

# FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from  
First Presbyterian Church  
St. Petersburg

March 11, 2022

## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for at 10 AM in the Sanctuary  
Worship Service  
this Sunday, March 13, 2022  
*Second Sunday in Lent*

Sunday's Sermon: "Under God's Wing"  
Rev. Megan McMillan  
Scriptures: [Psalm 27](#), [Luke 13:31-35](#)

We welcome you to join us for in-person worship services!  
**PLEASE NOTE: we have a MASK-OPTIONAL policy  
for worship services and on-campus activities.**



Daylight Saving Time starts this  
Sunday, March 13. Don't forget to  
"Spring Forward" and set your clocks  
one hour forward!

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](http://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

This week, your FPC Praise Band will be bringing back a tune we premiered last month, *Firm Foundation (He Won't)*. If you don't remember it, the link below will take you to the original artist recording. Our second tune, *His Mercy Is More*, is one of the band's old favorites. Enjoy your weekend & we'll see you on Sunday!

[His Mercy Is More](#)  
[Firm Foundation \(He Won't\)](#)

---

The flowers in the Sanctuary this Sunday are to the glory of God and in loving memory of our son Louis (from Ken & Dottie Young)



---

## Name Tags Are Ready!

A big THANK-YOU to those who helped sort and organize our name tag system. They have completed their task, so, when you arrive on Sunday morning, don't forget to pick yours up! You will find them at the back of the Sanctuary next to the Welcome Center!



**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

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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Friends, I will not be with you this Sunday, as I am headed to Connecticut to visit with my daughter's family, including her 8- and 9 -year-old sons. When the boys asked me to bring my bathing suit, while also letting me know it was likely to snow this week, Rachel feared I might decide to stay home! No: I do plan to see and hug these beloved people, but I am glad to be assured the pool is an indoor pool!

Meanwhile at church, our Lenten journey has begun. I encourage you to participate in the ways you can: Lectio Divina on Monday mornings, Lenten Lunches on Wednesdays at noon, the Forgiveness study on Wednesday evenings, the meditation group, our mission ingathering of gifts each week during Lent, worship on Sundays. This is a time rich in spiritual depth: listen for how God speaks to you during these special weeks.

Also: let me add my gratitude to the Little Free Library team: Ronn Johnson, Dmitri Gruszka, and all the librarians. This outreach is wonderful and the LFL "box" is beautiful.

Blessings!

### 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.

## 7 Mission Items for 7 Sundays of Lent

Every Sunday in Lent, 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 13** - Bar soap and/or body wash
- **March 20** - Diapers and/or baby wipes
- **March 27** - Toothbrush and toothpaste

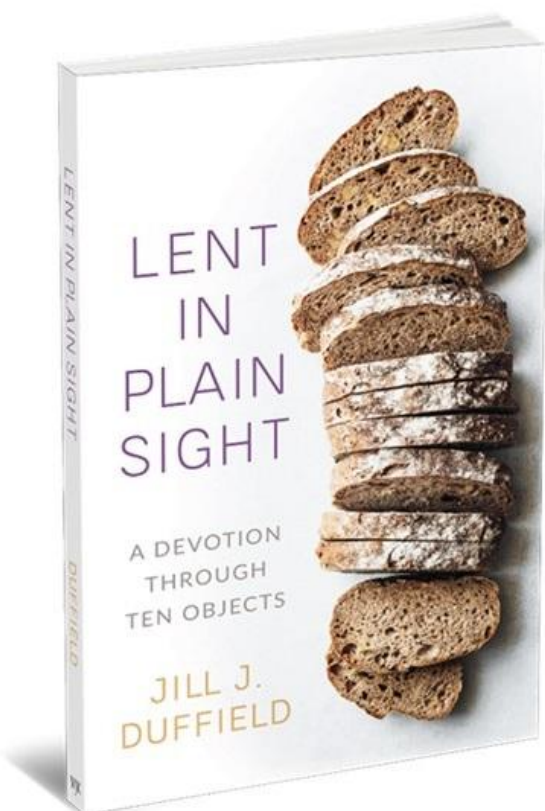
- April 3 - Feminine hygiene products
- April 10 - Shampoo and Conditioner (for men and women)
- April 17 - Bath towels and/or wash cloths

*THANKS to everyone who brought in toilet paper last week. This will be such a blessing to so many in our community!*



## 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 in the Youth Center

Wednesdays at Noon  
through April 13<sup>th</sup>

*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.

### The Ribbon Has Been Cut for the Little Free Library at First Presbyterian Church

As Sunday service attendees exited this week's service, they were greeted with a



book-themed fellowship of cake and lemonade. Pastor Megan introduced Ronn Johnson, Steward for the Little Free Library, who told of the journey to today, gave the mission statement of the project, and thanked those who have been instrumental in reaching this goal. A procession lead by long-time member Al May paraded from the patio to the newly

'planted' Little Free Library located near the public sidewalk on Beach Drive. As all gathered around, Pastor Ginny gave a prayer of dedication and cut the wide pink ribbon encircling the library. Everyone was then given the opportunity to place a treasured book into the Little Free Library at First Presbyterian Church, filling it to capacity!



About 60 enthusiastic members and friends attended, and the comments were all very positive as to what this neighborhood mission will mean to FPC. There was energy and excitement, not only about the library, but for the involvement that has spread throughout the congregation. Help keep this energy alive by participating in the ongoing book exchange and oversight of this church project! Read the full journey of the LFL@FPC and see collections of pictures at: [ronnjartist.weebly.com/blog](http://ronnjartist.weebly.com/blog)



## Lakewood Elementary School Initiative

Lakewood Elementary School has begun an initiative that, if successful, will result in having 100 books read to every kindergartener at Lakewood this school year. To do this, they need volunteers to read to one child at a time. If

you have an hour to spare and would enjoy reading to a child (actually 3 children in an hour works – twenty minutes per child), please contact Missy Olsen ([olsenme@pcsb.org](mailto:olsenme@pcsb.org)) or call 727-893-2196 and ask for Missy. You can discuss schedules with her.

You will need to fill out a volunteer form that will include your driver's license number and your social security number. You do NOT need to be fingerprinted but the school will do a background check on you since we sit alone with each child.

For further information, you may contact Missy (contact information is above), or feel free to contact Mary-Linda Armacost (727-465-8108, [mlsma@cs.com](mailto:mlsma@cs.com)).

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

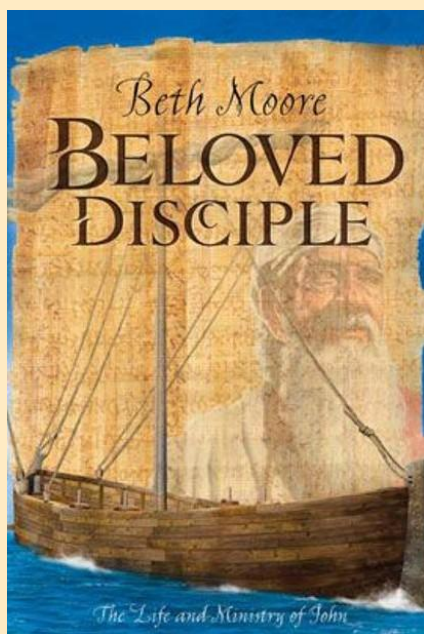
Next Sunday, March 20, 2022  
at 4 PM

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.



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](mailto:stapler39@aol.com).



## 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 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, [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](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com))
- Wednesdays, 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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))
- Sunday, March 20, 4 PM, *The 35th Annual Festival of Praise: "Messiah" Part the Second and Part the Third*, Sanctuary
- Monday, March 28, 7 PM, stated session meeting

## 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

[Contact Us](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

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

