of God was present as fond memories of some made new knowledge for others:

- The stained glass ribbon windows in the chapel were salvaged from a church in South Florida that was being demolished; the late Chris Lee (daughter of Lillian Harris) tracked down the stained glass and the late Glenn Schlecht had a hand in storing and installing.
- The history of First Presbyterian Church is told in the chapel in needlepoint depictions made by church members.
- St. Pete Primary is thriving, and in the hearts of alumni parents who were on the walk, with one whose graduate is now 46 years old.
- The Presbyterian Women's room was once home to the beloved Highlander Sunday School class.
- The parking lot is a lucrative source of income for the New Hope Clinic in Honduras and the Foundation for International Missions as members collect parking donations for frequent downtown events.

If you haven't explored your church campus, check it out. And say a prayer along the way!

Peace and blessings, Gretchen Letterman

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*.



The 36th Annual Festival of Praise Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Featuring: Jon Arterton, guest clinician,
[One City Chorus](#), First Presbyterian Church Chancel
Choir, Guest Singers from the Tampa Bay Area, Jack Rain, organ

One City Chorus and Jon Arterton are a local tour-de-force for social justice through singing. Jon will lead the Festival of Praise Chorus in a celebration of diversity and community. Offering will be taken for One City Chorus.

To take a peek at their online performance last year, you can view it [HERE](#).

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CORNER

UPDATE: Our Upcoming Fifth Sunday Mission Pancakes, Children's Books, and Diapers

Here's the latest info from the Mission Committee on our Fifth Sunday on January 29. Let us know you are planning to come by clicking [HERE](#) (so we'll know how many pancakes to make!).

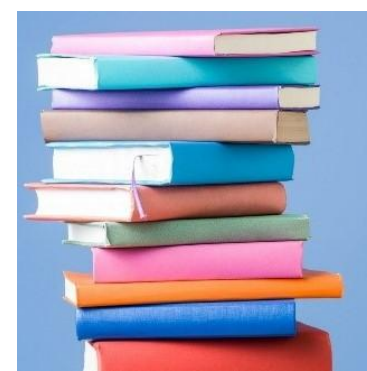
Items needed from members and friends to be sorted and distributed:

1. Baby diapers, all sizes plus baby wipe'ems. Sharp-eyed shoppers say you can get good deals on these at Dollar General and Walmart.
2. Children's books ONLY. New or gently used books, grades Kindergarten thru 5th Grade.



What we will be doing after slurping down our delicious pancake breakfast?

1. For the children's books, we have 45 canvas backpacks to be creatively decorated with stickers and sharpies, then filled with a few books. PLUS, there will be bookmarks to be decorated with messages and drawings.
2. The diapers and wipes will be sorted and placed in bags.



Who do we need help from? Children and their parents from our church and from our day school, St. Petersburg Primary. Other children from ages 10-100+.

What non-profits will be receiving the diapers and wipes and the books and canvas backpacks? Resurrection House, CASA, and COSA (Operation PAR's pre-school).

What's our schedule on Sunday, January 29?

9:00 AM: In Fellowship Hall, we'll sit down for a delicious pancake breakfast brought to us by the Christian Education/Fellowship Committee with help from the Men's Meal Ministry. We'll also be entertained not only by the FPC Praise

Band but also by a children's chorus from the day school.

10:00 AM or thereabouts: Children, parents, grandparents and otherwise will begin decorating the backpacks and filling them with books. We'll also be stuffing and sorting for distribution the diapers and wipes.

11:00 AM: We'll move to the Sanctuary for our worship service. Please Note: There will be only one service on January 29th.

If you have questions of the Mission Committee, please contact Moderator Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300 or sanaveritt1@gmail.com).

Questions of the Christian Education/Fellowship Committee? Please contact Moderator Kyle Brinkman (727.455.6931 or browncongo@yahoo.com).



Faith & Fiction

February 6, 7 PM, 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.

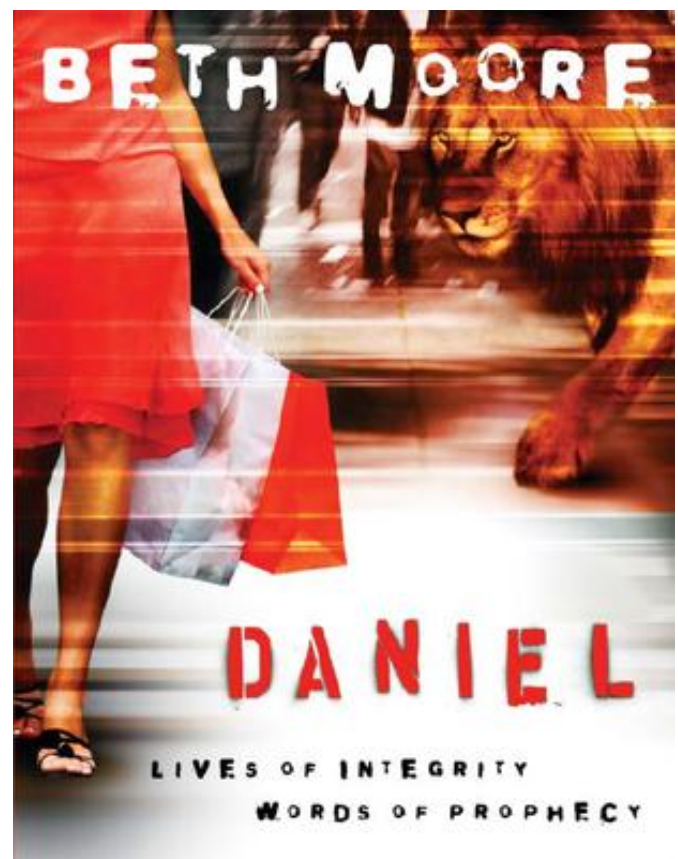
Also, it is time for us to begin collecting book possibilities for next year. If you have any books that you think would fit our description of a book containing an element of faith, please contact Linda Santoro (lindajsantoro@gmail.com). Most of our choices are fiction, but we do like to include a non-fiction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

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 (6 weeks: Jan. 17 – 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. (Note: 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 January 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, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)
- **Wednesdays, 7:00 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:

- **Sunday, January 22**, 4 PM, Festival of Praise Concert
- **Sunday, January 29**, MissionSunday, 9 AM pancake breakfast and 10 AM mission project in Fellowship Hall, and 11 AM worship service in the Sanctuary

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.





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