

# FIRST NEWS



March 3, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, March 5, 2023  
**Second Sunday in Lent / Lord's Supper**

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon Series: *Sailboat Church*  
Sermon: "Wind, Spirit, Breath"  
Scripture: [Acts 2:1-4](#), [John 4:16-26](#)

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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](http://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.

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**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.



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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

We have pushed off from the dock; we have finally set sail on our adventure with *Sailboat Church*!

One of the fun things for me about our first *Sailboat Church* sermon was including some of your stories about sailing or boating. This week, I got to share stories from Ned and Dottie McClure, from Gene Oliver, Bud Karins and Sandi Averitt. I felt that you found these stories interesting, inspiring, and even thought-provoking. Sailboat stories bring us a combination of beauty and challenge. There is much beauty in the sunrises, sunsets, open seas, birds, fish, dolphin, maybe even whales. Along with the beauty of nature, sailboats give us the surprise and challenge of wind and sea: too much or too little wind, high seas, tides, and shoals.

The author of *Sailboat Church*, Joan Gray, reminds us that sailboat churches live by prayer; they are Holy Spirit powered; they experience church as a

partnership between God and God's people. Living by prayer, it is not that we pray for new ideas for our church in its ministry, ideas that we can put into service. Rather, it's that we pray for God to move and speak within and among us, so that we begin to know what God's plan is for our church. I imagine that may be a slow process, as together we listen and pray, pray and listen. Together we begin to share what we feel God might be saying to us, ways God might be showing us what our faithful response might turn out to be. It is work, my friends, good work. The work of prayer.

So I meet you there on our knees in the prayer closet, where we continue our journey.

I'll see you on Sunday, then I will be away most of next week in Atlanta for continuing education. Stay busy in faith and stay well!

Blessings!  
Ginny Ellis

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## Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday was a full day, a day of blessings. Our drive-through team included Eva Popovich, Karen Mossman, John Sims, Jeanie Barnes and me. We met with something like 50 cars, bikes and walkers, praying with many and learning what people were facing in their lives, how God's presence brought comfort.

That evening, 25-30 of us gathered in the Chapel for imposition of ashes and communion. It was a quiet beautiful service, with Jack Rain playing for Taizé singing. What a blessing as we began the season of Lent!



**Concert: *Choral Classics***  
**Featuring: The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay**  
**Tonight, March 3, 2023 at 8:00 PM**

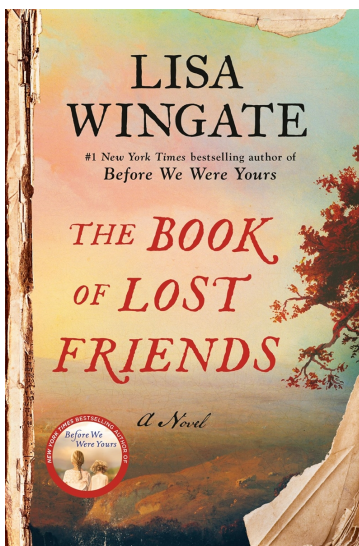
The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay returns to First Presbyterian Church to present a self-produced concert featuring a diverse blend of choral repertoire. **This is a ticketed event!** Please purchase your tickets in advance through the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay (for more info, or to purchase tickets, click [HERE](#) or call 813-355-9609).

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**Lectio/Visio Divina on break**

Our Monday morning Zoom devotional time will not meet for the next two weeks, Monday March 6 and Monday March 13. Consider joining us when we resume on March 20, when we will be studying the scripture slated for the last Sunday in Lent.

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**Faith & Fiction**  
**March 6 at 7 PM in Room N-123**

Our book for the coming month is *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. This is a story about three young women searching for family amid the destruction of the post-Civil War South, and also about a present-day teacher who learns of their story and the connection it has to her students' lives. Rue Ann Porter will be our discussion leader.

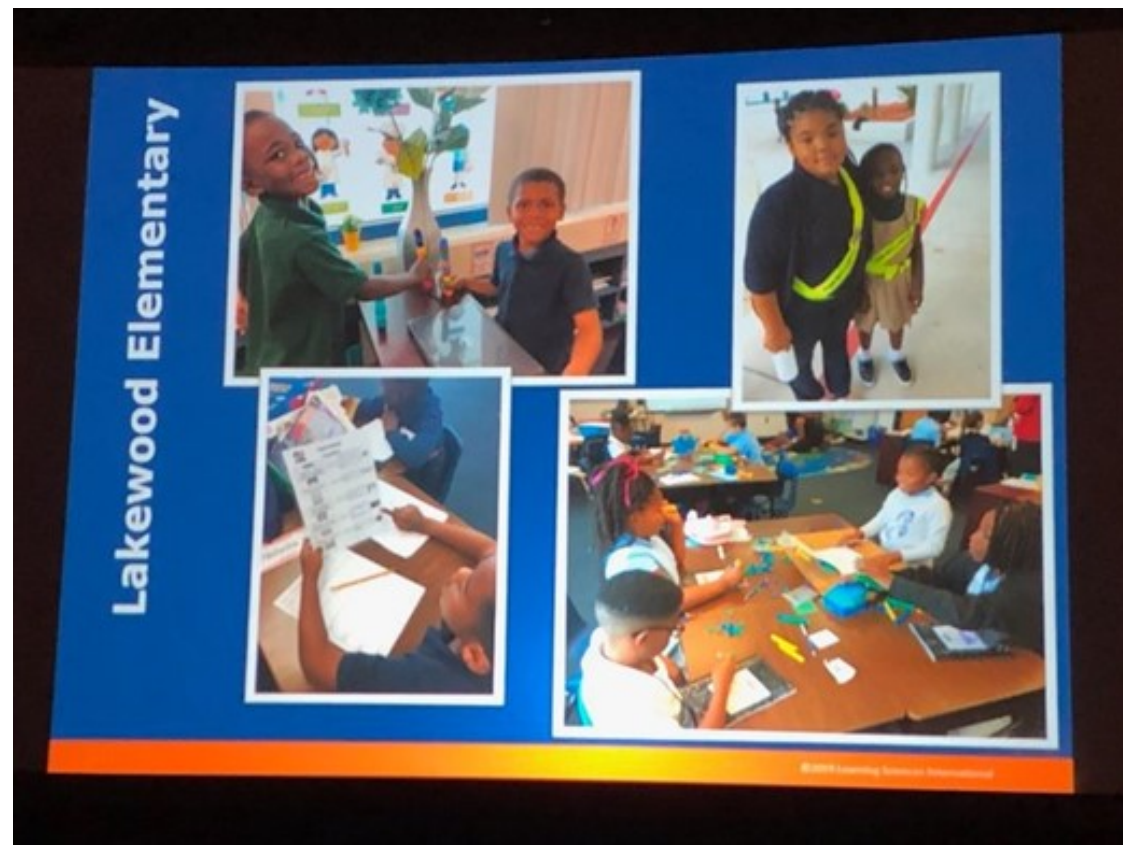
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**Such Good News  
from Lakewood Elementary!**

The good news keeps mounting for Lakewood Elementary, which in 2021 moved from an "F" failing school to an "A." "Lakewood is particularly excited about its recently opened Magnet School program, the Center for Creative Arts, Health and Wellness that's coordinated by Thomas Muirhead," says Mary-Linda Armacost, FPC's liaison with the school.

"Many, if not all, the teachers are especially incorporating aspects of wellness into their curricula in creative ways. The dance teacher, for example, has set up an obstacle course."



What follows are some of Lakewood's current needs. If interested in helping, please contact Mary-Linda unless otherwise stated. (Email: [MLsma@cs.com](mailto:MLsma@cs.com) or 727.465.8108).

- Someone willing to shop for sneakers of all sizes for boys and girls. The school has money for these.
- More volunteers are needed to read books to kindergarten children for their "100 Book Challenge". If interested in this program, please contact Missy Olsen ([olsenm@pcsb.org](mailto:olsenm@pcsb.org)). (Let Mary-Linda know if you're having trouble making contact or getting the time slot that fits your schedule.)
- There's always a need for breakfast bars for children who come to school hungry. If you buy packages of these bars, please leave them in the basket under our Giving Tree and they will be delivered.
- One child needs a really large pair of khaki or navy pants. (Mary-Linda will get the size if you are interested.)
- Lakewood will be holding its annual carnival on Friday evening, March 30 from 6-8. FPC can participate in a couple of ways: 1) Individuals can volunteer to help with a food station—cotton candy, grill hot dogs, snow cones or popcorn. Food and the station will be provided; Lakewood needs help serving the treats. 2) FPC can put up our own booth featuring some kind of fun activity (Stay tuned if the Mission Committee decides to do that).

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## Honduras Clinic Update

The recent fundraiser for the Honduras Clinic was "a huge success," says FPC member Susan Schlecht, who back in the day helped get this mission started along with her late husband Glenn. Dr. Cesar Davila, who runs the Clinic, recently visited our church and others and was the star guest at the Foundation for International Mission's (FFIM) fundraiser. Between the 80 persons buying tickets and those unable to attend, \$54,750 was raised, all of which goes directly to the Clinic's needs.



After a four-year hiatus caused by the COVID pandemic, the Honduras Clinic Mission trip is back on this year for the week of June 11-17. As of this writing, 15 persons have signed up to go.

**Stay tuned:** The Honduras Clinic will be the beneficiary of our next Mission Sunday. That will be on the fourth Sunday of April (4/23) instead of the regular fifth Sunday, which in April will be devoted to Cedarkirk. This Mission Sunday event will occur between the two regular services, from approximately 9:30 to 11:00 am, thus allowing people to attend their preferred service and still participate in this important mission work. Members and friends will be asked to contribute needed supplies to be taken to Honduras by our mission group. More detail will follow as we get closer to the time. Contact Susan for any questions about the Honduras Clinic and the mission trip. (727.735.5332 or [schlecht21975@gmail.com](mailto:schlecht21975@gmail.com)).

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### Help Still Wanted

- R'Club/Edible Peace Patch needs volunteers who enjoy gardening or wish to learn through their training program. If you wish to find out more, please click this link to contact the [R'Club/Edible Peace Patch](#), or contact member Lynne Mormino ([lmormino@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lmormino@tampabay.rr.com). Or 727.667.4712).
- The Free Clinic needs volunteers to help distribute food. If interested, please click this link to contact the [St. Petersburg Free Clinic](#), or contact member Susan Schlecht (see above).

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

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**On Sunday, March 19, our congregation will commission two new Stephen Ministers.** These dedicated people have been training for 6 months and are ready to begin their caring ministry here at First Presbyterian Church. We thank God for all our Stephen Ministers and pray that God will bless their ministries.



Come pray for and show your support for this caring ministry and these gifted people whom God has called and equipped for this important role in our congregation. They will be commissioned at the Sanctuary service, 11 AM, March 19.

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### From Matt Clear, Director of Traditional Music

Last week, I had the privilege of attending the American Choral Directors Association National Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio. I am thankful for the opportunity to engage in continuing education because it helps me to grow

professionally and cultivate new ideas for the music at our church. Several of the performances that I experienced will change choral music forever, including



a concert when pop artist Jacob Collier joined the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers to create an audience improvisatory choir. Here is a [cell phone video recording](#) circulating online that you can listen to if you have a minute.

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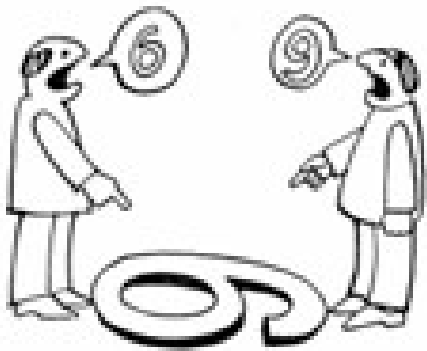
## Last week to vote in our Bunny-Naming Contest!

Thanks for all the creative name entries for our new bunny friend! The list of potential names is below.

Which name do you like the best? Click [HERE](#) to vote online!



- Candy
  - Carrot/Carrots
  - Flopsie
  - Ginger
  - Gracie
  - Lucky
  - Mr. Nelson
  - Mr. Pete
  - Nibbles
  - Penelope
  - Reggie Rabbit
  - Snuggles
  - Theo/Theophilus
- 



## Workshop: "Moving Out of our Comfort Zone: Making Space for People with Differing Views"

Thursday, March 23, 2023,  
6:00-9:00 PM

Do you ever find yourself thinking or saying, 'I can't believe you think that' or 'You're so wrong!?' This sociodrama workshop will focus on how we can become more comfortable with holding other's views with kindness and open-heartedness while still maintaining our own views without defensiveness or aggression.

Sociodrama is a group learning process that focuses on providing practice in solving problems of human relationships. It helps people clarify values and offers opportunities to explore new and more satisfying ways of interacting. This evening of reflection is being offered by First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg and is open to all.

**TO REGISTER:** [CLICK HERE](#)

**WHERE:** FPC - St. Petersburg (701 Beach Drive, NE, St, Petersburg FL), in the Youth Center

**WHEN:** Thursday, March 23, 6-9 PM

**COST:** Free! (a free will offering will be collected)

**FACILITATOR:** Antonina Garcia, LCSW, EdD, TEP, RDT/BCT  
Nina is an internationally noted trainer and educator in sociodrama and has a private practice in New Jersey. She is co-author of *Sociodrama: Who's in Your*

*Shoes?* 2nd edition with Patricia Sternberg and written many articles and chapters in books. She is on the faculty at New York University's Drama Therapy program. She has served as co-editor of the Journal of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama and was former chairperson of the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama & Group Psychotherapy. She has received numerous awards and commendations from many professional organizations.

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## 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 2023 and Spring 2024 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).

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2022 Scholarship Recipients / Total paid: \$32,555

Becky Aumack, Julianne Michael Saltis, Jude Singleton, Eric Wilson, Emma Zuercher, Henry Zuercher

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## Easter Eggstravaganza is coming...Please help us prepare!

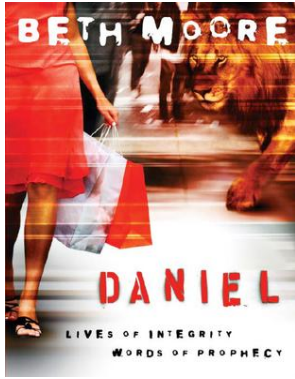
We are excited to welcome the St. Pete Preschool children to join our Easter Egg Hunt this year, so we need **LOTS of filled Easter eggs!** Collection baskets for (preferably) filled eggs, OR any plastic eggs, candy, or small toys, will be in both the 9 AM and 11 AM worship spaces during the months of February and March.



The Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt itself will be held on **Palm Sunday, April 2, promptly at 10:30 AM** on the Front Lawn. If you would like to volunteer to be



an expert Eggstravanza egg hider or safety helper on the lawn that morning, please sign up at the Sanctuary Welcome Center or call the Church Office. Thanks!



## Daniel: Lives of Integrity – Words of Prophecy

Tuesdays, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center  
**TAKING A BREAK THIS WEEK (MAR. 7);  
RESUMES TUESDAY, MAR. 14!**

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](#) (on break; resumes March 20)
  
- Tuesdays, 9 AM - Ladies' Beth Moore Bible Study, Youth Center (resumes March 14)
- 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, 10 AM, *Sailboat Church* study group (through April 6), Chapel
- 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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

#### Upcoming Events:

- Today, March 3, 8 PM, Concert: *Choral Classics* (ticketed event)
- Monday, March 6, 7 PM, Faith & Fiction
- Thursday, March 23, 6 PM, SocioDrama Workshop
- Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday (10:30 AM Easter Egg hunt!)
- Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunday

### 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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

First Presbyterian Church  
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 822-2031 | [www.fpcstpete.com](http://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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