

# FIRST NEWS



April 7, 2023

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



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, April 9, 2023  
**EASTER SUNDAY**

CONNECT SERVICE at 9 AM (Youth Center)  
or

# SANCTUARY SERVICE at 11 AM (Sanctuary)

Rev. Ginny Ellis

Sermon: "This is the Message"

Scripture: [Matthew 28:1-10](#), [Jeremiah 31:10-14](#)

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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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Easter lilies for the Chancel this Sunday have been donated by FPC members and friends in memory of or in honor of loved ones.

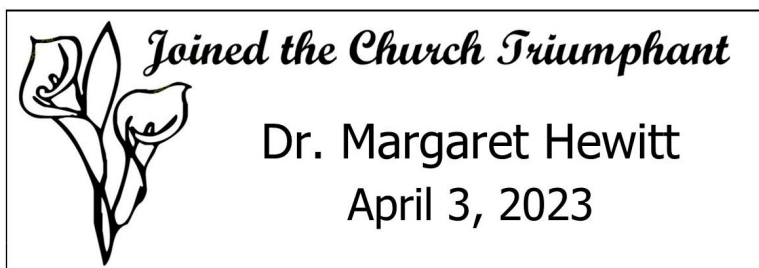


[CLICK HERE](#) for the complete list of donors (a printed list will also be available on Sunday).



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, 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, 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

My friends,

"Every Sunday is Easter Sunday." That was a song some of us learned. That reminds me we worship on Sundays because it was "early on the morning the first day of the week" that the women came and found the tomb of Jesus empty, the stone rolled back, Jesus' body gone. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" the angel asked them: "He has risen." The first day of the week was such joy, such a life-changing event for followers of Jesus that they began to worship on that day: the first day of the week. Sunday, instead of the sabbath: Friday evening when the Jewish people worshiped.

You see, Easter shapes the Christian faith. It shapes each of us who seek Jesus. Easter tells us to be people of hope, of discovery, of joy. Certainly there is plenty to worry about in our lives, and in our world. I cannot close my heart to the tornadoes, the gunfire, the hungry children, the people grieving. I cannot forget that there are those who feel worthless, unloved, lost. I weep for them, and for the burdens we all feel in our lives and in our world.

But. But. Listen for the birds singing, for the alleluias emerging, for the good news about to break forth. *He is not here. He has risen!* And we rise with him. We rise into hope, into a life of meaning based on God's love for us, God's forgiveness of us, God's call for us to come follow Christ the risen Lord.

*Early on the first day of the week the women came and found the stone rolled away and the tomb empty, for he had risen.*

Come on Sunday or watch the service from where you are. Come say it with us: *He has risen! He has risen indeed!* Life can never be the same again. We are Easter people. *Alleluia!*

Blessings,  
Ginny Ellis

### 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.



Providing relief to those affected by natural disasters



Resourcing communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression

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 9** or you can give online anytime [HERE](#).

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## No Lectio/Visio Divina April 10

There will be no Lectio Zoom on Easter Monday. Please consider joining in when we resume on April 17.

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I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?  
ISAIAH 43:19

**SAILBOAT CHURCH**  
with author Joan S Gray

**APRIL 29 - 30, 2023**

**CEDARKIRK CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER**  
A PLACE APART TO BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST IN LOVE.

**REGISTER TODAY!**

## Register Today for FPC's Annual Retreat at Cedarkirk April 29-30, 2023

This year, our guest speaker will be Joan Gray, author of *Sailboat Church*, our Lenten study. Joan will be giving two presentations on Saturday, as well as leading worship Sunday morning.

You can come for Saturday only or stay overnight; meal options are included. This will be a great weekend of fun and fellowship, food and friends, and a time to gather, learn, and grow together, all while enjoying the natural beauty of [Cedarkirk](#).

For the complete weekend schedule, pricing, and registration information,

please [CLICK HERE](#).

Registrations are due by **April 9**, so sign up today!  
Have questions? Please call Kathy Bardin (727-418-4577).

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## Easter Egg Hunt and Palm Sunday at FPC What a great Sunday!







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## Our New Sister Giving Tree

Melody Proud of our Mission Committee has grown a new Giving Tree for our Connect Service in the Youth Center. Thank you, Melody. As you can see from the picture, it's different; it's a palm tree heavy with coconut requests.

Just like the Giving Tree in our Sanctuary, its requests are varied and many. All you need to do with either tree is pluck a coconut or an apple and then attach that with your gift when you return next to church. Just set your gift at the base of the trees.

The gifts are targeted for CASA, the St.



Petersburg Free Clinic, Lakewood Elementary and elsewhere. Request samplers on both trees include blankets, a baby stroller, woman's body wash, deodorant, \$25 and \$50 Walmart gift cards, umbrellas, canned pastas, hand soap, fingernail clippers and more. Also, volunteers are needed to read to kids at Lakewood Elementary and to help at the Free Clinic.



If you have questions regarding either Giving Tree, please contact Melody (865.595.6767 or [melody@mpmediapro.com](mailto:melody@mpmediapro.com)) OR Mary-Linda Armacost (727.465.8108 or [mlsma@cs.com](mailto:mlsma@cs.com)). If you have info or questions for the Mission Committee, please contact Moderator Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300 or [sanaveritt1@gmail.com](mailto:sanaveritt1@gmail.com)).



The Foundation for International Missions ([FFIM](#)) Honduras Medical Clinic was founded by members of FPC St. Pete. This 100% volunteer organization provides medical and dental care for the rural underserved people of Honduras (the second poorest nation in the western Hemisphere after Haiti).

FFIM annual operating costs are partially funded through parking events at FPC. During these events, volunteers park cars in the three lots on the FPC property during concerts or events at nearby Vinoy Park. **We need new volunteers** to partner with the experienced veterans to either collect the parking fee as vehicles enter our lot or guide the vehicle driver to an open space. Average commitment time is 2 hours. You will be joyfully welcomed and mentored by our experienced volunteers...no prior experience is required!

To be added to the volunteer mailing list, please contact Jamie Brownlee at [hbrownle814@yahoo.com](mailto:hbrownle814@yahoo.com) or 813-494-6018.

## 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](mailto: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!



## Save The Date: April 23/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.

Before the town hall meeting, you can help us by completing a 3-minute survey

that will be used to collect data to help us move forward with Concert Series Planning. If you would like to participate, [CLICK HERE](#).

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## Join us fo BEACH DRIVE FORUMS



Beach Drive Forums are a series of conversations for congregation and community on thought-provoking topics. 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. We will have flyers available on Sunday mornings...feel free to hand them out and invite friends and neighbors!

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 14 - *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 and stay tuned for more information! And send ideas you have for dynamic speakers to Ann Murray at [aempuff@aol.com](mailto:aempuff@aol.com)

-- **Community Outreach Committee**: Chair Ann Murray; members Vicki Fox, Sarah Helck, Gretchen Letterman, Lynne Mormino; staff Pastor Ginny Ellis and Parish Associate for Community Life, Jeanie Barnes

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## 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! For their calendar of events, curriculum, volunteer opportunities, and more, check out their website: [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

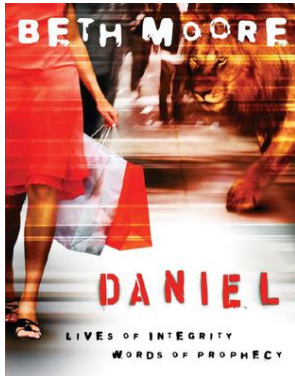
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## College Scholarships - Apply Soon!

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**

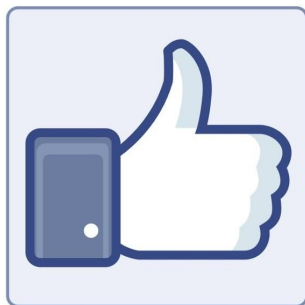
Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is necessary! We will be exploring the thrilling prophecies from the time of Daniel through the coming of Christ. Workbooks will be available for \$20. Sorry, there is no childcare available at this time.

Questions? Contact April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or [stapler39@aol.com](mailto: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 –



## 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, 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](#)
  
- **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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

### Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, April 9**, Easter Sunday!
- **Sunday, April 23**, MissionSunday!
- **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.*
- **Saturday, April 29 and Sunday, April 30**, Annual Retreat at Cedarkirk

## 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

[Contact Us](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTUBE](#)

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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