

FIRST NEWS



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

February 4, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
Worship Service
this Sunday, February 6, 2022
Fifth Sunday of Extraordinary Time

Sunday's Sermon: "God Has Heard"
Rev. Ginny Ellis
Scriptures: [Exodus 3:9-12](#), [Luke 5:1-11](#)

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

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!

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.



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Carol Daniel, Peter Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, 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

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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

First Friends,

For those ready and eager to return to the Sanctuary for worship and to the church campus for meetings: welcome back! I am glad to have a chance to see you again! As we return to the campus and the Sanctuary, please be mindful of COVID continuing in our midst. Wear your masks. If you haven't yet gotten a booster, this is a good time to schedule one.

In on-campus news:

- We are continuing many of the things we started for our January/February focus called Extraordinary Time. You should peek into the Chapel to see the Prayer Stations set up there, and find a time to come for 10 or 20 minutes of quiet time in God's house. You might come early for a meeting or stay late, to spend some time in prayer or active

meditation. You'll be surprised and, I think, pleased at ways you can connect with God in that space.

- We are continuing to offer after-church fellowship opportunities, both in-person now that worship is here on-site, but also on [Zoom](#) (Uneeda Brewer will be the host for this on Zoom).
- Johnny Miller, his wife, and her mother are moving into the church apartment. Johnny will get needed training so that he can provide security services for the church in addition to his plant manager work; this will help both Johnny and our church budget!
- A group of church folk have offered to transport the mountain of things you donated for farmworkers and their families. I am eager to hear about their trip to Wimauma in next week or so. Our next Mission project will help the families of homeless students at Lakewood Elementary School. Stay tuned for more on this.
- The Session and Board of Deacons are back up to strength and they are getting busy with their various ministries. Please pray for them and respond when they call. We hope you will find the place where your gifts and passions fit with ministry; you are certainly needed. Property, mission, working with children, monitoring our website, joining the handbell choir, or singing in the Chancel Choir, helping at the Welcome Center, serving as a greeter or usher....there are so many ways your time and your gifts make us stronger and more effective as a church!

What a joy to be able to share our faith and our commitment with one another, and even more, with our God!

Yours, with blessings,
from Ginny Ellis, Interim Pastor

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 20, 2022
In the Sanctuary, following the worship service

We invite you to join us for our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 20. The 2 purposes of the meeting are:

- (1) to present the 2021 Annual Report
- (2) to elect a Nominating Committee



The meeting will be in person in the Sanctuary. If you are unable to join us in person, you will be able to watch (but not participate in) the meeting online, via our YouTube channel (watch for the link in a future First News).

Prayer Stations

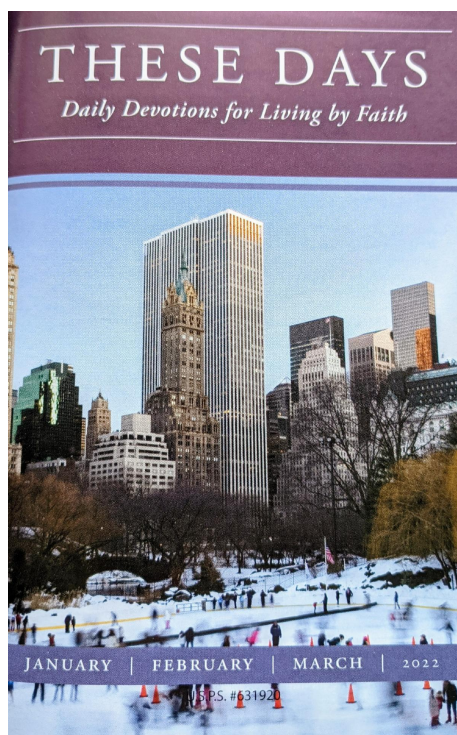
We invite you to come and experience the prayers stations in the Chapel. There are seven stations in which you can take time to pray and meditate. The chapel

will be open from 11 AM - 3 PM every Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and from 5 - 7 PM every Tuesday and Thursday. The interactive stations available are:

- Giant coloring pages
- A large walking labyrinth
- A finger labyrinth
- Scrabble Prayers of the People
- Confession Cross
- Star Words
- A table-top Japanese Zen Garden



Devotionals Available



Copies of the Jan/
Feb/Mar edition of
"Our Daily Bread" and
"These Days"
devotionals are now
available for pick-up
from the Church
Office during normal
business hours or at
the Welcome Center
on Sunday mornings!



Bon Voyage! Concert
Featuring: Pinellas County Center
for the Arts Women's Chorale
Sunday, February 13, 2022 at 4:00 PM



The Pinellas County Center for the Arts Women's Chorale is an outstanding SSAA ensemble who performs the highest levels of treble choral repertoire. They have been selected to perform at the American Choral Directors Association 2022 Southern Region Conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. **These talented music students will sing their program for our community in preparation for this prestigious performance.** Offering will be taken for PCCA Women's Chorale.

In 2019 and 2020, The Women's Chorale was selected as Critic's Choice for the Florida Vocal Association District 9 Music Performance Assessment. The PCCA Women's Chorale regularly performs for a variety of community and state events supporting music education and arts advocacy.

Pinellas County Center for the Arts (PCCA) at Jonathan C. Gibbs High School is a center of excellence in the visual and performing arts. It provides a comprehensive educational program of artistic training, academic and creative development, and preparation to compete for scholarships toward advanced study in institutions of higher learning.

College Scholarship Applications



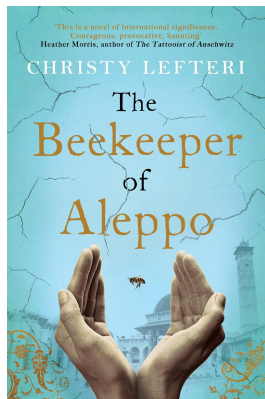
APPLY NOW

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.

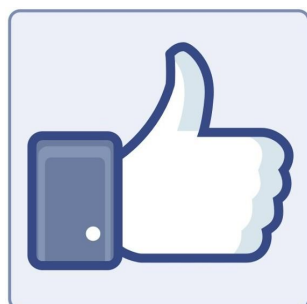
For further details about these scholarships, please contact the Church Office. To apply for any of these scholarships, you will need to include: 1) a completed application form (found [HERE](#)); 2) a copy of your most recent high school or college transcript; 3) a 500-word essay describing your involvement 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.



Faith & Fiction

Our next book is *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri. The discussion will be on **February 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in person, Room N-123.** Come join us!



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.



- 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!**



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.

- 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](#)
- Sundays, following worship, Coffee Fellowship time, Fellowship Hall (in person) or [via Zoom](#)
- Sundays, 4 PM, GriefShare, Zoom

- Mondays, 10 AM, Lectio Devina Extraordinary, [via Zoom](#)

- Tuesdays, 1 PM, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- Tuesdays, 7 PM, Christian Meditation, meeting virtually. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com)

- 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)

- Monday, February 7, 7 PM, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123

- Sunday, February 13, 4 PM, *Bon Voyage* concert, Sanctuary

- Sunday, February 20, following service, Annual Congregational Meeting, 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.



First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg, Florida

