

# FIRST NEWS



December 2, 2022

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, December 4, 2022  
*Second Sunday of Advent*

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon: "Preparing the Way"  
Scripture: [Isaiah 11:1-10](#), [Matthew 3:1-12](#)

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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 both of our 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.



**Please remember in prayer:** All the victims and clean-up efforts from Hurricanes Ian & Nicole, Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, Bob Clark, John Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, Marsha Starkey

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; 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:

This is an exciting week at First Presbyterian Church! This Sunday, December 4, we will move from one blended worship at 10:00, to two separate services: at 9:00 and at 11:00. At 9:00, worship will be held in the Youth Center (on the upper level of the church but facing the Shore Drive parking lot). This service will be more or less informal; music will be provided by the Praise Band. The 11:00 service will be in the Sanctuary and will follow a more traditional format using the organ, the choir, and hymns from the hymn book.

Each of you can choose which service to attend. Your decision may be based on the time of the service, on the music you prefer, or perhaps on the people you

like to be with for worship. You might even choose to attend both services to show your support of the church at this moment. You might decide to alternate services each week. If you have enjoyed worshipping in your pajamas, sipping your coffee at home, this may be the time for you to venture out and join us for in-person worship. You may feel safer than you expect. You may find friends to sit with or talk to at the end of the service. Or if you need to stay at home, or worship from elsewhere, you need to know that for the time being we will only be streaming the 11:00 service. This gives us time to assess what equipment and staffing will be needed for streaming two services each Sunday. Meanwhile the sermons will be mostly the same each week. Will there be more jokes at 9:00? Come find out!

The decision to move to two services grew out of our *The Road Ahead* conversations in September and October. As a church, you seemed ready for two services. Please pray for this important step to be well-received. Our hope is that having two services will open doors for new people to join us in worship and in mission. What a good thing! What a great moment for us all!

ADVENT: This second week of Advent, we move from the Hope candle to a focus on Peace. The main text this Sunday is Matthew's introduction to John the Baptist who prepares the way of the Lord Jesus. John's life and his preaching are not all about Peace, but we will find Peace in Christ Jesus. I'll share my thoughts on John the Baptist this week: See you on Sunday at 9:00 or at 11:00!

Ginny

## Lectio Divina on Monday mornings

We would love for you to join us on Monday mornings at 10 AM via Zoom for Lectio Divina, when we reflect on scriptures that will be used in the coming Sunday's worship service. To join, just click the link: [HERE](#).

## We Welcome Two More New FPC Members: Tom & Linda Donaldson

We are so excited they have chosen to join the FPC family! Photo to follow.

## 2022 Downtown Santa Parade

How exciting it was for FPC to be a part of St. Pete's Santa Parade this year! The church van was designed and decorated by Karen Brooks and Dave Hunt. Participants included Karen Brooks, Dave Hunt, Gretchen Letterman, Bill Shelton, Marilyn Mulcahy, Chris and Karen Mossman, the Aumack family, and Day School families.

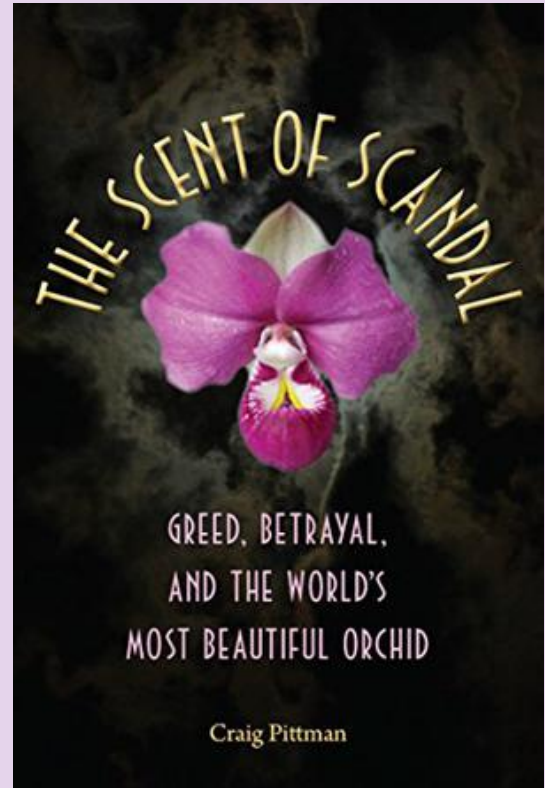




## Faith & Fiction Monday, Dec 5

Hard to believe, but December is here! -- and our next meeting of Faith & Fiction is on Monday, December 5th, in Room N-123 at 7:00 p.m.

We will be discussing our December read, which is *The Scent of Scandal* by local author Craig Pittman. Joan Karins will be our discussion leader, so come join us to talk about the intrigue in the botanical world of Florida orchids!



## Many Moods of Christmas Concert

Friday, December 9 at 7 PM

*Click below for a special video invite from Matt Clear!*



## Christmas Poinsettias

You are invited to make a \$20 donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend to help purchase

poinsettias and greenery for FPC. Be sure to designate the individual to be honored or memorialized. We will compile and list the names of all those honored or remembered for inclusion in First News.



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## Christmas Family Fun Event Sunday, December 18 from 3-5 PM



Come get in the Christmas spirit! Join us for an afternoon of Christmas Family Fun on Sunday, December 18 from 3-5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for Christmas cookie decorating, ornament making, mission project creations, Christmas carol singing, and hot chocolate! (and maybe even some Christmas-y games - back by popular demand!) Please sign up via the Evite link [HERE](#) so we have plenty of supplies prepared! Invite your family and your children's friends to come! Let's make this a season of joy for everyone!

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## TWO Christmas Eve Services Saturday, December 24

4 PM - Family & Children's Service  
7 PM - Candlelight Service

We invite you and your family to spend Christmas Eve at First Pres...

### 4 PM Family & Children's Service

Please join us for an unforgettable way to celebrate the coming of baby Jesus into our lives at 4 PM on Christmas Eve. This year we are doing something unique, if not daring!

We are hosting an open Christmas Eve pageant. You and your kids show up and decide if you'd like to participate in the

pageant in any role...from shepherds to angels to stable animals, or kings. (We have plenty of new halos, crowns assorted animal ears and headdresses to help you get into the roles...or dress up at home and come the way you like.) And, if you're really wanting to be Mary or Joseph or baby Jesus, you will be dubbed their assistants. (Yes, we do have a real live baby and his mom and dad to do those parts!). It could be a little chaotic without any rehearsals, and we may have more kings than shepherds, but it's going to be amazing, too. After all, Mary and Joseph didn't get time to rehearse what they went through, and it still turned out to be a holy night! Afterwards, we'll celebrate Christmas joy with light refreshments on the patio out front.



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## Christmas Pageant

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### 7 PM Candlelight Service

A traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will

cap off the evening of this holy night. Stirring music, scripture readings, prayers and candlelight will bathe us all in hope, peace, joy and love as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.



## ONE Christmas Morning Service Sunday, December 25 at 11 AM

Sound the Trumpets! Worship with us on Christmas Day as we join in concert with the brass orchestra and celebrate the birth of Our Lord. What an amazing time to celebrate and feel the Christmas Joy, together!

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 December 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**, Praise & Worship Service, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Room S-202
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Room N-123
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Classic Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
  
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)
  
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)
  
- **Wednesdays, 7:00 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, December 4**, transition to TWO SERVICES! 9 AM Connect Service in the Youth Center and 11 AM Sanctuary Service in the Sanctuary
- **Friday, December 9**, 7 PM, Many Moods of Christmas concert
- **Sunday, December 18**, 3 PM, Christmas Family Fun Day
- **Saturday, December 24**, TWO Christmas Eve services: 4 PM for Families & Children and 7 PM Candlelight Service
- **Sunday, December 25**, 11 AM, ONE traditional service in the Sanctuary

## 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).

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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