



Your
Weekly News
from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

December 27, 2019

First Sunday of Christmas

8:15 AM - Communion Worship, Chapel

9:00 AM - Contemporary Worship, Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM - Classic Worship with Choir, Sanctuary

The sermon for this Sunday

"What It Means To Be Human" Rev. Ruth Elswood

[Isaiah 63:7-9](#); [Matthew 2:13-23](#)

[Click here](#) for Sunday's bulletin & announcements



Pastor Dawn Will Be Out Of The Office

Pastor Dawn will be out of the office December 26 – January 5. In the event that there is a pastoral emergency during that time, please call the Church Office at (727) 822-2031 during regular business hours. For after-hours emergencies use the following schedule:

December 26-27 – call Pastor Dawn (352) 222-9859

December 28 – call Rev. Ken Young (207) 841-8562

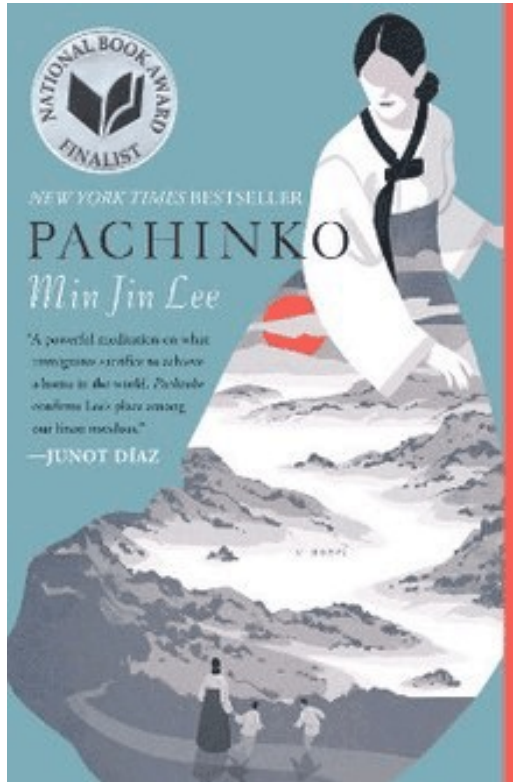
December 29-January 5 – call Rev. Ruth Elswood (352) 278-0757



Griefshare groups will begin meeting again in January. Each week we will offer two sessions of this support group for anyone grieving the loss of a family member or friend.

We will meet Sundays from 4–5:30 PM. beginning January 5, and Tuesdays from 10–11:30 AM. beginning January 7. Both groups meet in the chapel.

Please join us for any or all of our meetings to learn about this journey "from mourning to



Pachinko by Jin Lee

Pachinko, by Min Jin Lee is the Faith & Fiction book selection being discussed on January 6, 7:30 - 8:30 PM in Room N-123. The discussion Leader is Marsha Baker.

In the early 1900s, the adored daughter of a crippled fisherman falls for a wealthy stranger at the seashore near her home in Korea. He promises her the world, but when she discovers she is pregnant--and that her lover is married--she refuses to be bought.

Faith & Fiction meets the first Monday of each month, 7:30 - 8:30 PM in Room N-123 through April. [Here](#) is this year's Reading List.

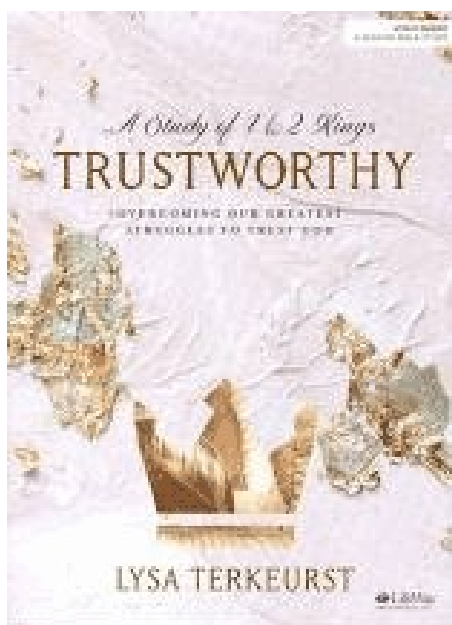
Security/Safety Organizational Meeting

A prudent person foresees danger and takes precautions - Proverbs 22:3

A committee is being formed to determine how best to protect the congregation from unwanted disturbances. It is important to have a written policy. An unwritten policy is NO policy.

Bring your ideas and opinions to a meeting on Monday, January 6 at 7 PM in Room N-123. Help assemble a working document to direct our efforts. After the initial meeting, much of the work will be done by small groups via phone/email.

Your attendance is important for the welfare of your church and your friends. Questions? Contact Dick Luehrs at 727-866-7965 or dicklu@windstream.net.



Women's Bible Study Lysa Terkeurst's *Trustworthy* Starting January 7

Do you ever struggle to really, fully trust God? I understand. When hard times come and it seems like God starts to deviate from the plan I'm assuming my life should follow, I'm much more likely to want to tame God... not trust Him.

Classes meet on Tuesdays at 9:15 AM and 6:30 PM in the Youth Center, starting January 7. Child care will be available by appointment only. Please e-mail childcare@fpc-stpete.org or call 828-3971.

Meditation For Christians

You will feel warmly welcomed when you come to meditation in a small group. We meet on alternate Tuesday evenings with the next meeting being Tuesday, January 7, 7 to 8 PM in the Chapel. For more information, please contact group leader Carlen Maddux (727-504-8201 or cmaddux@maddux.com). We welcome your inquiries and presence.

Bon Voyage!

A Preview Of An Upcoming Concert At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City



Featuring: Pinellas County Center for the Arts Choirs, Pinellas County

Center for the Arts Orchestra, First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir, and Guest Singers from the Tampa Bay Area

The Bon Voyage Concert will be held Sunday, January 12 at 4 PM in the Sanctuary. The Orchestra and Vox Nova Chamber Choir from Pinellas County Center for the Arts have been selected to perform a concert at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. The hour-long concert on January 12 provides an opportunity for our local community to hear the performance the PCCA ensembles will give while representing us on the national stage.

Be sure to invite family and friends to this concert.

[Here](#) are details of the remaining performances in the Concert Series.

Drive-Through Live Nativity

An estimated 300 people took advantage of FPC's first Drive-Through Live Nativity on last Friday evening. Vehicles drove along the front circle driveway to journey with Mary and Joseph as they traveled to Bethlehem to await the arrival of Jesus.





Icons in Transformation **Now in St. Petersburg, Florida**

This exciting international exhibition of 150 works of art created by Russian artist Ludmila Pawlowska continues its visit to St. Petersburg.

Over her long and distinguished career inspired by Russian icons, Pawlowska has worked with such items as wood, fabric, copper, Plexiglas, and found objects. Her work is original and evocative, ranging from startling dramatic expression to ethereal contemplative beauty that draws the viewer



in. Authentic Russian Icons are included in this exhibit.

FPC member Ronn Johnson, who is a volunteer docent for this exhibition, is organizing private tours of the exhibit for FPC members and groups, such as Circles, Choir, Sunday School Classes, family groups, office staff, etc. Please contact Ronn at (727) 822-5055 or by [email](#) to indicate an interest, or for further information. FPC scheduled tours will be announced through First News. Tours are available now through February 9. Please share this information.

Tour hours are 10 AM to 2 PM Fridays, 12 to 4 PM Saturdays & Sundays, or by appointment. Exhibit is located at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 1200 Snell Isle Blvd. NE, St. Petersburg.

God Loves A Cheerful Giver And The IRS Will Reward You Too!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read how you can bless yourself and others by making a year-end contribution to FPC.

To see the deduction limits against your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), [click here.](#)
Sources: Vanguard Charitable, Foremost Advice, Wall Street Journal

Wednesday Night Live Resumes on January 8

5:00 PM - Children's Choir (Choir Room)

5:30 PM - Dinner (Fellowship Hall)

- 6:00 PM - Financial Peace University (Chapel)
- Presbyterian History class (begins Jan. 15)
- Messy Church (for children)



We will need a team of volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up!
If you are ready, willing, and able to serve on at least one Wednesday evening,
please email Amy Grossenbacher at amyg@fpc-stpete.org
or call the Church Office at (727) 822-2031.

Financial Peace University Is Coming To FPC!

When: Wednesday nights, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, January 8 - March 11 (excluding Ash Wednesday)

Where: The Chapel @ FPC (701 Beach Drive NE)

Cost: SPECIAL FPC RATE of \$89 per individual or couple (cost covers printed class materials, plus 1 full year of online access to FPU)

Are you ready to take control of your money? Learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future. For more information or to register for this class, please call the Church Office or go online to <https://www.financialpeace.com/groups/1108629?c=ccf>.

FPC Calendar At A Glance

[Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online.

Coming up:

- [January Birthdays](#)
- First Monday of each month, 7:30 - 8:30 PM, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123. [Here](#) is the Reading List.
- Faith Development Bible Study, S-100, 9:30 AM (Tuesdays)
- Yoga With Adam, 3 PM, Fellowship Hall (Sunday afternoons, refer to church calendar for any variation).
- Wednesday, January 1, Happy New Year! Church Office closed.
- Sunday, January 5 - GriefShare Support Group resumes meeting, Chapel (meets Sunday afternoons at 4 PM and Tuesdays at 10 AM; refer to church calendar for any variation)
- Monday, January 6, Security/Safety Organizational Meeting, 7 PM, N-123
- Tuesday, January 7, Meditation for Christians, 7 PM, Chapel
- Wednesday, January 8, Wednesday Live resumes, Children's Choir at 5 PM (Choir Room), Dinner at 5:30 (Fellowship Hall), and classes at 6:30 PM like Financial Peace University (Chapel) and Presbyterian History (Fellowship Hall; starts on January 15)
- Sunday, January 12, Bon Voyage Concert, 4 PM, Sanctuary

- Sunday, February 2, Congregational Meeting following 11 AM service

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 [Mary Johnson](#) and [Amy Grossenbacher](#).

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



First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg, Florida

