

# FIRST NEWS



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

**November 25, 2022**

## WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service at 10 AM  
this Sunday, November 27, 2022  
in the Sanctuary or online  
*First Sunday of Advent*

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon: "Watching for Hope"  
Scripture: [Isaiah 2:1-5](#), [Matthew 24:36-44](#)

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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!

We have a **MASK-OPTIONAL** policy for worship services and on-campus activities.



Please remember in prayer: All the victims and clean-up efforts from Hurricanes Ian & Nicole, Faith Bedford, Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, John Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Margo Hart, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, Marsha Starkey

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; 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

Dear First Friends,

Thanksgiving is sometimes a mix of feelings. Especially as we get older, and as our lives and our family settings get more complicated, we find ourselves facing both joy and challenge. It is easy to say THANK YOU when things are going smoothly and well, when we have the joy of new marriages, new babies, and new jobs to lift up with Thanksgiving. With real feeling we can say: *Thank you for my family and my health and this wonderful home.* But when we have lost a loved one, or made the decision to move to a smaller place, or when we face real health challenges, our gratitude is mixed with sorrow, confusion or stress. That's how life unfolds, we all know that. On such occasions, I find myself turning to Ecclesiastes 3, to the precious and beloved words:

*For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.*

God knows what we face. God is with us every step of our journey. We are never alone. That's also a reason to be thankful.

Friends, I join you in this time of Thanksgiving, acknowledging my deep gratitude for all that is good and blessed in my life. Like you, I give thanks for God's presence and grace even in more challenging times and situations. I know that I am never alone, and for that I give heart-felt thanks.

Let me know if you need support in your life. As your pastor I am here for you.

Blessings, now and always,  
Ginny Ellis

## Lectio Divina on Monday mornings

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

## Downtown Santa Parade on Saturday, Nov. 26

Be a part of FPC's participation in the Downtown Santa Parade on Nov. 26! Gather your friends and family and ride in the decorated church van or walk along side during the Santa parade. Santa hat will be provided for all participants. Parade starting time is 6:30 PM.



### Gathering Times:

- **Early arrivals at 3:30 PM** at First Presbyterian Church, rear parking lot
- **Just-in-time "walking" arrivals at 5:30 PM** at Bayshore Drive SE in front of the 10 Mile Fountain (across from Mahaffey Theatre).

Questions? Santa Parade Bus Driver Dave Hunt can be reached at 727-739-6961.

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - NOVEMBER 27

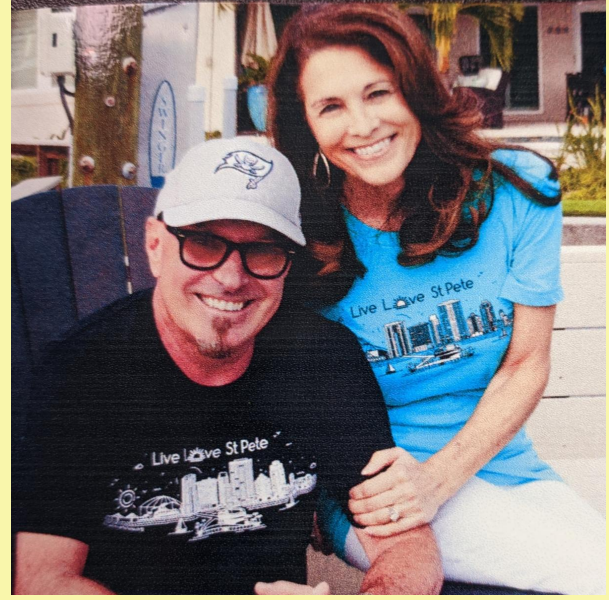
The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday Nov 27, right after 10:00 AM worship for the election of officers. The Officer Nominating Committee will be bringing nominations for 5 elders and 4 deacons. Being nominated:

- **For Elder: three-year terms:** Jamie Brownlee, Carlen Maddux, Jo Anne Malone and Karen Mossman. **For elder one-year term:** Brad Hussung.
- **For Deacon: three-year terms:** June King, Ginger McCoy, Cathy Milburn, and Judie Underwood.

For those of you who watch the service online, please note that the Congregational Meeting will be live-streamed at the end of the worship service (there will not be a separate link for the meeting).

## We Welcome Two More New FPC Members: Geoff & Melody Proud

We are so excited they have chosen to join the FPC family!



## Thanksgiving Sunday Funday!

The cool temperatures, rain and wind did not dampen any spirits at our Thanksgiving Sunday Funday Cookout, Games, and Mission, even though it got moved indoors at the last minute! Dave Hunt outdid himself grilling hamburgers, hotdogs and impossible burgers...with sauteed mushrooms and onions! The spread included assorted chips, fresh veggies, and all the condiments you could want, plus watermelon slices and ice cream bars. Wow!



The kids had a blast trying to pin the tail on the turkey, bowling to knock over Solo cup pyramids (and rebuilding them again!), racing while trying to hold an egg on a spoon or gobbling like a turkey! For our mission project, hand-outlined turkey Thanksgiving cards were made for some who will be alone for the holiday. Everyone learned the Johnny Appleseed grace as we all gave thanks for a great time on a day when no one wanted to be outdoors!



Thanks to all the volunteers and staff who made this Sunday Funday possible!

Even Clover showed up to cheer us on!



## New Service Times

Beginning next week - Sunday, December 4, FPC will have two worship services: a contemporary service in our Youth



## PLEASE NOTE:

Center (9:00 AM) and a traditional service in our Sanctuary (at 11:00 AM). Sunday School classes and/or fellowship time will be from 10:00-11:00 AM. We are hoping to have childcare available 9 AM - 12 PM. Your support (and attendance!) will be essential to these two worship services being successful.

### Deacon's Corner from Marilyn Mulcahy



I can envision many of you sitting quietly today, the calm after the storm of trying to eat/taste all of the once-a-year foods that we crave. Perhaps you are thinking about the table conversation that was sometimes funny and good-natured, and other times, tense. If people travelled to visit you, or you travelled to see them, maybe you are feeling grateful that all of you were able to be together as life is so precious.

Your deacons and I are so appreciative of all of you, and how you have made our service this year pleasant and so rewarding. Whenever you answer our calls, emails, cards, or texts, you reinforce that we are indeed a close church family, ready to grow. How blessed are we all!

### Childcare/Kids Ministry Updates



- A new childcare & kid's room is **LOOKING GOOD!** New flooring, fresh paint, new mini-blinds, and fun kid stuff have all been installed in Room 203! Stop by to see it if you get a chance!
- **Donation request:** if you have any clean, new or gently-used children's books, toys, or furniture that would be appropriate OR if you're redecorating yourself, we could use a couple of cute, comfy chairs. Before dropping off any large items, please send pictures to Pastor Jeanie at [jbarnes@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:jbarnes@fpc-stpete.org).
- **Volunteer request:** If you would like to volunteer to help the new staff once a month during church, please sign up in the Sanctuary or contact Pastor Jeanie (727-822-2031). THANK YOU!

### Christmas Greenery

Christmas is just around the corner, and soon it is time to decorate the church!

- You are invited to make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend to help purchase poinsettias and greenery. Be sure to designate the individual to be honored or memorialized. We will compile and list the names of all those honored or remembered for inclusion First News.

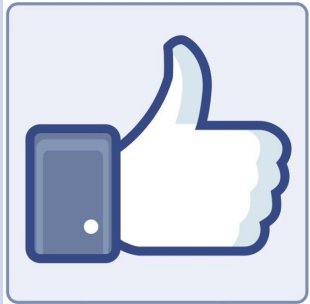


- If you would like to help decorate the church on **Tuesday, Nov. 29**, please contact Chris Agee ([cfagee@gmail.com](mailto:cfagee@gmail.com)).

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!



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 December 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**, 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 Divina, via [Zoom](#)
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month)
- **Wednesdays, 7:00 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center
- **Thursdays, 6 PM**, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
- **Fridays, 7:30 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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

### Upcoming Events:

- **Today, Nov. 25**, Church Office closed for the Thanksgiving holiday
- **Saturday, November 26**, join FPC in participating in the Downtown Santa Parade!
- **Sunday, November 27**, Congregational Meeting following the worship service in the Sanctuary
- **Monday, November 28**, Stated Session Meeting
- **Tuesday, November 29**, decorating the church for Christmas
- **Sunday, December 4**, transition to TWO SERVICES! 9 AM Contemporary service in the Youth Center and 11 AM Traditional service in the Sanctuary
- **Friday, December 9**, 7 PM, Many Moods of Christmas concert
- **Sunday, December 18**, 3 PM, Christmas Family Fun Day
- **Saturday, December 24**, TWO Christmas Eve services: 4 PM for Families & Children and 7 PM Candlelight Service
- **Sunday, December 25**, 11 AM, ONE traditional service in the 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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

**First Presbyterian Church**  
 701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
 (727) 822-2031 | [www.fpcstpete.com](http://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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