

FIRST NEWS



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

March 25, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service
at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
this Sunday, March 27, 2022
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday's Sermon: "Forgiven"
Rev. Ginny Ellis

Scriptures: [2 Corinthians 5:16-19](#), [Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)

We welcome you to join us for in-person worship services!

**PLEASE NOTE: we have a MASK-OPTIONAL policy
for worship services and on-campus activities.**

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

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.

If the 10:00 hour on Sundays does not fit your schedule, the service is available
for viewing on our YouTube channel throughout the week. Feel free to share

the link with family and friends!

Praise Band Preview - Blast from the Past

This week your FPC Praise Band will perform two old favorites we've yet to do in 2022. *Jesus Take All of Me* is a great tune based on the hymn *Just As I Am, Without One Plea*. *Lord, I Need You* is a personal favorite featuring beautiful 3-part vocal harmonies. Click the links below to hear the tunes and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Jesus Take All of Me](#)
[Lord, I Need You](#)



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Carol Daniel, Peter Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Lillian Harris, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke

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; 1st LT Mallory Wasik, USMC; 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 First Folks:

Last year I was working daily out in my garden. I removed old struggling shrubs and set out bushes that were classified as Florida natives. These new plants were supposed to manage well in our soil and weather, and they would provide for birds, bugs, and butterflies. Doing that work in the garden was a joy, and Harry and I loved seeing many happy birds and butterflies, counting the caterpillars, and watching new bright butterflies emerge from cocoons.

This year I don't have as much time for the garden. I'm glad for the plants that are continuing to do well on their own. I admit that they don't ALL look so

good. There was a Black-Eyed Susan I had enjoyed. Some of it was blooming well this year, but a chunk of it was dead, dead, dead. One morning I got energetic and pulled out the dead part of the plant. Guess what? The vibrant blooming part was on that same stem - I had just pulled it up! What a disappointment.

I should have been more like Jesus and pruned the plant, cutting away the dead parts but nurturing the living stems. I would do that at the church, wouldn't I? Wouldn't I? Watching for the signs of life and nurturing them.... Letting the old parts, the parts no longer needed.... Letting them go.... How does that work? It is probably a good metaphor for us to ponder, as we move on in ministry through Lent and toward Holy Week. Where will God bring us new life in our church and in our own faith? Where will God challenge us to prune? Where will God bring us to bloom, to grow, to flourish in life and ministry? Something to think about! Something to work on.

OUR UPCOMING CEDARKIRK RETREAT:

The Church Retreat at Cedarkirk is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, April 23-24. Our theme will be "Beloved Community in a Beloved Place." I hope some of you will make the effort to join us for this retreat even if you have never done it before. Perhaps you are new and want to see our church camp and retreat center. Perhaps you have never been able to attend before. Join us this year!

IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO KNOW: Cedarkirk is about an hour away. We will be staying Saturday night in the air-conditioned Pine Lodge. Delicious meals will be served family-style in the dining room. You can come for the whole time, for just Saturday, or just for Sunday's activities and worship service. There are lots of options, and Kathy Bardin will be glad to answer your questions (StPeteBardin@gmail.com). She'll be ready to take reservations beginning this Sunday, March 27.

Cedarkirk is a place for God's people to find fellowship and faith. We call it "A Place Apart."

Lectio Devina - Monday Mornings

We would love for you to join us on Monday mornings via Zoom at 10 AM for Lectio Devina, when we reflect on scriptures that will be used in the coming Sunday's worship service. To join, just click the link: [HERE](#).

Wednesday Night Book Study

Join us via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for a book study based on The Book of Forgiving by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. The book explores "the four-fold path for healing ourselves and our world." Click [HERE](#) to join.

7 Mission Items for 7 Sundays of Lent

Every Sunday in Lent, we will be collecting items for our community during the season of Lent. These items will go to places like the St. Pete Free Clinic, CASA,

and Lakewood Elementary School. Please bring the specified item only on the specified date below. Thank you for the many ways you continue to support our community!

- March 27 - Toothbrush and toothpaste
- April 3 - Feminine hygiene products
- April 10 - Shampoo and Conditioner (for men and women)
- April 17 - Bath towels and/or wash cloths

Stephen Ministry Sunday is March 27

Who are Stephen Ministers?

Our Stephen Ministers are:

- well-trained lay caregivers,
- able to provide a high level of confidential care and concern,
- ready to come alongside you, and
- provide comfort and emotional support for as long as needed.



Do you know someone who is struggling with one of the following life difficulties?

- Grief
- Major medical crisis
- Job-related crisis
- Divorce or broken relationship
- Chronic care situation
- Major life transition
- Difficult Family situations
- End of life or hospice situation

Our Stephen Ministers are ready today to:

- Listen without judging
- Support and pray through difficult circumstances
- Care and encourage

....for as long as needed.

One Stephen Minister put it this way: "I'm not going to tell you to get over it. I am going to help you to get through it."

New Power Hour Sunday School Session beginning March 27 Curriculum: *Animate*

Come to the new Power Hour Sunday school class as we animate or "give life to" our faith & community, the Bible, and our core faith practices. We will hear perspectives from some of the best contemporary voices with this DVD-based program. There will be lively, relevant conversation starters that will spur on great conversations as we grow in our faith. For more info, visit the website: www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286832/Animate. Set your alarm

and join us every Sunday @ 8:30 AM in the Youth Center. Coffee and fellowship begins at 8:30 AM; class begins at 9 AM You won't want to miss it! Any questions, call Karen Mossman at 727-400-5079.

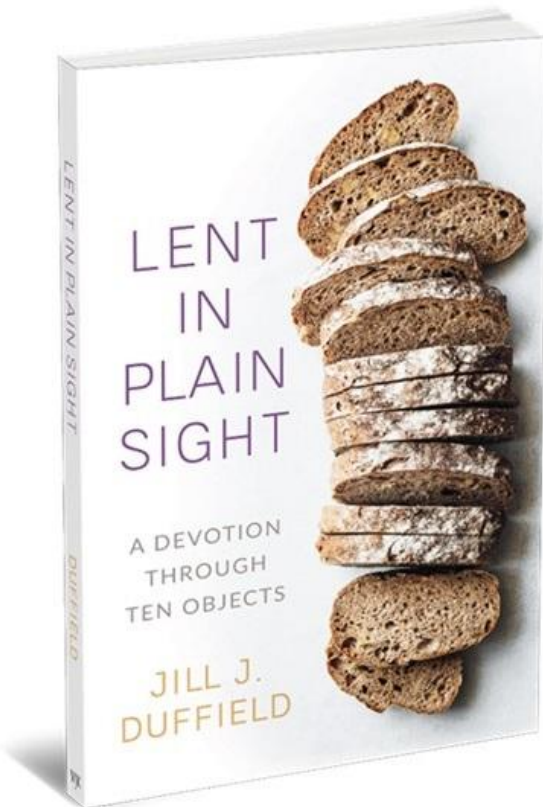


Easter Lilies

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 (\$20 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 10 AM Easter Sunday service.

JOIN US FOR A SIX-WEEK LENTEN STUDY SERIES BASED ON

Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects, by Jill J. Duffield



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wednesday Lenten
Lunch Study
in the Youth Center

Wednesdays at Noon
through April 13th

Led by Rev. Megan McMillan and Dave Aumack

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. The book, *Lent in Plain Sight*, draws our attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem.

We will use the season of Lent to facilitate conversation and connection to each other and the meaning of this time in the church year. The goal of this lunch and fellowship time will be to focus on spiritual lessons and recognize how the seemingly ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives. Join us for soup and salad in the Youth Center at noon on Wednesdays during Lent. Purchase of or reading the book is not necessary to participate.

Fauré: Requiem Mass



With world premier of
Sydney Guillaume's
"This, Too, Shall Pass"

The Master Chorale
OF TAMPA BAY
BRETT KARLIN • ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

**Join us for a concert at FPC
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 8:00 PM
Fauré: Requiem Mass
Featuring: The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay***

Praised by music critics from both the Tampa Bay Times and the Tampa Tribune as "one of the country's finest choirs" and a "cultural treasure," The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay has consistently delivered some of the most profoundly moving music performances in the area.

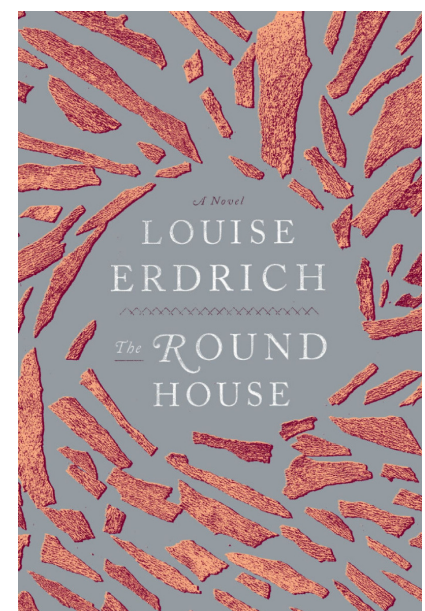
*Admission to this concert requires a ticket, which can be purchased online [HERE](#) or at the door through the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay. PLEASE NOTE: when purchasing tickets online, First Presbyterian Church members and friends can receive a 10% discount by using discount code FPC22 on the General Admission ticket (price for the public is \$25).

Faith & Fiction Read for April 2022

Round House by Louise Erdrich

Discussion will be Monday, April 4th at 7:00 p.m. in Room N-123. Lorraine Frankle will be our discussion leader.

Louise Erdrich is a strong voice for the Native American Community, and recently won a Pulitzer for her latest novel, *The Night Watchman*. Come join us for this discussion of one of her earlier works.





A big Thank-You to Kathie and Ken Mayhall for sharing the fruit of their lemon tree!

Look for the harvest at the Welcome Desk.

Lakewood Elementary School Initiative

Lakewood Elementary School has begun an initiative that, if successful, will result in having 100 books read to every kindergartener at Lakewood this school year. To do this, they need volunteers to read to one child at a time. If you have an hour to spare and would enjoy reading to a child (actually 3 children in an hour works – twenty minutes per child), please contact Missy Olsen (olsenme@pcsb.org) or call 727-893-2196 and ask for Missy. You can discuss schedules with her.

You will need to fill out a volunteer form that will include your driver's license number and your social security number. You do NOT need to be fingerprinted but the school will do a background check on you since we sit alone with each child.

For further information, you may contact Missy (contact information is above), or feel free to contact Mary-Linda Armacost (727-465-8108, mlsma@cs.com).

An Update on the FPC Little Free Library

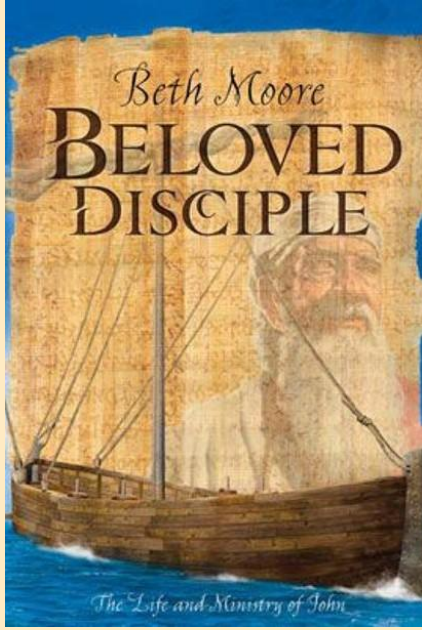
The Little Free Library (LFL) at First Presbyterian Church is three weeks old and off to an excellent start! The books are turning rapidly, and we have needed to re-feed frequently. Children's books are popular, and two Bibles have found new homes. Downtown weekend event attendees are enthusiastically taking books. We are learning what the life of this LFL will be like and adapting to its needs.

Since we have found a need to supply more books than expected, we are asking everyone to add a few books when you visit the area. It is more than OK to take a book too, and to leave more than one. We are compiling a list of book collectors who have said they have a lot of books to share in the mission of the LFL. If you are one of these collectors and would be willing to be called upon when we are in need, please send your email address to Ronn Johnson, rjohnson632@tampabay.rr.com so you can be alerted when we need a re-feeding.



Thank you for supporting THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY @ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

Join us on Tuesday mornings
through April 26, 2022
9:15 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center



for a Beth Moore Bible Study!

"Beloved Disciple: The Life and Ministry of John"

Join us for an 11-week study of the life of John the apostle and his relationship with the One who loved him. Beth Moore says, "John was free to love because he was so utterly convinced that he was loved. How differently would each follower live if we characterized ourselves above all else as the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ?

This is the goal of our journey."

Workbooks will be available for \$20. No previous Bible study experience is needed. Bring a friend! Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. Currently, masks are optional. We will keep you updated on this. Thank you for your understanding! Questions? Contact April Hussung at 727-420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.



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!

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!



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 April 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.

- **Sundays, 8:30 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 9 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center.
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)

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

- **Tuesdays, 9:15 AM**, Ladies' Beth Moore Bible Study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 1 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting virtually every other week. Next in-person meeting is **March 22**, in the Chapel. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com)

- **Wednesdays, 12 PM**, Lenten Lunch Study, Youth Center
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM**, Wednesday Night Live, [via Zoom](#); book study: *The Book of Forgiving*

- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, Room N-123. Please contact Ken Young at 207-841-8562 for more information.
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

- **Monday, March 28, 7 PM**, stated session meeting

- **Friday, April 1, 8 PM**, *Fauré: Requiem Mass* Master Chorale Concert, 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.

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.

