

FIRST NEWS



February 24, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon Series: *Sailboat Church*
Sermon: "Setting Sail Together"
Scripture: [Isaiah 43:15-21](#), [Mark 4:35-41](#)

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.



**GUEST MUSICIAN THIS SUNDAY,
11 AM SERVICE:
Todd Donovan, Baritone**

American Bass-Baritone, Todd William Donovan, has been described by critics as a singer full of confidence, dominating the stage. He is known for his powerful and resonant voice and expressive acting. Mr. Donovan is comfortable both on the

Opera and Musical Theater stage where he has performed throughout the United States. Mr. Donovan has sung at the Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria for eight seasons. Mr. Donovan's musical theater experience includes the roles of Amile de Becque in Rodgers and Hammerstein's *South Pacific*, Alfred P. Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*, the Baker in Sondheim's *Into the Woods*, Count Carl Magnus in *A Little Night Music*, and The Beast in Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*. Some of Mr. Donovan's operatic roles include: Figaro in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Olin Blich in Floyd's *Susannah* (Naxos Records 2014 DVD), Scarpia in Puccini's *Tosca*, and Mefistofele in Boito's *Mefistofele*.



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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

I give thanks that Jean McCammon is just fine...as fine as a 101-year-old could ever be, after a black-out "pause" at church on Sunday. Though she has health issues, Jean loves to come to church each week with her care-giver. This past

Sunday folks were concerned, and paramedics were called, but Jean turned out to be okay. Instead of getting in an ambulance, she chose to go back home in time for the great lunch menu at Westminster Palms that day. I have to say that I was deeply grateful for the care shown to Jean, with a number of people gathering quietly to care for her: including a nurse, a doctor, a deacon or two, retired minister Larry Duncan, two church staff members and perhaps others, all doing the right things. Meanwhile, the rest of the congregation and I carried on with our Annual Congregational Meeting, electing the 2023 Officer Nominating Committee and approving the new Rules of Governance document. A friend said: "A day in the life of a pastor, huh?" I just add: "It was a day in the life of the church, a good and caring church."

By the way, that annual meeting, which followed our two Sunday services, were separated by an Inquirer's Class at which we received four new members: two members and two associate members. It was a full church day indeed!

This week, we are set to begin our study of *Sailboat Church*. Many of you are already reading along in the book; you seem to have lots to think about and talk about. For the next five Sundays, our sermons will reflect on the book and its ideas. I hope you will join one of the classes, which will be held as below. Just come, no need to sign up. There are books available at the church and at the groups.

SAILBOAT CHURCH STUDY GROUPS:

- **Sundays at 10:00 AM** in the Power Hour class (Youth Center), AND in the Faith Journey class (Room S-202)
- **Sundays at 12:15 PM** after the Sanctuary service, led by Uneeda Brewer and me (Chapel)
- **Thursdays at 10:00 AM**, led by Jeanie Barnes and me (Chapel)
- **Thursday evenings** as choir practice begins (a time of study for the choir)
- **Friday evenings**, a 33703 neighborhood group

Meanwhile, I have begun to gather sailing stories to use with the sermons, classes, and in First News. I hope you will write down some of your thoughts or experiences with sailing and send them to me. It is such a rich topic for us to consider: How we might understand the church as a sailboat-- its ministry and its overall mission directed and powered by the Spirit of God.

Lastly, we begin the contemplative season of Lent this week. Start using the 40 Days of Prayer at the back of *Sailboat Church*. Let's find God speaking to us together in new ways in these 40 days at First Presbyterian Church.

Blessings, Ginny Ellis

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*.

WOW!



Jack Rain will celebrate his 54th anniversary as organist of FPC next Wednesday, March 1st. Our congregation and visitors have been so blessed by his dedication and talent over the years!

Our Elevator is Back UP and Working!

We know it has been a while since the elevator has worked properly...unfortunately, the parts needed for repair took a long time to find and install! But all repairs are complete and it's back open for business!

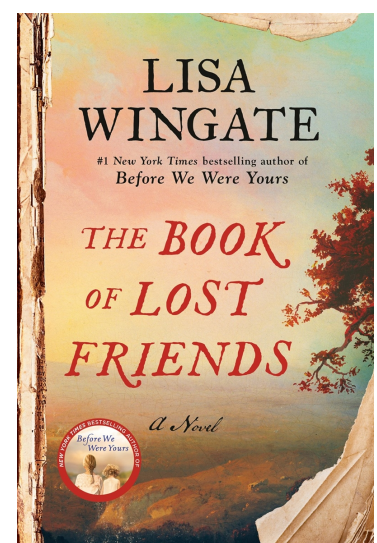


Concert: *Choral Classics* Featuring: The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay Friday, March 3, 2023 at 8:00 PM

The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay returns to First Presbyterian Church to present a self-produced concert featuring a diverse blend of choral repertoire. **This is a ticketed event!** Please purchase your tickets in advance through the Master Chorale of Tampa Bay (for more info, or to purchase tickets, click [HERE](#) or call 813-355-9609).

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.



Vote in our Bunny-Naming Contest!



Thanks for all the creative name entries for our new bunny friend! The list of potential names is below.

Which name do you like the best? Click [HERE](#) to vote online!

- Candy
- Carrot/Carrots
- Flopsie
- Ginger
- Gracie
- Lucky
- Mr. Nelson
- Mr. Pete
- Nibbles
- Penelope
- Reggie Rabbit
- Snuggles
- Theo/Theophilus

STAFF MATTERS

Five Questions of Kevin Clark

"I have no idea what drew me to music," says Kevin Clark, our Praise Band leader and trumpeter. Kevin has been Director of Contemporary Music here since October 2019. "My Mom always was in the church choir, so maybe that influenced me." Whatever, he's been playing the trumpet as long as he can remember, certainly in his high school and college bands and beyond.

As with many on our staff, Kevin's arrival in St. Petersburg and to First Presbyterian has been a roundabout path. As you know, the Personnel and Administration Committee profiles our staff around the time of their birthdays. Kevin's was two weeks ago, Sunday, February 12.



He was born in Poughkeepsie, NY, moved to Florida in 1978, where he grew up in Vero Beach with one brother, sons of the late Joe and Jan Clark. (Jan was a member of FPC and the Praise Band, starting in 2004). After high school, Kevin served two years on active duty with the US Navy as a Boatswain's Mate and Signalman. His two years completed, Kevin enrolled in Louisiana's Northwestern State University while also serving in the Naval Reserve's Seabees unit in Shreveport. He

graduated from NSU in 1996 with a degree in Music Education, specializing in trumpet with an eye on being a school band director.

Wanting even more training, Kevin applied to graduate school at the University of North Texas' College of Music. After an intensive audition and interview process, he was accepted into the school with a partial scholarship and went on to study Trumpet Performance. Why UNT, you may ask? "Because of its world-renowned music program, which attracted many international students. A number of graduates have since gone on to become quite famous." As an aside, he says a classmate was Norah Jones, the award-winning jazz pianist and singer with more than 50-million albums to her credit. "This training gave me the grounding and credentials to be a professional trumpet player."

We have a few questions for you, Kevin.

Q1: What brought you to St. Pete?

Kevin: After grad school I took a job with Verizon in Dallas. In 2003, they had an opening in this area, and after sensing a strong call from God that I needed to be nearer to my parents, I requested a transfer here. A year later, I helped my mother and father evacuate to St. Pete after two hurricanes destroyed their condo in Vero and their insurer went belly-up. I left Verizon in 2005 to serve as Music Director and Band Leader for Carnival Cruise Lines. That's when I met my wife Jody. We don't have any kids other than two pups. I guess you can call me a Doggie-Daddy.

Q2: Just how many instruments do you play?

Kevin: Mostly the trumpet and flugelhorn. But I'm also learning the Irish penny whistle.



Q3: You clearly enjoy leading the Praise Band.

What do you do to prepare?

Kevin: I first learn what the pastor's theme is for a Sunday. Then I select from 40-50 songs that our group knows. I try to keep current by listening to a lot of Christian radio to keep our library refreshed. We'll practice for an hour on Wednesdays and then for 30 minutes prior to the Connect service.

Q4: You work part-time for FPC.

What's your day job?

Kevin: Well, Jody is a nurse with BayCare. A friend and I opened a music shop last July after Bringe Music closed its doors. We both had worked there. Our business—Tate Music and Repair—repairs band instruments and sells instrumental accessories. We now service 42 schools throughout six counties. As a freelance trumpeter, I play locally with multiple ensembles, including the Helios Jazz Orchestra, the Florida Wind Band, and the Bay Kings Band.

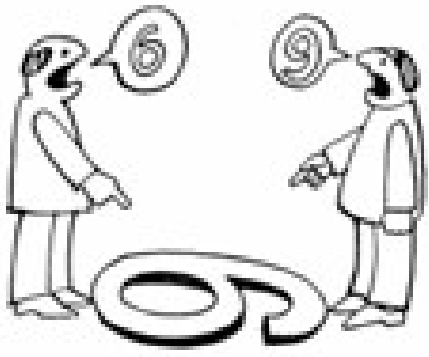


Q5: Have you cut any albums?

Kevin: No, but I've played on several. I'm on two songs of (the late) Marty Bailin's last solo album. (Bailin was co-founder, lead singer, and songwriter for Jefferson Airplane.)

Thank you, Kevin, for sharing a peek into your life with us. Happy Belated Birthday!

Workshop: "Moving Out of our Comfort



Zone: Making Space for People with Differing Views"

Thursday, March 23, 2023,
6:00-9:00 PM

Do you ever find yourself thinking or saying, 'I can't believe you think that' or 'You're so wrong!?' This sociodrama workshop will focus on how we can become more comfortable with holding other's views with kindness and open-heartedness while still maintaining our own views without defensiveness or aggression.

Sociodrama is a group learning process that focuses on providing practice in solving problems of human relationships. It helps people clarify values and offers opportunities to explore new and more satisfying ways of interacting. This evening of reflection is being offered by First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg and is open to all.

WHERE: FPC - St. Petersburg (701 Beach Drive, NE, St, Petersburg FL), in the Youth Center

COST: Free! (a free will offering will be collected)

FACILITATOR: Antonina Garcia, LCSW, EdD, TEP, RDT/BCT

Nina is an internationally noted trainer and educator in sociodrama and has a private practice in New Jersey. She is co-author of *Sociodrama: Who's in Your Shoes?* 2nd edition with Patricia Sternberg and written many articles and chapters in books. She is on the faculty at New York University's Drama Therapy program. She has served as co-editor of the Journal of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama and was former chairperson of the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama & Group Psychotherapy. She has received numerous awards and commendations from many professional organizations.

TO REGISTER: [CLICK HERE](#)

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).

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

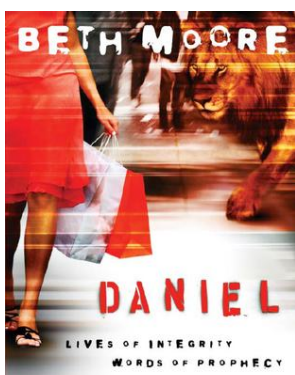
We are excited to welcome the St. Pete Preschool children to join our Easter Egg Hunt this year, so we need **LOTS** of filled Easter eggs! Collection baskets for (preferably) filled eggs, OR any plastic eggs, candy, or small toys, will be in both the 9 AM and 11 AM worship spaces during the months of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

“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.



Daniel: Lives of Integrity – Words of Prophecy

Tuesdays, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center
TAKING A BREAK FEB. 28 AND MAR. 7;
RESUMES TUESDAY, MAR. 14!

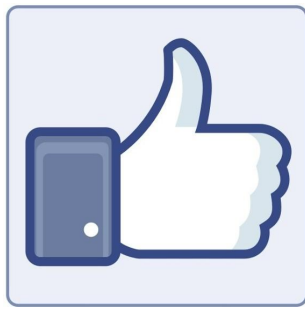
All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.



- 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](#)
- Sundays, 12:15 PM, *Sailboat Church* study group (through April 2), Chap
- 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, 10 AM, *Sailboat Church* study group (through April 6), Chapel
- 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:

- Friday, March 3, 8 PM, Concert: *Choral Classics* (ticketed event)
- Monday, March 6, 7 PM, Faith & Fiction
- Thursday, March 23, 6 PM, SocioDrama Workshop
- Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday (10:30 AM Easter Egg hunt!)
- Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunday

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.



First Presbyterian Church | 701 Beach Drive N.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2618

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