

FIRST NEWS



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

March 4, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
Worship Service
this Sunday, March 6, 2022
First Sunday in Lent / Lord's Supper

Sunday's Sermon: "Everyone"
Rev. Ginny Ellis

Scriptures: [Psalm 91:1-2, 9-12](#), [Luke 4:1-13](#), [Romans 10:8-13](#)

We welcome you to join us for in-person worship services!

PLEASE NOTE: based on the declining COVID-19 case numbers in Pinellas County, and the change in the CDC mask policy, session has approved a motion to return to a MASK-OPTIONAL policy for worship services and on-campus activities.

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.

Praise Band Preview - Lent 2022

Lent has arrived, and your FPC Praise Band has some great music lined up for worship! First up is *His Mercy Is More*, a great tune by Matt Boswell & Matt Papa. Next, we have one of the band's all-time favorites, *God So Loved*. Click the links below to hear the tunes & we'll see you on Sunday!

[His Mercy Is More](#)

[God So Loved](#)



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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

As we begin this time of Lent, with its invitation to increased prayer and reflection, the church observes this time with Mission initiatives: weekly

ingathering of particular items and a Giving Tree for Lakewood Elementary School.

We also observe the Lenten season with opportunities for reflection: the Lenten soup and salad lunches on Wednesdays and daily devotionals from the PCUSA, posted on our Facebook page. The discussion of *The Book of Forgiving* by Desmond Tutu continues Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

Meanwhile the Church Session has decided it is time to become "Mask Optional" for gatherings. If you are vaccinated and feel comfortable going without your masks, you are now free to do so. If you are at risk for COVID or choose to continue wearing masks, the church will respect and honor you in this decision. Our goal is to keep our community safe while engaging together in worship, fellowship and service as best we can, and as we believe God is calling us to do.

Blessings to each of you!

What a wonderful and meaningful Ash Wednesday!

Thanks to everyone in our community who joined us in observance of Ash Wednesday. Pastor Ginny, Pastor Megan, Eva Popovich, Al May, and Diedra & Ward Flora were able to pray with and minister to the 50+ people who drove through the stations set up in our front circle drive during the afternoon. We also had a wonderful time of worship and reflection in the Chapel that evening.



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

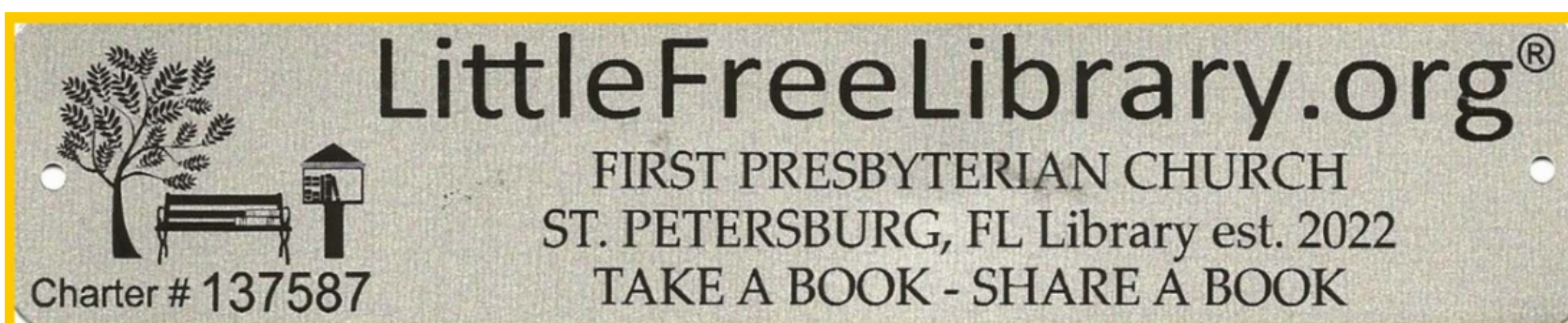
Beginning this Sunday (March 6), we will be collecting items for our community during the season of Lent. These items will go to places like the St. Pete Free Clinic, CASA, and Lakewood Elementary School. Please bring the specified item only on the specified date below. Thank you for the many ways you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

Ground-Breaking for FPC's Little Free Library started Thursday (3/3)!



**You are invited to the ribbon-cutting for
THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday, March 6, 2022
at 11:20 a.m. on the front patio
(immediately following the 10:00 a.m. church service).**



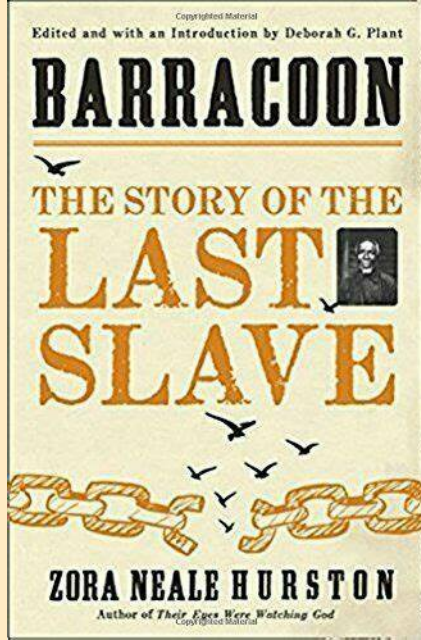
**Please invite friends, neighbors, other members,
and anyone from the neighborhood to experience this
historic event.**

**Bring a book to help fill the library! All genres are necessary for a
successful library: Bios, Novels, History, Arts, Science, Fiction, Humor,
etc. Please help us fulfill this library with diversity!
*No extra books will be accepted by the library or office staff.***

**THE LIBRARIANS ASK YOU TO JOIN US ON THE FRONT PATIO AFTER CHURCH
FOR A SPECIAL LIBRARY CAKE FELLOWSHIP. YOU CAN MEET THE MINISTERS,
THE LIBRARY STEWARD, THE BUILDER, AND THE LIBRARIANS.**

Faith & Fiction

Barracoon, The Story of the Last Black Cargo by Zora
Neal Hurston, is the Faith & Fiction read for next

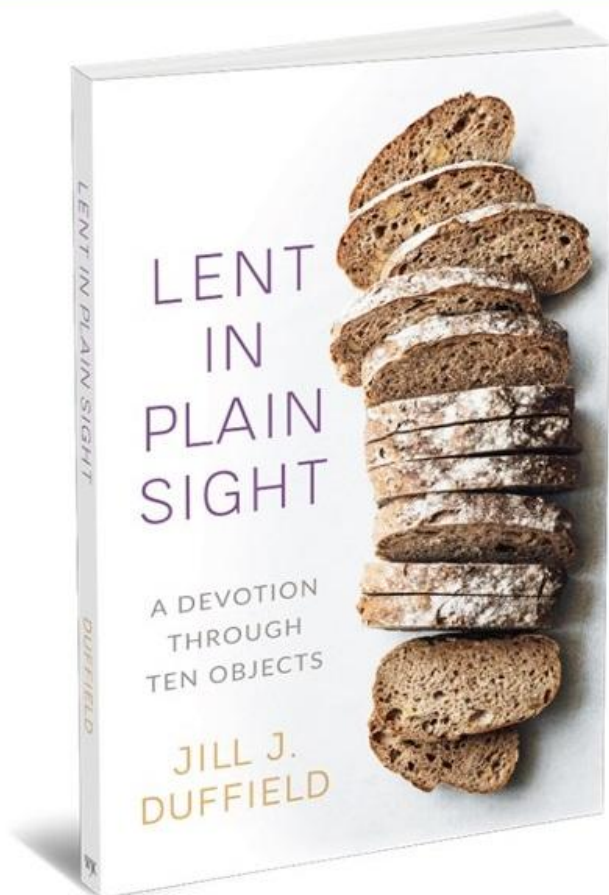


month. Our discussion of this book will be on **March 7th**, at 7:00 p.m. in Room N-123. Debbie Factor will be our Discussion Leader.

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.

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.

Deacons' Corner

Submitted by Marilyn Mulcahy

It's already March, and we Deacons are busy with connections with our Church Family! First of all, please meet our four new Deacons who will serve a term of three years: Chris Agee, Debbie Factor, Elizabeth Hammer, and Diane Zuercher.



Chris Agee



Debbie Factor



Elizabeth Hammer



Diane Zuercher

Chris has served in the past, and we are happy that she accepted the nomination for the class of 2024, along with Debbie Factor and Diane Zuercher. This is Elizabeth Hammer's first term with First Pres, but she has much experience with other churches and lots of gifts to share with us.

All our Deacons are contacting their people through emails, cards, visits, or phone calls. I hope that you can give them a couple of minutes to return their outreach and encourage them throughout this year.

Lakewood Elementary School Initiative

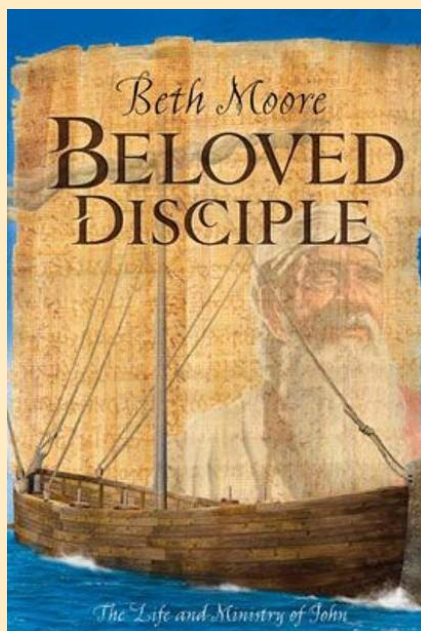
Lakewood Elementary School has begun an initiative that, if successful, will result in having 100 books read to every kindergartener at Lakewood this school year. To do this, they need volunteers to read to one child at a time. If you have an hour to spare and would enjoy reading to a child (actually 3 children in an hour works – twenty minutes per child), please contact Missy Olsen (olsenme@pcsb.org) 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).

Where's My Name Tag???

For a while now, we have had five stands at the back of the Sanctuary that held 4-5 years of name badges for current members, past members, and visitors. This system had become inefficient. Last week, three church members took on the task of culling through the 300+ tags to organize, alphabetize, and put everyone's tag in the same style badge. The clip-on option was the final choice, and that decision was made by a committee (not the three people who had the tasking of reorganizing badges!). Unfortunately, the three members couldn't finish the large task in just one week so some of you, sadly, didn't see your name this past Sunday. Please give the group some time....they hope to be finished by this Sunday (3/6), but, if not, then definitely by March 13. Thanks for your patience and understanding!



**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.

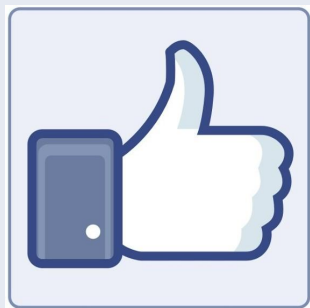
**The 35th Annual Festival of
Praise: "Messiah" Part the
Second and Part the Third**

**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.



- 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 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, 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

- **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.

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

