

FIRST NEWS



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

February 25, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
Worship Service
this Sunday, February 27, 2022
Transfiguration of the Lord

Sunday's Sermon: "Ready to Come Down the Mountain?"
Rev. Ginny Ellis

Scriptures: [Exodus 34:29-35](#), [Luke 9:28-36](#)

We welcome you to join us for in-person worship services!
Please remember we are requiring masks
for all indoor activities on campus at this time.

We are so excited to introduce our new members - Andy and Megan Oswald - and celebrate the baptism of their son, Parker Hayes Oswald. We will also be baptizing Roman Alexander Sereda (he and his family were not feeling well last week). We invite you to join us for this blessed event!

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

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.

If the 10:00 hour on Sundays does not fit your schedule, the service is available for viewing on our YouTube channel throughout the week. Feel free to share the link with family and friends!

Praise Band Preview - Extraordinary Theme

This week, the Praise Band will premier our new arrangement of *Will You Come And Follow Me*. This beloved hymn has kind of become the unofficial theme song of Pastor Ginny's *Extraordinary Time* sermon series. We are so excited to perform our version for the last week of the series. There's no preview video since its brand-new. However, you can click to hear our other tune: [Come Behold the Wonderous Mystery](#). See you on Sunday!



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Carol Daniel, Peter Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Lillian Harris, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke



Joined the Church Triumphant

Virginia (Ginny) Daniels
February 21, 2022

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; 1st LT Mallory Wasik, USMC; 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.

Lectio Devina - Monday Mornings

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

Wednesday Night Book Study

Join us via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for a book study based on *The Book of Forgiving* by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. The book explores "the four-fold path for healing ourselves and our world." Click [HERE](#) to join.

Please note: we will not meet on Ash Wednesday, March 2, but will take up Chapter 6 on Wednesday March 9, at 7:00, as is our usual schedule.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

This coming Sunday is Transfiguration of the Lord: the story of Jesus on the mountain top, meeting with Moses and Elijah. It makes me think of my own mountaintop experiences, and what it feels like to come back down the mountain, back to the tasks of every day. In the church year, Transfiguration Sunday leads us to Ash Wednesday and Lent, on the road to the cross.

Thank you for your responses to our work and worship together during Extraordinary Time. Now I look forward to being with you for Ash Wednesday and the next parts of our worship and ministry. Following Jesus makes for such a rich and full life! I am thankful every day!

Pastor Ginny



Ash Wednesday is March 2

In the season of Lent, we enter into a forty-day fast that Jesus undertook in the wilderness. Through this dedicated period of self-examination, we allow God to further shape us into the image of Jesus. We also align our

hearts with the suffering of Jesus as we move ever closer towards Holy Week and the event of the Crucifixion. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, when we receive the imposition of ashes and are reminded that we are but dust, and to dust we shall return, and ends on the joyous morning of Easter, when we celebrate in Christ's resurrection.

Wednesday, March 2 marks the beginning of the Lenten Journey to Christ's death and resurrection. As we begin this time of reflection and penitence, we invite you to two worship opportunities, which are open to all in our community:

1. From 1:00-3:00 PM, we will have a drive-through experience (which will include scripture, prayer, communion, and imposition of ashes) in the front circle drive, and
2. At 7:00 PM, we will have a Taizé-style worship service in the Chapel, also offering communion and the imposition of ashes. Jack Rain will be there and will be playing the Taizé pieces of the service. These are such a blessing to sing and ponder. Taizé worship is a contemplative service centered around music, prayer, and silence, to quiet the mind, open the heart, and feed the soul. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us.

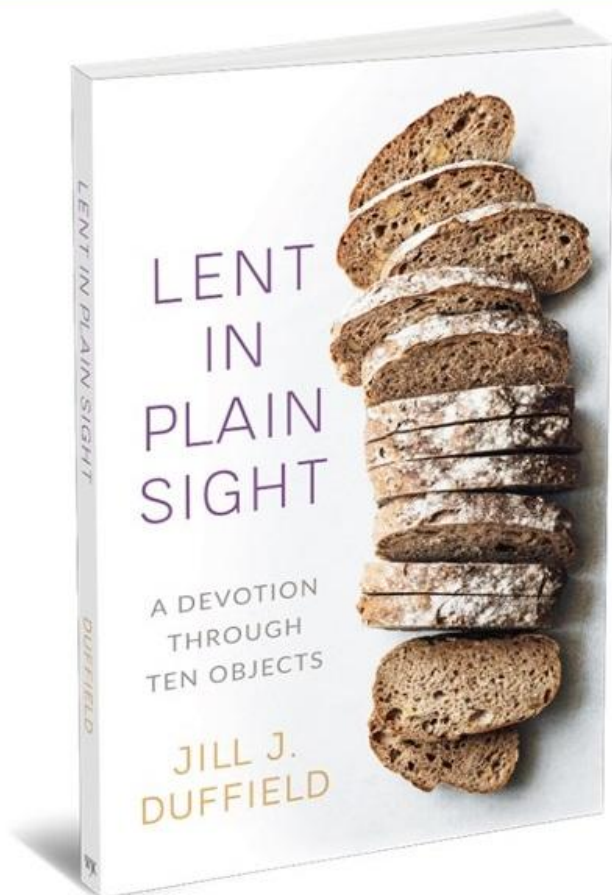
7 Mission Items for 7 Sundays of Lent

Beginning next Sunday (March 6), we will be collecting items for our community during the season of Lent. These items will go to places like the St. Pete Free Clinic, CASA, and Lakewood Elementary School. Please bring the specified item only on the specified date below. Thank you for the many ways you continue to support our community!

- March 6 - Toilet Paper
- March 13 - Bar soap and/or body wash
- March 20 - Diapers and/or baby wipes
- March 27 - Toothbrush and toothpaste
- April 3 - Feminine hygiene products
- April 10 - Shampoo and Conditioner (for men and women)
- April 17 - Bath towels and/or wash cloths

JOIN US FOR A SIX-WEEK LENTEN STUDY SERIES BASED ON

Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects, by Jill J. Duffield



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wednesday Lenten
Lunch Study

Noon in the Youth Center

Wednesday, March 9th –

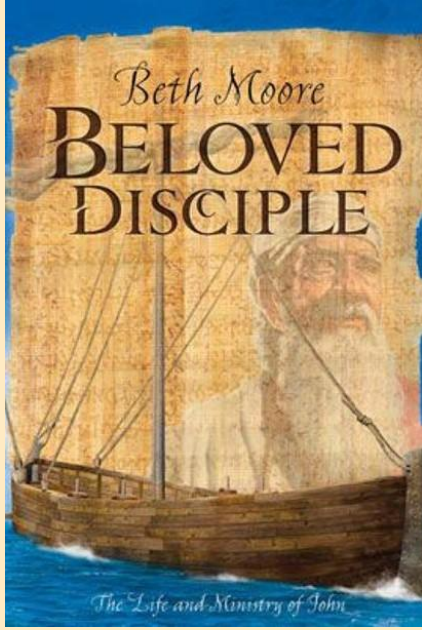
Wednesday, April 13th

Led by Rev. Megan McMillan and Dave Aumack

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. The book, *Lent in Plain Sight*, draws our attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem.

We will use the season of Lent to facilitate conversation and connection to each other and the meaning of this time in the church year. The goal of this lunch and fellowship time will be to focus on spiritual lessons and recognize how the seemingly ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives. Join us for soup and salad in the Youth Center at noon on Wednesdays during Lent. Purchase of or reading the book is not necessary to participate.

Join us on Tuesday mornings
through April 26, 2022



9:15 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center
for a Beth Moore Bible Study!

“Beloved Disciple: The Life and Ministry of John”

Join us for an 11-week study of the life of John the apostle and his relationship with the One who loved him. Beth Moore says, “John was free to love because he was so utterly convinced that he was loved. How differently would each follower live if we characterized ourselves above all else as the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ? This is the goal of our journey.”

Workbooks will be available for \$20. No previous Bible study experience is needed. Bring a friend! Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. Currently, masks are required. We will keep you updated on this. Thank you for your understanding! Questions? Contact April Hussung at 727-420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.



WOW!

Jack Rain will celebrate his 53rd anniversary as organist of FPC next Tuesday, March 1st. FPC has been very blessed by his dedication and talent!

Power Hour Sunday School Class

Stop over the Youth Center on Sundays at 9 AM for the “Power Hour” Sunday school class. For the coming weeks, we will watch short clips featuring Pastor Rob Bell as he explores topics relevant to our lives today. Discussion follows DVD. Fellowship is before class from 8:30-9:00 AM with coffee & pastries. RSVP to Karen Mossman at karenamossm@gmail.com or text 727-400-5079.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE IN THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH?

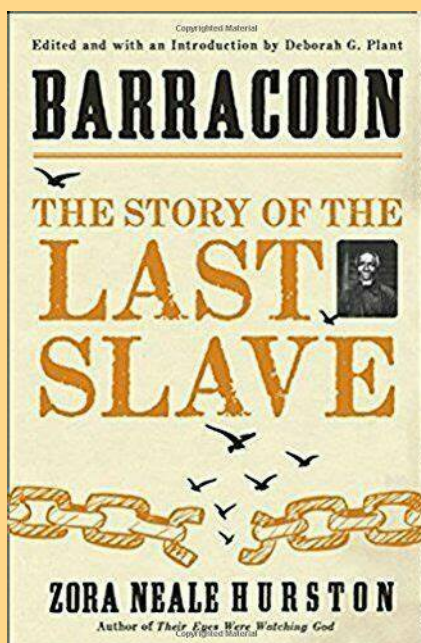
Our congregation always welcomes a new outreach program. The Little Free Library (LFL) will provide ways for members to share in such a program as well as being a very positive addition to the northeast neighborhood of St. Pete.

Ways to be involved include: sharing books through the LFL, spreading the news of the newly-opened library, helping with upkeep, cleaning, and checking on the library regularly. These are all small non-time consuming projects. The LFL is self-funded by interested members and groups and is maintained by one Steward and seven Librarians.

Our LFL will be located on Beach Drive NE at the corner of 8th Ave NE. The design of our LFL will draw its influence from architectural details of our church building. As users are choosing books, the front of First Presbyterian Church will be visible right behind the library.

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND THE RIBBON-CUTTING ON MARCH 6 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 10 AM SERVICE AND LIBRARY CAKE FELLOWSHIP (11:30). AT THIS TIME, YOU WILL MEET THE STAFF OF LIBRARIANS, WITNESS THE BLESSING OF THE LFL at FPC, AND PARTICIPATE IN THE HISTORIC MOMENT OF BEING ONE OF THE FIRST TO LEAVE A BOOK AS WE FILL OUR LIBRARY.*

*Bring a book to add to the library. All books for the library must be left inside the LFL. The church and library staff cannot accept additional book donations.



Faith & Fiction

Barracoon, The Story of the Last Black Cargo by Zora Neale Hurston, is the Faith & Fiction read for next month. Our discussion of this book will be on **March 7th**, at 7:00 p.m. in Room N-123. Debbie Factor will be our Discussion Leader.

We are also accepting suggestions for next year's reading list. Please bring them in person to the next meeting or send them to Linda Santoro via email

(LindaJSantoro@gmail.com). Thank you! We are hoping for an eclectic reading list for next year with no particular theme.

College Scholarship Applications -

Deadline is Feb 28!



APPLY NOW

We will be accepting applications for college scholarships through February 28th. These scholarships include the Church Family and Ohrns Scholarships for undergraduates and the Osborne Scholarship for Theology students. We only require one application is for both Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 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, please contact the Church Office. To apply for any of these scholarships, you will need to include: 1) a completed application form (found [HERE](#)); 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.

The 35th Annual Festival of Praise: "Messiah" Part the Second and Part the Third

Sunday, March 20, 2022 at 4 PM

Featuring: Nancy Callahan, guest clinician, [Tampa Oratorio Singers](#)

, First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, Guest Singers from the Tampa Bay Area, Festival of Praise Orchestra, and Jack Rain, organ



Enjoy one of the most well-known and beloved works of all time: Handel's *Messiah*. Under the baton of guest clinician Nancy Callahan, the Tampa Oratorio Singers, First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, and singers from across the Tampa Bay area will join with a full orchestra to perform this exciting work. Offering will be taken for Tampa Oratorio Singers.



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!

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!

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 March 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.

- Sundays, 8:30 AM, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- Sundays, 9 AM, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center.
- Sundays, 10 AM, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- Mondays, 10 AM, Lectio Devina Extraordinary, [via Zoom](#)
- Tuesdays, 9:15 AM, Ladies' Beth Moore Bible Study, Youth Center
- Tuesdays, 1 PM, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- Tuesdays, 7 PM, Christian Meditation, meeting virtually every other week. Next in-person meeting is **March 8**, in the Chapel. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com)
- Wednesdays (starting March 9), 12 PM, Lenten Lunch Study, Youth Center

- **Wednesdays, 7 PM**, Wednesday Night Live, [via Zoom](#); book study: *The Book of Forgiving*
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, Room N-123. Please contact Ken Young at 207-841-8562 for more information.
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)
- **Sunday, February 27, 6:30 PM**, Book Discussion of *Broken for You*, via Zoom
- **Wednesday, March 2, 1-3 PM**, (Ash Wednesday) Drive-By Ashes-to-Go and communion, front circle drive
- **Wednesday, March 2, 7 PM**, (Ash Wednesday), Worship service with imposition of ashes and communion, Chapel
- **Sunday, March 6, 11:30 AM**, Little Free Library "Grand Opening"
- **Monday, March 7, 7 PM**, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123
- **Sunday, March 20, 4 PM**, *The 35th Annual Festival of Praise: "Messiah" Part the Second and Part the Third*, 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.

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

