

# FIRST NEWS



February 17, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, February 19, 2023  
**Transfiguration of the Lord**

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon: "From the Mountaintop"  
Scripture: [Exodus 24:12-18](#), [Matthew 17:1-9](#)

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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](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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## GUEST MUSICIAN THIS SUNDAY: Sarah Shellman, violin

Sarah Shellman is currently principal second violin with The Florida Orchestra; she joined the ensemble as a section violinist in 2002. She last appeared as a soloist on the TFO Masterworks series in March 2011, performing Thomas Ades' Violin Concerto *Concentric Paths*. She's also been featured on the Coffee series programs performing *Winter* and *Spring* from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* and Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins in D minor* with Nancy Chang. She is an advocate for the performance of works by living composers as well as for the expansion of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives within the classical music profession.

Shellman graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in music and the University of Houston in 2000 with a master's degree in music. While living in Houston, she played with the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Ballet, and as a freelance musician. In addition to her work on the modern violin, she has also performed with several early music ensembles as a violinist, violist, and mezzo-soprano.



**Please remember in prayer:** Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, 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

Dear Friends,

This coming Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday, the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday and Lent. The story tells us of Jesus going up the mountain with

Peter, James, and John. There on the top, Jesus meets up with Moses and Elijah, giants in the history of the Jewish people. There they are transfigured, glowing with light, conferring with each other. Peter and the Zebedee brothers are terrified, the story tells us, and I get that. It sounds frightening to me for sure. Jesus floating in the air over the mountain, talking to long-dead prophets. Good grief. Imagine seeing something like that. Peter, James, and John fall on their faces. But next thing they knew, Jesus is touching their shoulders and saying: "Don't be afraid." That touch of Jesus' hand, that word to set fear aside and trust Jesus with all that life brings us, that is deep comfort to me, as it was on that day to P, J and J.

I know some of the fears we are feeling in our community, the fears and the hopes. Some that affects us all; some that affect the particular people we are. I believe that the touch of Jesus can bring us comfort, strength, and peace. I felt that touch last Sunday when I had the great privilege of baptizing Nanette Davis at her profession of faith in Christ. The touch of Jesus, felt in a splash of water on her hair and drawn in the shape of the cross on her forehead. That's what I pray for each of you, no matter what you are facing in your life. The touch of Jesus, the words he says: "Don't be afraid." Jesus is on the mountain with us, and Jesus will come down the mountain with us, to walk with us on our journey, wherever it takes us. Thanks be to God!

#### ASH WEDNESDAY AND SAILBOAT CHURCH –

Ash Wednesday is this coming Wednesday (2/22). You can come by the church to receive communion and ashes between 12 and 2 PM on Wednesday, in the front circle driveway. Or at 7:00 PM for a service in the Chapel.

Our study of *Sailboat Church* begins next week: Sunday, February 26. We have ordered some more books, and there will be study groups as follows:

- Sundays at 10 AM in the Power Hour Class (Youth Center), and the Faith Journey Class (Room S-202).
- Sundays at 12:15 PM in the Chapel
- Thursdays at 10:00 AM in the Chapel
- Thursdays at 7 PM during choir practice.

Join us to see the difference between being a rowboat church and a sailboat church! Read and think and pray along with us, as we look at what First Presbyterian Church is called to be!

Love and blessings to each and all of you,  
Pastor Ginny

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### Lectio/Visio Divina

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*.

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**Concert: *The Helpers***



**Saturday, February 18  
at 7 PM in the Sanctuary  
Featuring:  
[The Festival Singers of Florida](#)**

Providing community performances of the highest quality, the Festival Singers of Florida is dedicated to engaging and inspiring through impassioned singing while expanding awareness and appreciation of the choral arts. Offering will be taken for The Festival Singers of Florida.

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## **New Member Inquirer's Class This Sunday, February 19 at 10 AM in the Chapel**

Whether you have been visiting FPC St. Pete for a brief time or for longer, you will want to join us for a new member inquirer's class. This is your opportunity to learn about what it means to be a Presbyterian, plus hear the answers to all those questions you may have about our church, faith, and what you need to do to become a member. We will meet in the Chapel on February 19, immediately following the 9 AM worship service, where we will enjoy a great program from Pastor Ginny. Elders will be on-hand should you wish to join the church following the class. This is a great chance to learn about and join downtown's most welcoming church!

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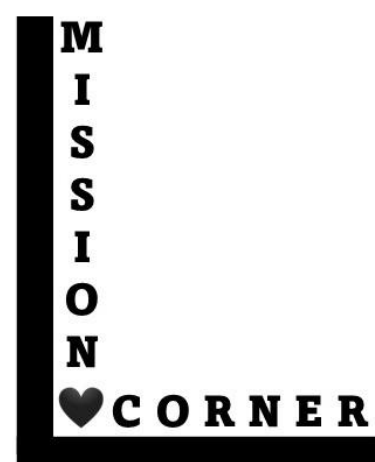
## **Annual Congregational Meeting This Sunday, February 19, at the 11 AM service**

The Session has called our Annual Congregation meeting for the close of the 11AM worship service on Sunday February 19.

At this meeting, the congregation will hear reports on our ministry in 2022 ([CLICK HERE](#) for a preview); a limited number of paper copies will be available this Sunday, and more will be in the Church Office during the week).

At the meeting, we will also elect the 2023 Officer Nominating Committee and our corporate officers for 2023, will be asked to approve Rules of Governance for the church ([CLICK HERE](#) to view a copy of that document; paper copies will be available on Sunday morning). The church has had corporate bylaws for years but has not had a set of ecclesiastical governing rules. This document is an important addition to the church operations manual.

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## **What a Fifth Sunday MissionSunday!**

Forty+ backpacks, each packed with six to eight books and marked up by our kids and big people alike, with all kinds of colorful messages. Colorful bookmarks, too. Scores of Huggies, Luvs, Pampers and other kinds of pull-ups, plus hundreds of wipes of all stripes. All while the atmosphere was filled with singing and music by our renowned Praise Band and our school children! And how can we forget the slurpy pancakes,

greasy and crispy bacon, with sausage to boot. Pigs-in-a-blanket, anyone?

What a day our most recent Fifth Sunday Mission Sunday was! Thanks to all our members and friends who brought their gifts, who helped sort and pack, and who enjoyed the yummy breakfast prepared by our infamous Meat Loaf Boyz. All these gifts are going to CASA, the Resurrection House, and COSA (Operation PAR's Day School).

These photos share the experience in ways that words cannot:



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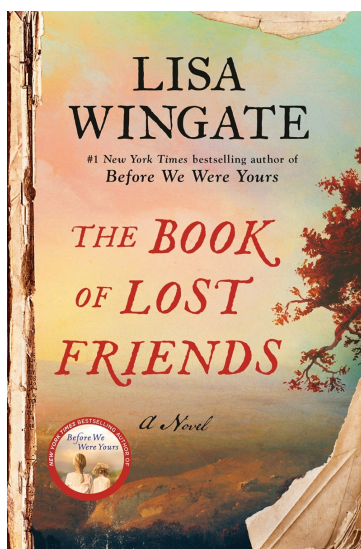
## HELP NEEDED:

- R'Club/Edible Peace Patch needs volunteers who enjoy gardening or wish to learn through their training program. If you wish to find out more, please [CLICK HERE](#) to contact the R'Club/Edible Peace Patch or contact Mission Committee member Lynne Mormino ([lmormino@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:lmormino@tampabay.rr.com)).
- St Pete Free Clinic needs volunteers to help distribute food. If interested,

please [CLICK HERE](#) to contact the St. Petersburg Free Clinic, or contact Mission Committee member Susan Schlecht ([schlecht21975@gmail.com](mailto:schlecht21975@gmail.com)).

If you have questions of the Mission Committee, please contact Moderator Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300 or [sanaveritt1@gmail.com](mailto:sanaveritt1@gmail.com)).

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## Faith & Fiction March 6, 2023 at 7:00 PM in Room N-123

Our book for the coming month is *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate. This is a story about three young women searching for family amid the destruction of the post-Civil War South, and also about a present-day teacher who learns of their story and the connection it has to her students' lives. Rue Ann Porter will be our discussion leader.

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## Clover has a new friend!

We need to name our new bunny! Just like we did when we chose the name "Clover" for our frog, we'll have a contest! Anyone can suggest a name and we will vote for the one we like best! Email the Church Office

([office@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:office@fpc-stpete.org)) with your pick for a name. We

have six suggestions so far....keep 'em coming! Meanwhile, keep an eye out for our bunny friend in our Moment for All Ages!



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## College Scholarships - It's Time to Apply!

We are now accepting applications for college scholarships! These scholarships include the Ohrns Scholarship for undergraduates and the Osborn Scholarship for Theology students. We only require one application is for both Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 semesters (awards are split); the applicant needs to let us know if they only need it for one semester.

For further details about these scholarships (including downloadable application forms and deadlines), [CLICK HERE](#). Please note to apply for either of these scholarships, you will need to include:

1. a completed application form;
2. a copy of your most recent high school or college transcript;
3. a 500-word essay describing your involvement in church-related activities as well as extra-curricular and community involvement activities, why you want this grant, and what you expect to do following the completion of your education.

The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and the Session will approve the final awards. Successful applicants will be asked to provide proof of enrollment and acceptance by their educational institution. Funds for the scholarship will be sent directly to the institution so be sure to give the proper name and address to which the funds are to be sent. Questions? Please call the Church Office (727-822-2031).

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## Easter Eggstravaganza is coming...Please help us prepare!

We are excited to welcome the St. Pete Preschool children to join our Easter Egg Hunt this year, so we need **LOTS of filled Easter eggs!** Collection baskets for (preferably) filled eggs, OR any plastic eggs, candy, or small toys, will be in both the 9 AM and 11 AM worship spaces during the months of February and March.



The Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt itself will be held on **Palm Sunday, April 2, promptly at 10:30 AM** on the Front Lawn. If you would like to volunteer to be an expert Eggstravaganza egg hider or safety helper on the lawn that morning, please sign up at the Sanctuary Welcome Center or call the Church Office. Thanks!

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## “Hope for Ukraine” Concert Postponed

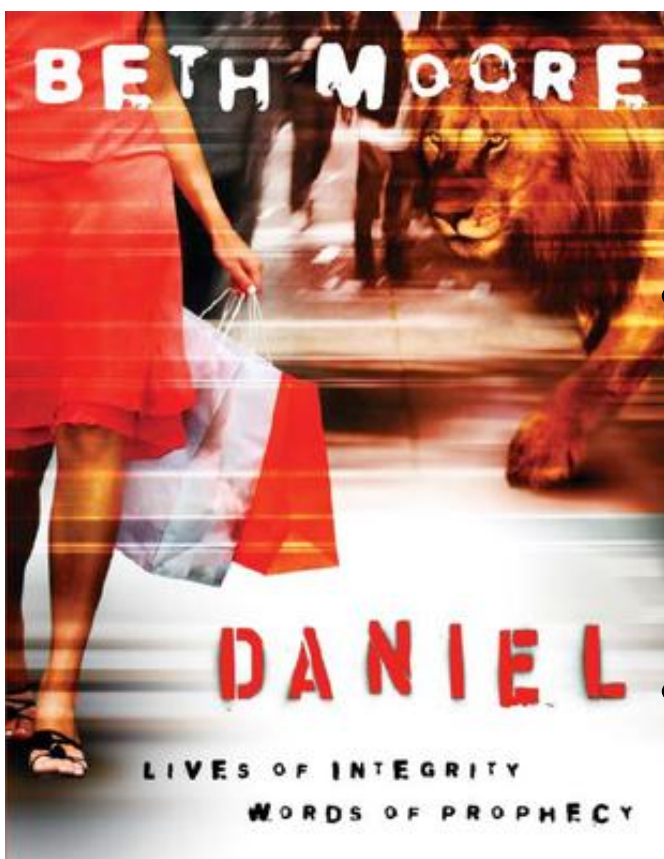
Unfortunately, the March 25 Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus concert has been postponed. The visa process is not moving as quickly as they had hoped and will not be finished in time for the Ukrainian musicians to arrive here in Florida in March. The enthusiasm and support poured out by our church family for this event has shown the true spirit and caring of our congregation. Watch for a rescheduled date in the fall of 2023.



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## Daniel: Lives of Integrity – Words of Prophecy

Tuesdays, 9:00 – 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 (through Feb. 21) 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. (there will be a 2 week break between Part 1 & Part 2)
- Part 2 (6 weeks: March 14 – April 18) we will explore the thrilling prophecies from the time of Daniel through the coming of Christ.

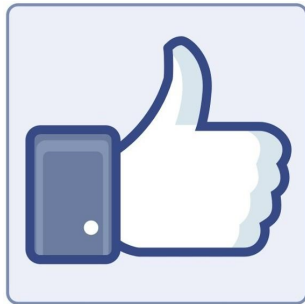
Workbooks will be available for \$20. Sorry, there is no childcare available at this time. Questions? Contact April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.

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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 February 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:

- **Saturday, February 18, 7 PM**, *The Helpers* Concert
- **Sunday, February 19, 10 AM**, New Member Inquirer's Class, Chapel
- **Sunday, February 19**, following 11 AM worship service, Annual Congregational Meeting
- **Wednesday, February 22**, Ash Wednesday, 12-2 PM, Drive-Through ashes, prayer, scripture and communion; 7 PM service in the Chapel

## 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**

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.



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