

FIRST NEWS



March 24, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon Series: *Sailboat Church*
Sermon: "Discernment – The Skipper's Voice"
Scripture: [Proverbs 3:5-8](#), [Romans 12:1-5](#)

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.



Guest Musician This Sunday, 11 AM:

Todd Donovan, Baritone

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. To learn more about Todd and his musical career, click [HERE](#).



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, Fred 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

Hello everyone!

I went down to Westminster Suncoast recently, without calling ahead; I just knocked on a door or two. One person I had not met before was Vivian Ramirez, (who might be 95, unless that is a big secret: then oops and she isn't 95 after all). Beautiful and happy, Vivian said she gets the First News each week and always sits right down to read every word! SO: *Greetings and love to you, Miss Vivian! I did enjoy our visit.* And Greetings to all of you!

We finish the first part of *Sailboat Church* this coming Sunday at worship. Some of you are still reading the chapters: keep at it! (I'm preaching on chapter 10 this week.) Many of us are doing the daily devotionals up until Easter. There is so much to think and pray about in *Sailboat Church*! At the end of April, we will pick up *Sailboating* again, when author Joan Gray joins us for our church retreat

at Cedarkirk and for an open event at the church that Sunday afternoon (April 30) from 3:00 to 4:30 PM. You should put these things on your calendar.

It occurred to me the other day, that generally I am more tired this year than I was last year. I realize that's because we are doing lots more now! Our two weekly worship services require more preparation and more people doing more things. There are events planned and carried out that fill the calendar each month. I am happy about the vitality and the energy we are seeing here at the church. Probably it would be good for me to be aware of the increased level of activity, so that I can manage my work load a little better. I say that in order to suggest some of you do the same. We are all busy here in the church, all busy as we live our faith each day. Put up your sails, dear friends, don't row-row-row to exhaustion! Let God's Spirit guide and empower you!

I send love and blessings your way,
Pastor Ginny Ellis

Lectio/Visio Divina

Join us in a 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*.

Usher Coordinator Needed for 11 AM Sunday Services

If you would like to serve as the Usher Coordinator for the 11:00 worship service, please contact Al May at ATM4983@gmail.com or at 727-867-8285. We have 4 usher teams that serve every 4 months. We could use some additional ushers to fill some openings on several teams. The ushers hand out the bulletins, greet our members and guests, and take up the collection. This is a great way to serve our Church and get to know our members!

Join Us for a Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt on April 2!

Invite your family, neighbors and friends with children to spend Palm Sunday morning at First Pres!



At 10:30 a.m. we will start our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Meet at the Front Circle Patio for instructions. Please bring your own baskets if you can. We will supply a few if need be! Immediately following the Easter Egg Hunt, all children are invited to wave palms and process into the Sanctuary along with the choir. After a brief welcome the St. Pete Primary School children will sing special songs before all children are excused for Palm Sunday crafts and snacks either in Fellowship Hall (older kids) or Room 203 (infants and young toddlers). Parents are asked to sign in and pick up their children at their designated points after worship. Thanks to Ashley Hardy and Carol Riley for their help with the preschool and older children in Fellowship Hall during church.



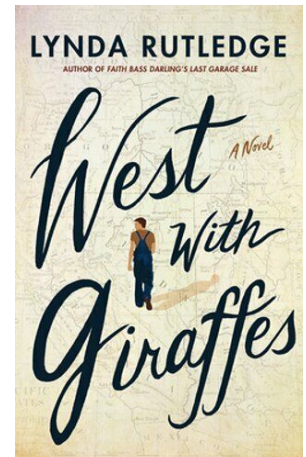
Handbell Choir Spectacular Featuring: Ring Sarasota Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 4 PM

[Ring Sarasota](#), the area's premier handbell ensemble, is making music throughout the Gulf Coast. With a passion for playing, these spirited

musicians captivate audiences age seven to seventy-seven with a unique combination of entertainment, education, and community engagement. Offering will be taken for First Presbyterian Church Concert Series.

Faith & Fiction Monday, April 3, 6:30 PM

Our final book for Spring of 2023 is *West with Giraffes* by Linda Rutledge. We will meet to discuss this interesting tale of the transport of two giraffes in a truck across the country to the San Diego Zoo in 1938, on April 3rd, Room N-123 at 6:30 p.m. Lyn Greene will be our discussion leader for this book.



If you would like to be a part of selecting the books for next season (starting in October 2023), be sure to join us at this next meeting! We will review nominated books, and then have our discussion. All are welcome!



Children's Books

Children's books in the Little Free Library are so popular that we need a fresh supply! If you have some to share, place them in the Little Library or leave them at the Sanctuary Welcome Center. Thank you!



Maundy Thursday April 6 at 6:00 PM

We will have a Covered Dish Dinner with Communion around tables in the Fellowship Hall; please RSVP by clicking [HERE](#) and plan to bring a dish to share for

the meal. We will be ending the service out in the Memorial Garden with prayer and a hymn.

Good Friday April 7, 12 - 3 PM

The Sanctuary will be open for private meditation from 12:00 to 3:00 PM.



We need 3 teams of people to host in the Sanctuary for an hour at a time. Please contact the Church Office (727-822-

2031 or office@fpc-stpete.org) if you would like to volunteer.



Easter Lilies

Share Easter's beauty by sponsoring a lily to be used as part of our Easter worship service. These traditional symbols of Easter can be given in memory of a loved one or to honor friends and family (\$25 each). To order, contact Amy in the Church Office (727-822-2031 or amym@fpc-stpete.org). You may pick up your lily after the 11 AM Easter Sunday Sanctuary service.

One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.



Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promotes development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

We will have informational brochures and giving envelopes available in both worship services on **April 2 and 9** or you can give online anytime [HERE](#).

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Our Next Mission Sunday - April 23 *For the New Hope Clinic in Honduras*

Thank you, thank you, thank you that our Mission Sundays have been such overwhelming successes! Our members and friends have donated many, many items as well as their time, effort and money.

Our next effort will be sorting and sending health kits to the Honduras Clinic when a group of 15 from FPC and other churches will be traveling there in June. To see what donations are needed and see the schedule of what we'll be doing on our April 23rd, click the button below!

MISSION SUNDAY - APRIL 23



Save The Date: April 23 or April 24

We will have an FPC Concert Series Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, April 23 at 12:15 PM in the Choir Room and another on Monday, April 24 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Get Ready for BEACH DRIVE FORUMS



Your Community Outreach Committee is planning some exciting events at First Presbyterian Church! Beach Drive Forums are a series of conversations for congregation and community on thought-provoking topics, a sort of "Chautauqua South." We hope this forum series will get people talking about First Presbyterian Church and its place in St. Petersburg. The monthly (or so) conversations with intriguing guest speakers and subject matter are open to our members and the public and will take place on Wednesdays from about 6-8 p.m. (presentation from 6-7, followed by a time for Q & A and refreshments) in the Youth Center.

Here is the lineup so far, with more engaging speakers and topics in the works:

- **APRIL 26 - *A Tale of Two Cities: St. Petersburg and Tampa, Then and Now.*** Longtime friends and historians Ray Arsenault and Gary Mormino will take us on a "tour" of some of their favorite (or not so favorite) buildings and people, past and present.
- **MAY 17 - *Science, Faith, and Reality: The View from the Cosmos.*** Eckerd College Emeritus Professor of Physics Harry Ellis will explore the difficult relationship religion and science have had throughout history and the question: Are they really natural enemies?
- **JUNE (date TBA) - *Food Is Medicine.*** Dr. Kelli Cross of Complete Wellness Pediatrics has been caring for children for more than 24 years. She is passionate about helping people of all ages embrace the benefits of healthy eating and will share her wisdom on the topic.

Mark your calendars, tell your friends and neighbors, and stay tuned for more information! And send ideas you have for dynamic speakers to Ann Murray at aempuff@aol.com

-- Community Outreach Committee: Chair Ann Murray; members Vicki Fox,



Look who dropped by the Church Office last week!

FPC's former Associate Pastor **Megan McMillan** (center) was in St. Pete last week to attend the *Reggae Rise Up* concert downtown, so she stopped by the Church Office to say hello!

Summer at Cedarkirk

Your camp and conference center is offering more than 40 residential camp programs for campers who have completed 1st-12th grades, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and families. Our summer theme *What's in a Name?* will focus on discovering who we are and how God equips us to care for others.



Register for a summer program at Cedarkirk and discover how a summer can impact a lifetime!

- Click [HERE](#) to see the 2023 Summer Calendar
- Click [HERE](#) to see the 2023 Summer Curriculum Overview "Fruitful Faith"
- Click [HERE](#) to see the complete list of 2023 events at Cedarkirk

Interested in volunteering with Cedarkirk?

- Click [HERE](#) for more information about volunteering as a camp nurse
- Click [HERE](#) for more information about volunteering as a summer camp worship leader

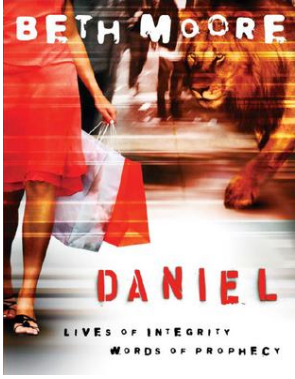
All the above information - and more! - can be found on their website: www.cedarkirk.org.

College Scholarships - Apply Soon!

We are now accepting applications for college scholarships! For further details about these scholarships (including downloadable application forms and deadlines), [CLICK HERE](#).

The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and the Session will approve the final awards. Questions? Please call the Church Office (727-822-2031).

**Daniel: Lives of Integrity –
Words of Prophecy**



Tuesdays (through April 18)

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

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is necessary! We will be exploring 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 March 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](#)
- **Sundays, 12:15 PM**, *Sailboat Church* study group (through April 2), Chapel

- **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:

- **Sunday, April 2**, Palm Sunday (10:30 AM Easter Egg hunt!)
- **Sunday, April 2, 4 PM**, Handbell Choir Concert
- **Monday, April 3, 6:30 PM**, Faith & Fiction
- **Thursday, April 6**, Maundy Thursday; dinner at 6 PM, followed by a worship service, Fellowship Hall
- **Friday, April 7, 12 - 3 PM**, Good Friday; Sanctuary will be open for a time for private meditation
- **Sunday, April 9**, Easter Sunday
- **Sunday, April 23 and Monday, April 24**, FPC Concert Series Town Hall Meetings
- **Wednesday, April 26, 6 PM**, our first Beach Forum: *A Tale of Two Cities: St. Petersburg and Tampa, Then and Now.*

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.

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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