

FIRST NEWS



December 30, 2022

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

this Sunday, January 1, 2023

1st Sunday of Christmas / New Year's Day / Lord's Supper

ONE CONNECT WORSHIP SERVICE

at 11 AM (in the Sanctuary)

Rev. Ginny Ellis

Sermon: "Where Everybody Went"

Scripture: [Luke 2:15-20](#), [Matthew 2:9-15](#)



COMMUNION SUNDAY: We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this Sunday during our worship service. 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.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

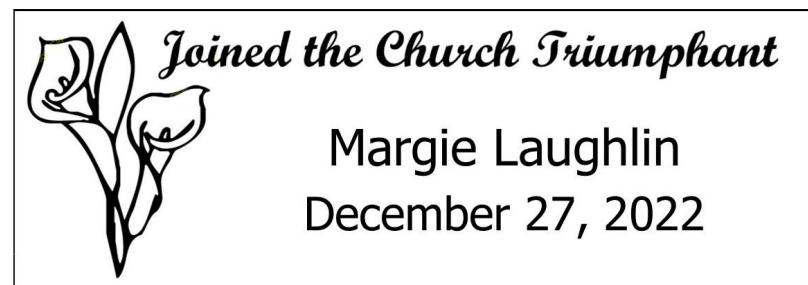
This link may also be found on the home page of the church's website (www.fpcstpete.com - click the "Watch Here" button) as well as on the church's Facebook page. The service is also available for viewing on [our YouTube channel](#) throughout the week. Feel free to share the link with family and friends!

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

We have a **MASK-OPTIONAL** policy for worship services and on-campus activities.



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, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Susan Key, Alisa Keys, 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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

If you read this on Friday, I will be flying back to Florida from Connecticut. As you may know, I had to take Hippo-Hippo home. That's the stuffed hippo Carter, my 9 year-old grandson, left in Tampa in November. (H-H is eager to hug Carter after all this time!) Also, I had to visit the winter boots I leave at my daughter's far north house. Along with those important responsibilities, I get to visit my beloved daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons. What a joy! But no

worries: I plan to be at church on January 1 at 11:00 for our worship service.

Thank you to all who helped as Advent and Christmas unfolded for the church in such amazingly beautiful ways: with decorations, music, liturgy, great food, and the laughter of both children and adults. Best of all: we had the joy of the Christmas story lifted up in scripture, carols, drama, and reflection. It was also well-received to worship in two settings: the Connect service at 9:00, and the Sanctuary service at 11:00. Some of you have tried them both!

As the year 2023 begins, I commit to listen and learn with all of you: what our heritage teaches us, and how the future beckons for mission and ministry here at First Presbyterian. See you around the church and community. Happy New Year!

Blessings,
Ginny Ellis

PLEDGES for 2023

We have gratefully received pledges for the 2023 budget, dedicating many at worship on December 11. If you have not been able to send in your pledge yet, please do so; humbly we invite your faithful support. You can pledge on the church website [HERE](#), or ask us for a new pledge card. Together we will follow God's call on our Road Ahead. Thank you!

Lectio/Visio Divina Resumes Jan. 2

Join in the Zoom devotion time at 10 a.m. on Mondays for the practice of Lectio/Visio Divina, a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

The Power Hour and Faith Journey Sunday school classes will not be meeting Sunday, January 1. Classes will begin again on January 8 at 10 AM (Power Hour in the Youth Center and Faith Journey in Room S-202).

STAFF MATTERS

Five Questions for Johnny Miller

"God, Family, Green Bay Packers. That's the way I was brought up," says Johnny Miller, our Resident Property Manager. "The order depends on the day of week."

The Personnel and Administration Committee is profiling our staff members on the week of their birthdays. **Johnny's is today, December 30.** He's a jack-of-all trades, capable of fixing many and most things around the church. Johnny, who has worked here for 11 years, also serves

as FPC's security guard, making rounds at 7 p.m., 10 p.m., and 6:30 a.m. in the morning. He lives on campus with wife Elizabeth and her mother. Prior to joining our staff, Johnny worked 35+ years in apartment maintenance.

If you've talked with Johnny longer than five seconds, you learn quickly he's a Packer fan-atic. He grew up in Manitowoc, WI, on Lake Michigan, which is a 46-minute drive to Green Bay on a good day. "My Dad had season tickets and was at the Ice Bowl," the infamous game in December 1967 when the Packers beat the Dallas Cowboys in 13-degrees-below-zero weather. A younger brother still lives in Wisconsin and an older sister is a retired Air Force Colonel living in Tennessee. Johnny has four children: Johnny Jr. (JJ), 44; Michelle, 40; Blake, 23; and Jason, who died 10 years ago in a tragic car accident at age 28.



We have five questions for you, Johnny:

Q1: What's the favorite part of your job at First Presbyterian?

Johnny: I can truly say it's working with everybody; I love the people I work with and those I work for. There's always something different going on.

Q2: What are your hobbies?

Johnny: I used to play a lot of softball, but I'm getting a bit stiff for that. So golf is now.

Follow-up question: And what do you shoot?

Johnny: Ha-ha-ha. I play for fun. But my best round is 76, which I've never shot again.

Q3: Favorite food?

Johnny: Thin-cut pork, bone-in, cooked on the grill with black-eye peas and baked potatoes.

Q4: Is it true that you are a Green Bay Packers owner?

Johnny: Sure am. I own two shares. Bought one 20 years ago for \$175 and one more recently for \$250. That gets me bragging rights: 'I'm a team owner'; a birthday card every year; and the framed shares look pretty on the wall. I've also met many of the Pack's legendary players including Bart Starr, Paul Hornung, Max McGee, Ray Nitschke, and Brett Favre. In fact, my son caddied for Brett in a couple of tournaments.

Q5: Final question, Johnny, and the most important one. Who's going to win the Super Bowl this year? The Pack or the Bucs?

Johnny: Probably Green Bay as a wild card. We're not eliminated yet. We're gonna run the table. Go, Pack, Go!

Happy birthday, Johnny. Thank you for giving our members and friends a peek into your life and interests. And, oh, good luck with your Packers this year!

A Shining Example

from Pastor Jeanie Barnes

"There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light." John 1:6-8

We all know people who are not *the* light, but who seem to bear witness to the light everywhere they go! We could name many such people at First Pres St. Pete!

Today we shine a spotlight on one special person as we give God thanks for placing him in our midst as a shining example and witness to the light of Christ. He is a joyful spirit, devoted to Pastoral Care. He is a handyman and carpenter; a Christmas cookie baker and elf; one of our church van drivers and meatloaf ministry guys, to name but a few of the many hats he wears! Do you know who this is? DAVE HUNT!

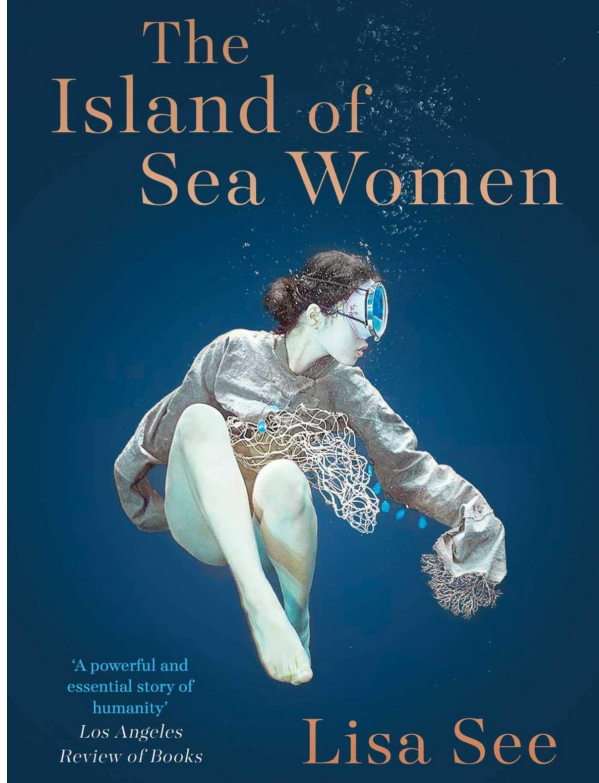


Thank you, Dave, for all you have done so tirelessly during the Christmas season to bring God's light and joy into our midst. The stable you built for our Christmas celebrations helped us worship with a true sense of awe and wonder. The cookies you baked and served (dressed as an elf or in an ugly Christmas sweater) delighted young and old alike! Thank you for

caring for those who need the most attention among us. We praise God for sending you into our midst and pray God will continue to fill you with the light of God's hope, peace, joy and love all year long! We are blessed. Thank you.

Faith & Fiction

Our next meeting will be on January 9th since the first Monday falls on the legal day off for New Year's. This means everyone has an extra week for reading! Our January read is "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See. Historical fiction, it is the fascinating tale of the famous Korean women divers who were the breadwinners for their families while the husbands stayed home and



cared for the babies. Linda Santoro will lead the discussion.

See you next year! - January 9th - Room N-123 - 7:00 p.m.

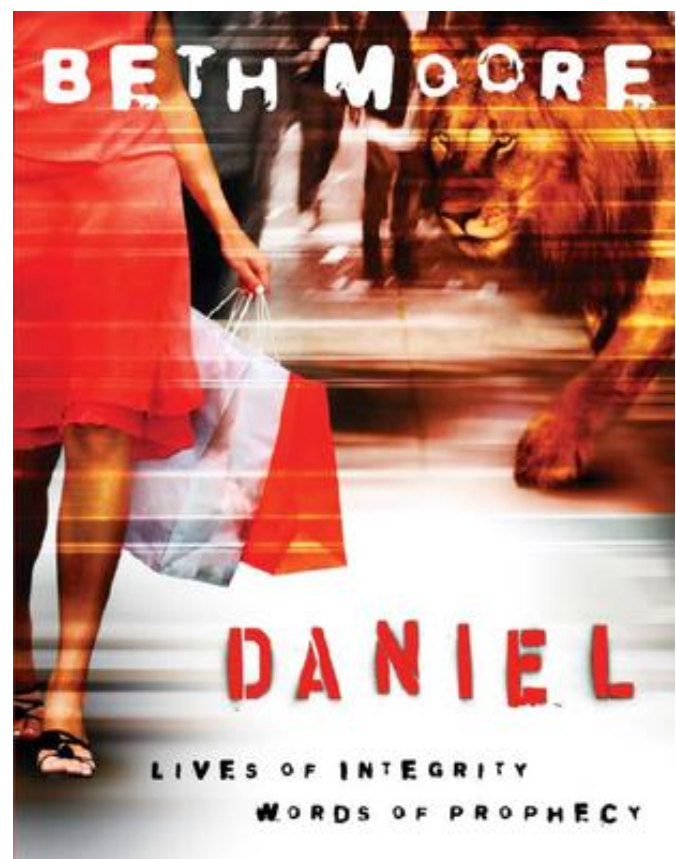
Ladies, let's start the New Year with a favorite Beth Moore Bible Study!

Daniel: Lives of Integrity – Words of Prophecy
Starts Tuesday, January 17

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is necessary! This 12-week study will be in 2 parts:

- Part 1 (6 weeks: January 17 – February 21st) we will study Daniel's life as he faced the kind of pressures and temptations Christians encounter today. Daniel models how to develop integrity in an enticing world. (Note: there will be a 2 week break between Part 1 & Part 2)
- Part 2 (6 weeks: March 14th – April 18th) we will explore the thrilling prophecies from the time of Daniel through the coming of Christ.



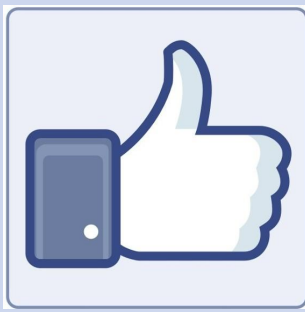
Workbooks will be available for \$20. Sorry, there is no childcare available at this time.

Questions? Contact April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.

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!

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 January 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](#) (next meeting will be Jan. 2)

- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, not meeting on Dec. 27, meeting virtually Jan. 3

- **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)

Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, January 1, 11 AM ONE Connect service in the Sanctuary
- Monday, January 2, Church Office closed for New Year's
- Monday, January 9, 7 PM, Faith & Fiction
- Tuesday, January 17, 9 AM, Ladies' Bible Study starts

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.

First Presbyterian Church
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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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