

FIRST NEWS



December 9, 2022

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent

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

Rev. Jeanie Barnes
Sermon: #Advent3/Contradictions/Questions/Expectations
Scripture: [Isaiah 35:1-10](#), [Matthew 11:2-11](#)

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 - 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.



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.

The Many Moods of Christmas A Benefit Concert for St. Pete Free Clinic

First Presbyterian Church
701 Beach Drive NE St. Petersburg, FL 33701
Friday, December 9, 2022
7:00 p.m.

www.fpcstpete.com
727-822-2031

Many Moods of Christmas Concert
TONIGHT, December 9 at 7:00 PM, in the Sanctuary

Celebrate the miracle of Christmas through this beloved annual concert. Student musicians from the Pinellas County Center for the Arts join with the First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir to continue this holiday tradition and

help support St. Pete Free Clinic.

IMPORTANT PARKING INFORMATION: We are expecting a large crowd, so parking may be limited! There is also a 5K race (Jingle Bell Run) that will be shutting down North Shore Drive at 5 PM, which means our back parking lot will not be available for open parking. However, the police are aware that we have a concert here and will allow our folks through any barricades in order to park in designated areas. We encourage you to carpool if you can, and we will have a valet service available in the front circle drive starting at 6 PM.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

Years ago, I was studying in Scotland where, in December, there was a strike going on with power brown-outs and everybody frustrated. I traveled from there to Norway to be with my exchange student "sister" and her family. Norway had snow on the ground and lights sparkling in all the streets and windows. At Anette's house, there were candles everywhere. As a candle burned down it was instantly replaced with a new one. What a difference between Scotland and Norway! It was a vivid example of "light shining in the darkness." I loved Scotland and was happy to go back to resume my studies, but the bright joy of Norway really lifted my spirits.

That's the Christian faith, my friends. That's who we are at First Presbyterian Church as we follow Jesus, the child in the manger, the Savior who gave himself for us on the cross. We are reminded, even now, even in 2022, that God is in charge and that God has taken care of all of it. We can hold onto the hope and the love, the confidence and the joy that come from following a God who cares about us and about our world

Happy Advent to each of you. BE the light in the darkness. BE the Joy. You are light and Joy for me.

Blessings, Ginny Ellis

Need an uplifting start to your busy week?

Join in the Zoom devotion time at 10 a.m. on Monday Dec. 12 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. Please note this schedule change for the holidays: We will not meet on Dec. 19, Dec. 26 or Jan. 2. Give yourself a gift by joining in on Dec. 12, then make a resolution to start off your New Year right on Jan. 9!

Tony's Challenge!

At the Connect Service last Sunday, Tony McCoy spoke about the biblical concept of tithing: giving back to God 10% of what we receive. Here is part of what Tony said:

Our whole life is one big blessing from God! Thankfulness fills our prayers every day! We give some of His blessings back to Him in response to all his blessings as the Bible teaches us to do. But, how about pledging to give back 10%-- a tithe? Give back to God so we at First Pres and other Christian organizations can continue His work here and now. Some of us tithe now, but more could.

What could happen if we all tithed to First Pres at 10%? According to the census, the average household income in St Pete is about \$48,000. If we all had that much and tithed, the total giving to the church would be \$888,000. That would cover all of our expenses and give us an excess!

Many of us are retired. According to the US Census, the average retirement income for a married couple in the US is about \$73,000. If we all had that much and tithed, the gift to First Pres would be \$1,300,000! And social security payments are going up by 8.7% next year!

WE KNOW THAT everyone may not be in a position to tithe, but any amount or percentage, will bring blessings, not only to the church and our mission, but even more so to each generous giver. We will be dedicating pledges in church this Sunday, December 11, at both services. Remember to bring your card, or go online to log your [pledge on the church website](#).

We know circumstances may change. A pledge is what you hope to be able to give for the next year so the church Finance Committee can set a budget. THANK YOU!



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. Call the Church Office with any questions.

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.

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!

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.



Christmas Pageant

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!

ONE Praise Service to kick off the New Year Sunday, January 1 at 11 AM

Join us in the Sanctuary to start 2023 with praise and worship!



All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.

Stay
CONNECTED

- 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 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, meeting in-person (in the Chapel) on Dec. 13; meeting virtually Dec. 20 and Jan. 3; not meeting on Dec. 27
- 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:

- Tonight, December 9, 7 PM, Many Moods 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
- Sunday, January 1, 11 AM ONE praise 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.

First Presbyterian Church
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 822-2031 | 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

[Unsubscribe amy@fpc-stpete.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by office@fpc-stpete.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!