

FIRST NEWS



First News, March 29

March 29, 2024

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, March 31, 2024
EASTER SUNDAY

EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE (Front Patio)
or
CONNECT SERVICE at 9 AM (Youth Center)
or
SANCTUARY SERVICE at 11 AM (Sanctuary)

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "They Were Afraid"
Scripture: [Isaiah 25:6-9](#), [Mark 16:1-8](#)

Click [HERE](#) to watch the 9 AM service online.
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 Live Streams 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 these links with family and friends!

Click [HERE](#) for the 9 AM worship service bulletin.
Click [HERE](#) for the 11 AM worship service bulletin.

Easter lilies for the Chancel this Sunday have been donated by FPC members and friends in memory of or in honor of loved ones.

[CLICK HERE](#) for the complete list of donors (a printed list will also be available on Sunday).



From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on Monday after our wonderful Palm Sunday services. The Connect service was warm and energetic as always, and the Sanctuary service had the extra energy of all those children (count was 42 children!) and their families, processing in with Palms and singing for us before going to the Fellowship Hall for activities. Our Coordinator of Family Ministries Carol Riley did an amazing job organizing that, along with the support of our Children's Choir Director Barbara Brownlee and Ashley Hardy, director of the St. Pete Primary School. The Easter Egg Hunt and the puppet show between the two services were well done, lots of laughter and fun. For Sunday's sermon, I shared the story of Martha, an imagined character from the Palm Sunday story; I think she would have found our services of worship to be rich and full.

Now I am turning my heart and mind to the rest of Holy Week: Jesus in the last week of his earthly ministry, the disciples trying to understand what it meant that he would suffer and die. We will gather at tables on Thursday to partake of his Last Supper, and we can come listen and pray in the Sanctuary on Friday from noon to three, the hours of the cross. Sunday's Easter joy awaits, our worship services will be at 7 AM (outside), and then 9 AM, and 11 AM on Easter Sunday.

Please remember the One Great Hour of Sharing offering we Presbyterians support each year at Easter, to provide care for people and communities, local and world-wide, in times of disaster (hurricane, earthquake, tornado, fire, flood, famine). Presbyterians are able to provide for people in need because our congregations support this offering. You can put cash or check into an OGHS (One Great Hour of Sharing) offering envelope, available in either worship space, or give online by clicking [HERE](#).

Now I am readying myself for the events of this week, as they lead me to the joy of Easter Sunday. I hope to see you, at church or online, as we worship the Lord, crucified and risen.

*He has been Lord from the beginning,
he will be Lord in the end, even now he is Lord.*

Blessings to each of you,
Ginny Ellis



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Carol Hunt, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Dottie McClure, Nancy McLaughlin, the Moorefield family, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Margie Richmond, Robert Safransky, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey

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.



Today is Good Friday

Join us in the Sanctuary any time from 12 to 3 PM for a time of personal meditation.

Lectio/Visio Divina is on a short break and will resume on Monday, April 8 at 10 AM.

Thank You From Lakewood Elementary!

Happy Friday, FPC! Thank you for donating over 150 pairs of shoes and socks to our students.

Your generosity made it possible to serve families beyond what we expected!!! This effort further supports our school mission to address any barriers to school success, including comfortable and stylish footwear. [CLICK HERE](#) to watch the video of some of the first students to pick their shoes.



Thank you once more,
Noel Israel, RCSWI, School Social Worker, Lakewood Elementary

CONCERT SERIES



TOWN HALL MEETING to discuss the 2024-2025 season

Sunday, April 7, 2024
12:15 p.m. in the choir room



Mark your calendar and join us for some fun events!

Sunday, April 7th at 1 PM, we'll be going to [The Fine Arts Museum](#) for ART IN BLOOM! Flowers overflowing in the museum! Florists, artists, and The Stuart Society showing St. Petersburg's Spring! All kinds of blooming art and artworks.... plus the café will be open that afternoon!

Our May outing has been changed to the Boyd Hill Nature Preserve....details coming soon! Questions? Want to participate? Contact Dave Hunt (513-604-6090 or dhunt@fpc-stpete.org).

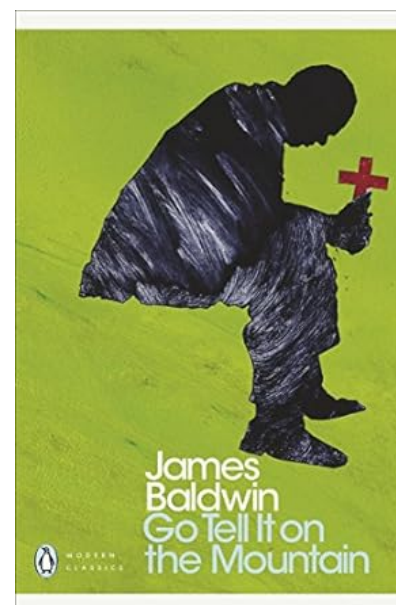
Our Next Faith & Fiction is April 8

2:00 PM, Room N-123

Go Tell it on the Mountain, by James Baldwin

Discussion Leader: Debbie Factor

Published in 1953, Baldwin chronicles a fourteen-year-old boy's discovery of the terms of his identity as the stepson of the minister of a Pentecostal storefront church in Harlem. This was once a banned book.



At this meeting, we'll also be selecting books for next year, so we hope to see you there!



Italian Night!

Wednesday April 10, at 5:30 PM

BUON APPETITO! Our Second Annual Italian Night will be Wednesday April 10 starting at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The marinara sauce will be simmering and ready, with beef or chicken meatballs, and - of course! - garlic bread and a salad bar. Bring your Italian hunger and spin the spaghetti! To reserve your place at the table, please

PARABLE QUEST:
Transforming Stories Jesus Told

The everyday objects and real-life situations that Jesus described in His parables help children understand biblical principles.



All children Pre-K through 5th grade are welcome!
Class starts Sunday, April 14 and runs through May 19
in Room S-202

For more information, please contact Carol Riley
at 727-822-2031, ext. 104 or criley@fpc-stpete.org.



Our next "Beach Drive Forum"
will be Wednesday, April 17!

From Folk Medicines to Therapeutic Drugs by Akiko
Tanaka PhD, president, and co-founder of The Tampa

Bay Research Institute (TBRI). TBRI has spent over 40 years investigating the relationship between viruses, cancers, and the functioning of the immune system. As a result of our research, TBRI has uncovered the details of the healing properties of an ancient folk medicine – an extract of pinecones. Our on-going studies have now brought forth new synthetic molecules that are being developed into lifesaving immune-altering therapeutics.

Also mark your calendars for:

MAY 22

State of the Arts in Tampa Bay by Paul Wilborn, award-winning journalist, author, playwright, pianist, singer and executive director of the Palladium Theater at St. Petersburg College, who knows a thing or two about the arts! He'll share his wisdom about what's influencing the flourishing local arts scene, including whether artificial intelligence is a good or bad creative force. Learn more about our speaker [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Beach Drive Forums are monthly conversations for the community with intriguing speakers on thought-provoking topics. Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 PM in Fellowship Hall (doors open at 5:30, presentation at 6:00). Refreshments and Q&A included. Open to the public; best parking is the church lot off N. Shore Drive.

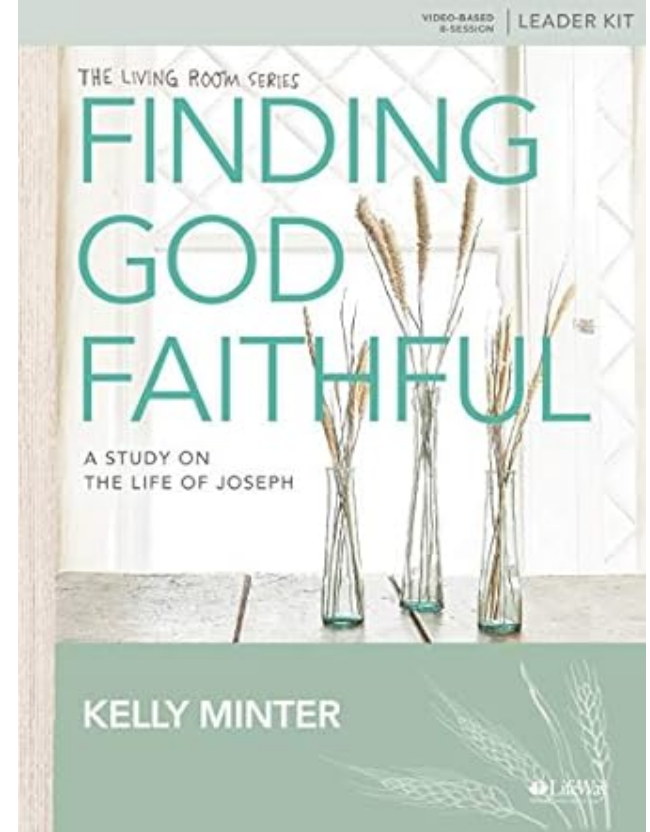
Ladies, you are invited to Bible Study:
Finding God Faithful - A Study on the
Life of Joseph

In this 8-session study from Kelly Minter, we will be reminded of God's faithfulness through

Joseph's story. No matter what we walk through, God's presence is constant; His provision is enough, and His purposes are unstoppable.

Join us on Tuesday mornings
through April 30, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the FPC Youth Center

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is required. Workbooks will be available for \$25 (includes streaming video access for all sessions). Bring a friend! If interested, please contact April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com. Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available.



College Scholarships - Apply Now!

We are now accepting applications for the Osborn Scholarship for Theology students! We only require one application is for both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters (awards are split); the applicant needs to let us know if they only need it for one semester.

The deadline for Theological Study Scholarships is **April 30**.

For further details about these scholarships (including downloadable application forms and deadlines), [CLICK HERE](#).



The Pastor Nominating Committee has a new page on our website:
www.fpcstpete.com/pnc-updates.

You can visit it any time for the latest information
on our Pastor Search!

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!



We continue to be thankful for the generosity of all who contribute financially to our church, along with the other contributions they bring to our ministry.

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 April 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, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM**, childcare is available, Room S-203
- **Sundays, 9 AM**, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center or **Online**
- **Sundays, 9:45 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Young Adults/Parents "Next" Sunday School Class, Room S-100
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Presbyterianism class, Church Office Conference Room (taking a break March 31; resumes April 7)
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or **Online**

- Mondays, 10 AM, Lectio/Visio Divina, (resumes April 8)
- Tuesdays, 9 AM, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- Tuesdays, 7 PM, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the second and fourth 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, 8:00 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:

- Today, March 29, Good Friday; 12-3 PM, Sanctuary will be open for personal meditation
- Sunday, March 31, Easter Sunday, 3 worship services (7:00, 9:00, and 11:00 AM)
- Sunday, April 7, 12:15 PM, Concert Series Town Hall Meeting, Choir Room
- Sunday, April 7, 1 PM, FPC Explorers will be going to the Fine Arts Museum for "Art in Bloom"
- Monday, April 8, 2 PM, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123
- Wednesday, April 10, 5:30 PM, Italian Dinner Night, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, April 14, Parable Quest kids' class begins
- Wednesday, April 17, 5:30 PM, Beach Drive Forum
- Sunday, April 21, 10 AM, New Member Inquirer's Class

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
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 822-2031 | 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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