

# FIRST NEWS



**First News, April 5**

**April 5, 2024**

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
this Sunday, April 7, 2024  
Second Sunday After Easter/Lord's Supper**

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

**Rev. Ginny Ellis  
New [Sermon Series](#) starts this Sunday: "Love Seen..."  
Sermon: "Love Seen...When Not Seen"  
Scripture: [1 John 1:1-2:2](#), [John 20:19-31](#)**

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Click [HERE](#) to watch the 9 AM service online.  
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 Live Streams 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 these links with family and friends!

Click [HERE](#) for the 9 AM worship service bulletin.

Click [HERE](#) for the 11 AM worship service bulletin.

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**COMMUNION SUNDAY:** We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this Sunday during both worship services. 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.

## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

All of us enjoyed reading the Lenten devotionals (*Local Pilgrim*) we sent out for the 47 days of Lent. Some of you told us the devotional was the first thing you reached for each morning. These came from the Presbyterian Outlook and we found them thoughtful and inspiring.

I wondered if the Lenten devotionals inspired you to look around your community or your life to take a thoughtful look at what God is doing right here, right now. The *Local Pilgrim* pieces looked at a cemetery, a playground, the emergency room of the hospital, even the local garbage dump.

I was noticing something on our church campus yesterday: the butterflies our church and school children decorated, that staff member Carol Riley mounted on sticks to place near entrances to the church. On Sunday one of the children pointed at one of the butterflies and happily told me: "I made that one!"

Those butterflies are such a simple gesture, lifting colorfully and joyfully the new life we know in the risen Christ. The butterflies also remind us of the presence of children and families on our campus, children who bring their own contributions to our life together. On Palm Sunday and on Easter the children were present. They hunted for eggs, they carried in palms, they sang for us. They made noise with their play, their questions, their chatter. But they lifted our hearts. I give thanks for the children and their families. I pray for them, as you do too, praying that God is with them and their families in the challenges as well as the joys. I pray that the church is there for them too, with love, acceptance, and gratitude.

That makes me a Local Pilgrim too.....

By the way, next Sunday (April 14), we begin a 10:00 Sunday class ("Parable Quest") for children pre-K through 5th grade. Can you help with that ministry? Could you be a substitute teacher or a helper in the class? Could you bring your children, grandchildren, or neighbor children? Can you pray for this new class? All your support is appreciated as this new part of our ministry begins.

Blessings,  
Ginny



Please remember in prayer: Sandi Averitt, Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Carol Hunt, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Dottie McClure, Nancy McLaughlin, the Moorefield family, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Margie Richmond, Robert Safransky, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey

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).

**CONCERT  
SERIES**   
**TOWN HALL MEETING**  
to discuss the 2024-2025 season  
Sunday, April 7, 2024  
12:15 p.m. in the choir room



**Join us this Sunday,  
April 7th, at 1 PM!**

We'll be going to [The Fine Arts Museum](#) for ART IN BLOOM! Flowers overflowing in the museum! Florists, artists, and The Stuart Society showing St. Petersburg's Spring! All kinds of blooming art and artworks.... plus the café will be open that afternoon!

Our May outing has been changed to the Boyd Hill Nature Preserve....details coming soon! Questions? Want to participate? Contact Dave Hunt (513-604-6090 or [dhunt@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:dhunt@fpc-stpete.org)).

**Lectio/Visio Divina Resumes April 8**

We invite you to try a new way of studying the Bible with Lectio/Visio Divina, a guided practice of reading and discussing four different translations of a passage that will be used in the following Sunday's worship. The hourlong Zoom session meets at 10 a.m. on Mondays and includes discussion of art that corresponds to the scripture. Click [HERE](#) to join.

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## Faith & Fiction

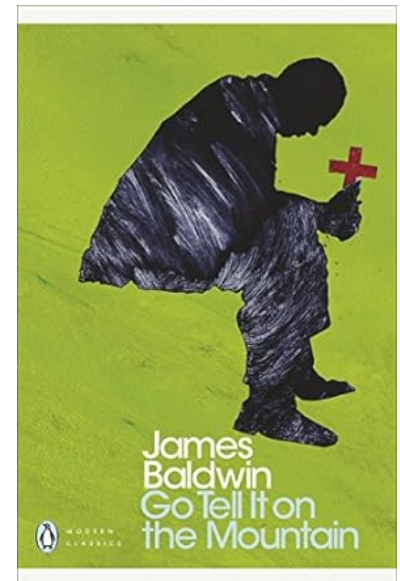
Monday, April 8

2:00 PM, Room N-123

*Go Tell it on the Mountain*, by James Baldwin

Discussion Leader: Debbie Factor

Published in 1953, Baldwin chronicles a fourteen-year-old boy's discovery of the terms of his identity as the stepson of the minister of a Pentecostal storefront church in Harlem. This was once a banned book.



At this meeting, we'll also be selecting books for next year, so we hope to see you there!

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## Italian Night!

Wednesday April 10, at 5:30 PM

**BUON APPETITO!** Our Second Annual Italian Night will be Wednesday April 10 starting at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The marinara sauce will be simmering and ready, with beef or chicken meatballs, and - of course! - garlic bread and a salad bar. Bring your Italian hunger and spin the spaghetti! To reserve your place at the table, please [CLICK HERE](#) or call the Church Office (727-822-2031)!

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## PARABLE QUEST:

### Transforming Stories Jesus Told

The everyday objects and real-life situations that Jesus described in His parables help children understand biblical principles.



All children Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome!

Class starts next Sunday, April 14, at 10 AM

in Room S-202, and runs through May 19

For more information, please contact Carol Riley at 727-822-2031, ext. 104 or [criley@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:criley@fpc-stpete.org).

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Our next "Beach Drive Forum" will be Wednesday, April 17!

*From Folk Medicines to Therapeutic Drugs* by Akiko Tanaka PhD, president, and co-founder of The Tampa Bay Research Institute (TBRI). TBRI has spent over 40 years investigating the relationship between viruses, cancers, and the functioning of the immune

system. As a result of our research, TBRI has uncovered the details of the healing properties of an ancient folk medicine – an extract of pinecones. Our on-going studies have now brought forth new synthetic molecules that are being developed into lifesaving immune-altering therapeutics.

Also mark your calendars for:

### MAY 22

*State of the Arts in Tampa Bay* by Paul Wilborn, award-winning journalist, author, playwright, pianist, singer and executive director of the Palladium Theater at St. Petersburg College, who knows a thing or two about the arts! He'll share his wisdom about what's influencing the flourishing local arts scene, including whether artificial intelligence is a good or bad creative force. Learn more about our speaker [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

*Beach Drive Forums* are monthly conversations for the community with intriguing speakers on thought-provoking topics. Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall (doors open at 5:30, presentation at 6:00). Refreshments and Q&A included. Open to the public; best parking is the church lot off N. Shore Drive.

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SAVE  
*the*  
DATE

Live ve St Pete

DINNER & BACK TO  
SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

MAY 10, 2024 | 5:30PM  
ST. PETE YACHT CLUB

INVITATION TO FOLLOW

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### YOU ARE INVITED!

Mark your calendars for **Spring Fun Day** at [Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center](#) on **May 11**. Spend a day at this beautiful camp and discover all they have to offer. Take a break half-way through for a delicious lunch. Bring your appetite for great food and an afternoon of adventure. If you've never visited Cedarkirk before, this event is FREE to you so you can see the facilities and meet some of their staff! If you have visited the camp previously, there is a fee of \$16/person.



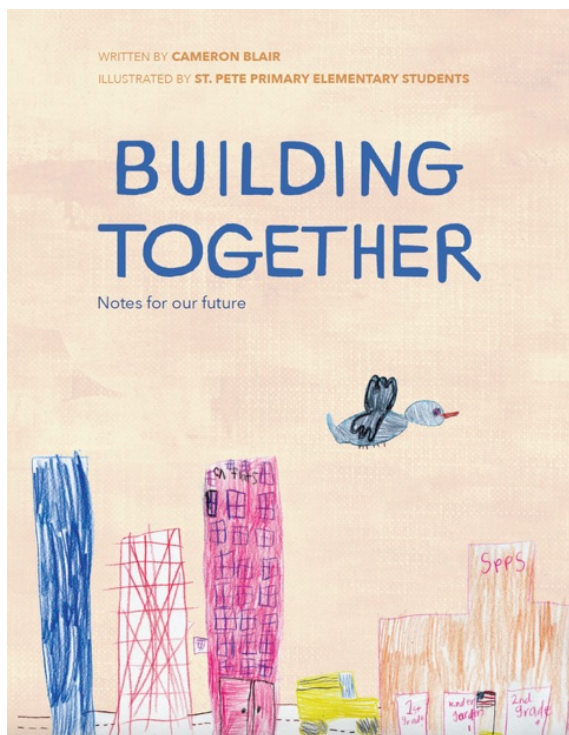
If you are interested please sign up ASAP, as this is a very popular event and space is limited. You can access Cedarkirk's online portal [HERE](#); it lets you register online, pay, and complete any necessary consent forms for activities.

We would like to meet here at the church and travel up together (the camp is

located at 1920 Streetman Drive in Lithia Springs). Please see details below; more details will be published as the event time approaches!

- Arrival: check-in at the camp at 10 AM
- Departure: Fun Day concludes at 3 PM
- Cost: \$16 per person covers all activities and lunch; this event is FREE if it's your first time at Cedarkirk! Please note that children and youth must have an adult present.

If you would like to participate, or need more information please contact Carol Riley at [criley@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:criley@fpc-stpete.org) or call the church office (727-822-2031)!



## "Building Together" by our very own Cameron Blair!

Students from St. Pete Primary School had an exciting assignment recently: providing artwork for a book written by Cameron Blair, parent of two SPPS students and a member of First Presbyterian Church. A theme of Cameron's book "Building Together: Notes For Our Future," is building a future together and growing alongside one another.

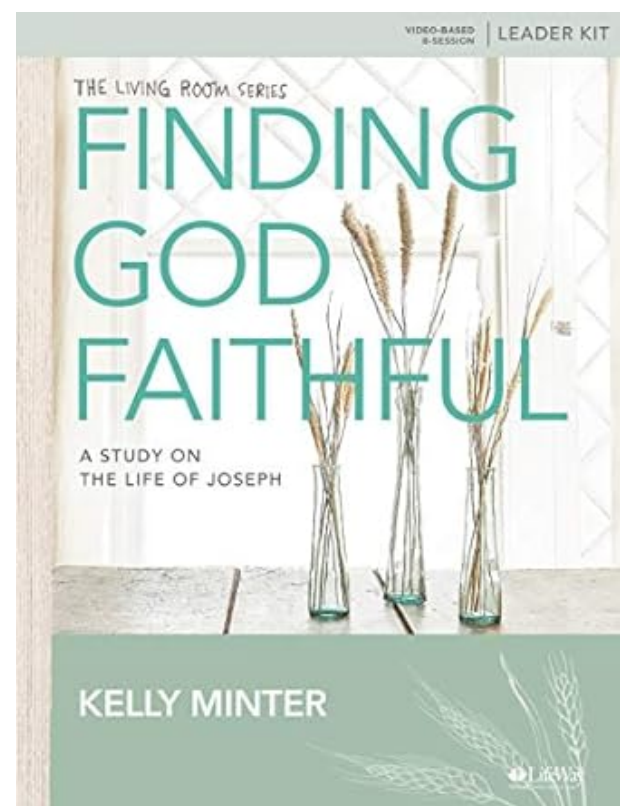
In the book, the school's mascot, Pete the pelican, narrates a story about a place that encourages love, curiosity, kindness, and friendships that will last forever. Pete reminds the reader that we need tools as we build on this place, but, mostly, we need each other. "We'll build together on this place you know, where the ground overflows with love and runs deep like a river into the ocean. Whether big or small, first or last, you're welcome here. You matter here ..."

A copy of the book is in the St. Pete Primary School office for anyone who would like to see it. Contact the School office (727-894-5889) to purchase copies of the book.

## Ladies, you are invited to Bible Study: *Finding God Faithful - A Study on the Life of Joseph*

In this 8-session study from Kelly Minter, we will be reminded of God's faithfulness through Joseph's story. No matter what we walk through, God's presence is constant; His provision is enough, and His purposes are unstoppable.

Join us on Tuesday mornings  
through April 30, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the FPC Youth Center



Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is required. Workbooks will be available for \$25 (includes streaming video access for all

sessions). Bring a friend! If interested, please contact April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or [stapler39@aol.com](mailto:stapler39@aol.com). Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available.

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## College Scholarships - Apply Now!

We are now accepting applications for the Osborn Scholarship for Theology students! We only require one application is for both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters (awards are split); the applicant needs to let us know if they only need it for one semester.

The deadline for Theological Study Scholarships is **April 30**.

For further details about these scholarships (including downloadable application forms and deadlines), [CLICK HERE](#).

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The Pastor Nominating Committee has a new page on our website:

[www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates](http://www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates)

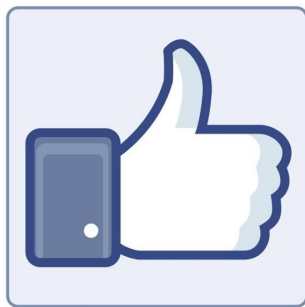
You can visit it any time for the latest information on our Pastor Search!

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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!
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## 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!

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We continue to be thankful for the generosity of all who contribute financially to our church, along with the other contributions they bring to our ministry.

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.

### Regularly Scheduled Events:

- **Sundays, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM**, childcare is available, Room S-203
- **Sundays, 9 AM**, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center or **Online**
- **Sundays, 9:45 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Young Adults/Parents "Next" Sunday School Class, Room S-100
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Presbyterianism class, Church Office Conference Room
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or **Online**
  
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio/Visio Divina, via **Zoom**
- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the second and fourth 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, 8:00 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:

- **Sunday, April 7, 12:15 PM**, Concert Series Town Hall Meeting, Choir Room
- **Sunday, April 7, 1 PM**, FPC Explorers will be going to the Fine Arts Museum for "Art in Bloom"
- **Monday, April 8, 2 PM**, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123
- **Wednesday, April 10, 5:30 PM**, Italian Dinner Night, Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday, April 14**, Parable Quest kids' class begins



- Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 PM, Beach Drive Forum
- Sunday, April 21, 10 AM, New Member Inquirer's Class

## 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.



First Presbyterian Church | 701 Beach Drive N.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2618

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