

# FIRST NEWS



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

**December 10, 2021**

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY**

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary  
for an In-Person or Online Worship Service  
this Sunday, December 12  
**Third Sunday of Advent**

Rev. Megan McMillan  
Sermon: "Choose Joy"  
Scriptures: [Zephaniah 3:14-20](#), [Philippians 4:4-7](#),  
[Luke 3:7-18](#)

*We have six elders-elect who have been approved for installation at this Sunday's service. What an exciting time in the life of our church!*

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If you are unable to worship with us in person,  
you can click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

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### **Praise Band Preview - They're Back!**

This Sunday, we're excited to have our Praise Singers Cathy and Gretchen back on stage again. We'll be performing our own special arrangements of *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* and *Angels We Have Heard on High*. Click the links below to hear our versions, and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Hark the Herald Angels Sing](#)  
[Angels We Have Heard on High](#)

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*As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM,  
so please plan to arrive a few minutes early!*  
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### FPC Mask Policy

We now have a mask-optional policy for fully vaccinated individuals which applies during worship service and while on church campus. Everyone is welcome to wear a mask in any setting; however, we recommended that masks be worn for those not yet fully vaccinated.

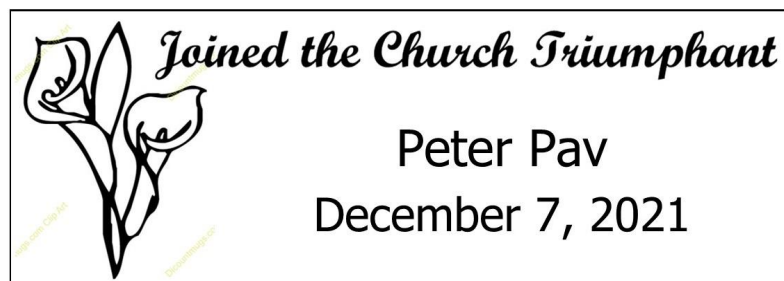


### Christmas Flowers

Christmas is almost here, and the church is decorated with greens and beautiful poinsettias! If you would like to make a donation to help decorate our church in memory of or in honor of a loved one or a friend, please fill out the green envelope in the pews and put it in the offering plate. Be sure to designate the individual to be honored or memorialized on the outside of the envelope. A listing the names of those honored or remembered will be compiled for inclusion in First News.



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



Peter Pav  
December 7, 2021

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; 1st LT. 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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

Celebrate the miracle of Christmas with us through the  
**Many Moods of Christmas Concert**  
**Sunday, December 12 at 4 PM**

*Featuring: Pinellas County Center for the Arts Choirs, Pinellas County Center for the Arts Instrumentalists, First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, and Guest Singers from the Tampa Bay Area*

*The Many Moods of Christmas*  
Sunday, December 12, 2021  
4:00 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg

A Benefit Concert for  
**SPFC**  
ST. PETE FREE CLINIC

701 Beach Dr. NE St. Petersburg FL, 33701 | 727-822-2031



## Calling all First Presbyterian Church Members & Families!

This Christmas Season, we invite you to participate in a creative reading/ retelling of the Christmas Story. We invite you, (as an individual, a couple, or a family) to present

one verse of the Christmas story in a manner of your choosing. You would sign up for your chosen verse by using the below [Sign-Up Genius](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B45ADA72FA4FD0-first) link. To retell your verse, we invite you to be creative! Create a scene in your house, in your yard, in the neighborhood park, wherever you want, and, using your smart phone, record your household saying or reading the verse. This will likely be only one minute long, something simple but special. You then submit a video, or maybe just a still photo the words. While we certainly want to encourage our children and their families to sign up for this, this is a Christmas story for all ages to participate in! **There are still available slots!** Here is the sign-up link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B45ADA72FA4FD0-first>

We ask that you submit your video or audio to Dave Aumack at [daumack@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:daumack@fpc-stpete.org) by Sunday, December 12th if you can, but **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 14th**. If you have any technical questions or difficulties in submitting the video or audio, please contact Dave. For any other questions, please contact Pastor Megan at [meganm@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:meganm@fpc-stpete.org).



On Sunday, December 19th we plan to have a fellowship time in the Fellowship Hall following worship to show the finished product of the video of the retelling of the Christmas Story by First Presbyterian Church, St Petersburg!

**Happy Birthday, Agnes Ingles!**  
**105 on December 8**



**Some great photos from last Sunday's church service!**  
The Sanctuary is beautifully decorated for the Christmas season - the ladies of the Sanctuary Guild did a terrific job!



So great to see the children having a good time in our Kids Korner! Pastors Ginny and Megan picked out some very cool and quiet new toys!





## Pastor's Christmas Basket...Another Way to Help Those in Need

As you address your Christmas cards this season, please consider bringing a card for the Pastor's Christmas Tree (which is a basket this year!) and enclosing a



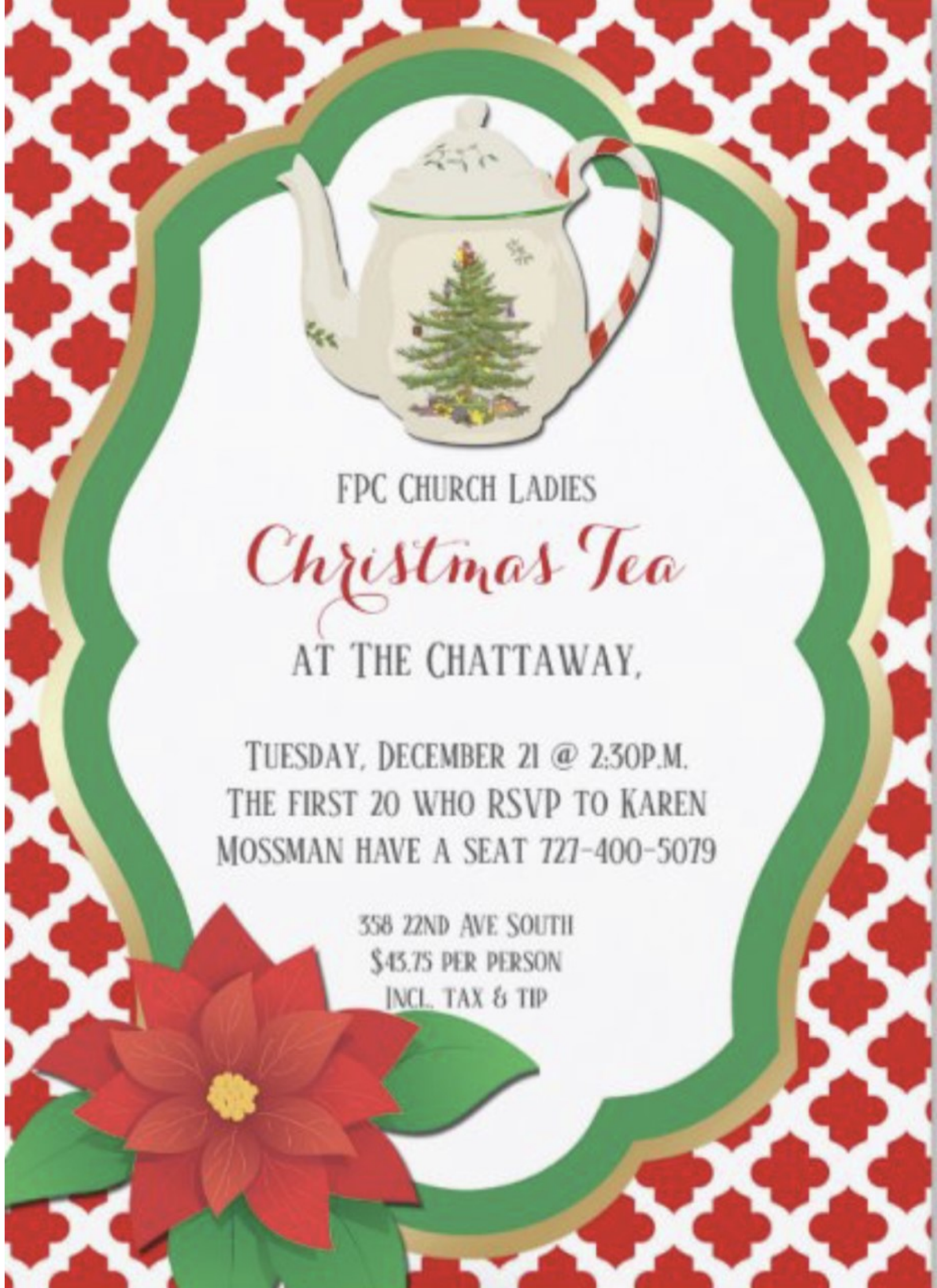
donation for the Pastor's Assistance Fund. All the monies collected are used at the pastor's discretion throughout the year to provide confidential financial support to members of our congregation and others recommended by local social services to help pay for bills, medical needs, shelter, and other expenses that help people survive unexpected hard times.

You can make your donation by:

- Mailing a card to the Church
- Dropping it off in the Church Office during regular office hours (or after hours through the front door mail slot)
- Giving online (click [HERE](#)); select Pastor's Assistance Fund
- If you worship in person, you may place your donation in the basket, which is in the back of the Sanctuary.

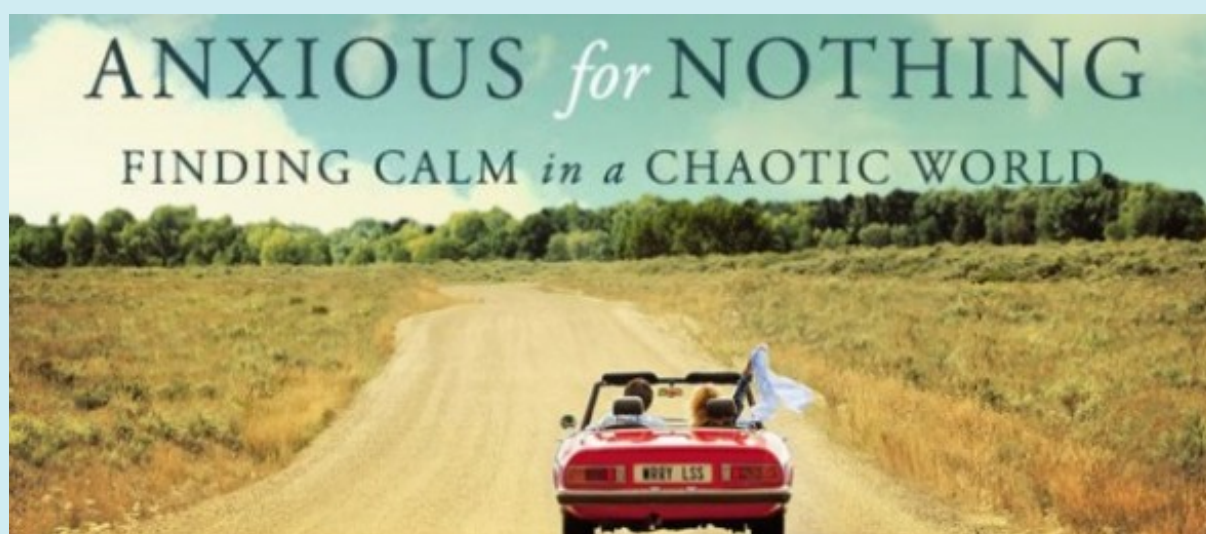
Please be sure to write "Pastor's Fund - Christmas" on the memo line to ensure your donation is recorded properly. Thank you.





**Do you feel weighed down with worry?  
Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night?  
Are irrational fears your constant companion?**

**If so, join us for "The Power Hour"  
Sundays at 9:00 AM in the Youth Center**





A 5-week study with fun, fellowship, food, & a DVD based study "Anxious for Nothing" by Max Lucado. In this study, we will explore God's treatment plan for anxiety and learn how to find calm in a chaotic world. Reserve a spot by contacting Karen Mossman at [karenamossman@gmail.com](mailto:karenamossman@gmail.com) or text 727-400-5079.

## Two Christmas Eve Services @ FPC!



**Grieving?  
Know someone who is?**

**Join us for GriefShare Sundays  
at 4 PM, meeting virtually (via  
Zoom).**



Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, you will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. This program features biblical,



Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The 13-week DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. This is a great opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Need more information? Want to sign up? Call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.

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!

## Pastoral Emergency Number



If you have a pastoral emergency, please call (561) 805-1514.

## Online Giving



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 December Birthdays

Some groups are continuing to meet 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, 9:00 AM**, Hour of Power Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, In-Person Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#).
- **Sundays, 4 PM**, GriefShare (via Zoom)
  
- **Tuesdays, 1 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting every other week in the Chapel at 7 PM (next in-person meeting is Dec. 21). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).
  
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Choir rehearsal, Choir Room
  
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, in-person, Room N-123. For more information, please contact Ken Young ([youngkd1492@comcast.net](mailto:youngkd1492@comcast.net)).
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study; the last Friday of the month is in-person in Room N-123; otherwise, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood ([pjfwon@gmail.com](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))
  
- **Sunday, December 12, 4 PM**, Many Moods of Christmas Concert, Sanctuary
  
- **Sunday, December 19, 11 AM**, Christmas Fellowship Hour, Fellowship Hall
  
- **Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve**
  - 4 PM, Family/Children's Service
  - 7 PM, Candlelight Lessons & Carols 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 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

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





**First Presbyterian Church**  
*St. Petersburg, Florida*

