



Your
Weekly News
from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

December 6, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent

10:00 AM Combined Service, Sanctuary

The sermon for this Sunday is "The Joy Option" Dr. Dawn Conti

[Isaiah 35:1-10](#); [Luke 1:46-55](#)

Special Music By Day School Students

"Celebrate Jesus' Birthday" and "I'm Tellin'" arr. Kathie Hill

[Click here](#) for Sunday's bulletin & announcements

**One Combined Service
and Christmas Pancake Party
On December 8**



On Sunday, December 8 we will have one combined church service at 10 AM in the Sanctuary. A Christmas theme will prevail as the congregation sings beloved carols, and the Day School students present two special Christmas songs.

Following the 10 AM service, a Christmas Pancake Party will be held in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a delicious pancake and sausage breakfast prepared by our Men's Meal Ministry. Also get in the holiday spirit with fun games, cool crafts, and a special visit from Santa.

Be sure to invite friends and families to this wonderful kickoff of the Christmas season. Please RSVP by calling the church office (727) 822-2031.

**Hospitality Stop
For NE Tour of Homes, At FPC**

As part of the 22nd Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes in the Historic Old Northeast, First Presbyterian will host a Hospitality Stop on Sunday, December 8 from 3 to 4 PM. The choir will lead a Christmas Carol sing-a-long and refreshments will be available.

You are invited to the sing-a-long where you can meet our neighbors and join in singing carols.



Session Highlights

[Here](#) are the November Session Highlights.

From The Finance Committee

Financial Snapshot					
October 2019					
	Month	YTD			
Pledges*	\$ 48,467	\$ 218,132			
Other Income	9,608	32,510			
Total Income	58,075	250,642			
Expenses	80,133	313,155			
Income (Loss)	\$ (22,058)	\$ (62,513)			
Pledges and non-pledge gifts were \$16,000 under budget.					
There were no large or unusual expenses this month.					
October is fourth month of new fiscal year.					
*Includes pledge offerings, non-pledge offerings, and loose offerings					

Spectacular Many Moods of Christmas Concert Coming Up On December 15

More than 130 musicians will present The Many Moods of Christmas Concert on December 15 at 4 PM. A diverse repertoire of choral and orchestral works will be featured to include a medieval chant by Perotin, Bach's *Magnificat*, and selections from the film *Home Alone* by John Williams. Choir members are from First Presbyterian Church and the Pinellas County Center for the Arts. Also participating are the Center for the Arts Orchestra, the First Presbyterian Handbell Choir as well as additional local vocalists.



A free-will offering benefits the St. Petersburg Free Clinic.

Help spread the word by inviting your family and friends.

Help spread the word by inviting your family and friends.

[Here](#) are details of the remaining performances in the Concert Series.

FPC's First Drive-Through Live Nativity

Join us for a FREE event that brings the Christmas story to life. On Friday, December 20, from 6 until 8 PM, on the church's front circle driveway, you can journey with Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem and await the arrival of their son, Jesus.



Bring the entire family and invite your friends to see and understand the true meaning of Christmas at FPC's First Drive-Through Live Nativity. A recorded narrative is provided, as well as delicious refreshments.

We need your help. Volunteer to pose as a Biblical character, help with refreshments, build, paint, set up and tear down sets. There is something for everyone in our church to do. Sign up to help by filling out the bulletin insert or by contacting [David Aumack](#).



Christmas Eve Worship

Invite family and friends to be inspired by beautiful Christmas Eve Services:

4 PM - Family Christmas Eve Service

7 PM - Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Candle Lighting and Chancel Choir



Gay Wasik shares a children's message with the youngest disciples at the 9 AM service last Sunday.

God Loves A Cheerful Giver And The IRS Will Reward You Too!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read how you can bless yourself and others by making a year-end contribution to FPC..

To see the deduction limits against your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), [click here](#).
Sources: Vanguard Charitable, Foremost Advice, Wall Street Journal

Looking For A Room At The Inn

Four-year-olds from Mrs. Riley's Day School Class were looking for a room at the inn.

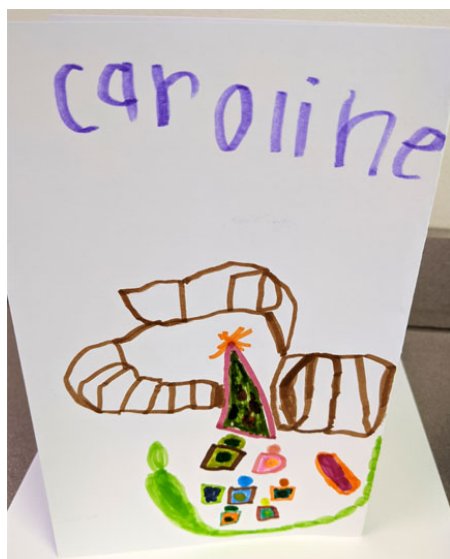


Pastor's Assistance Fund Provides Help Throughout the Year

As you address your Christmas cards this season, please consider bringing a card for the Pastor's Christmas tree and enclosing a donation for the Pastor's Assistance Fund. The Fund provides confidential financial support throughout the year to members of our congregation and others recommended by local social services to pay for utility bills, medical needs, shelter, and other necessities.



Each Sunday in December, members of the Mission Ministry will be available at the basket in the Fellowship Hall and at the Christmas tree located in the back of the Sanctuary following the 9:00 and 11:00 services, respectively, to receive your donations and hang your cards. They will also provide a card if you need one.



Christmas Cards Are Created For Migrants and Refugees

The Westminster Class (ages 73-99 years) and the 4-year-old students from the Day School joined forces in making and designing Christmas cards for the migrants and refugees being detained in prison camps here in the states. The mission project was sponsored by the Lutheran Church services.

What joy these lovely pictures will bring!

Monthly Reports from New Hope Clinic, Honduras

Attached are the [monthly reports](#) from Dr. Davila and the New Hope Clinic in Honduras for August and September.

Read them to marvel at the way Dr. Davila and his staff practice compassionate care for our Brothers and Sisters in Christ in Orica and Guayape, Honduras. All this happens through your prayers and aid to this amazing mission which blesses us all.

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

GriefShare is a special seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life. Holidays are a wonderful time, but for some it is a difficult time. Our griefshare group is in place to help you navigate the difficult times. Meetings are on Tuesdays at 10 AM in the Chapel.

A special Surviving the Holidays seminar is offered at 6 PM on Wednesday, December 11.

If you wish to attend or have questions, please e-mail relswood@fpc-stpete.org



Christmas Greenery Donations

Christmas is almost here, and 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.

Please fill out the green envelope in the pews, and put it in the offering plate. Be sure to designate the individual to be honored or memorialized on the outside of the envelope. An insert listing the names of those honored or remembered will be compiled for inclusion in the bulletin.

Donations Needed More Than Ever For The Free Clinic

There is never a greater need for donations of food than during the Holiday season. This year the need is greater than ever.

Please donate food to the Free Clinic using the food collection bins in Fellowship Hall and in the Sanctuary (under the north steps to the balcony). The St. Petersburg Free Clinic picks up the donations and distributes the food to those in need and to other charitable organizations.

FPC Calendar At A Glance

[Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online.

Coming up:

- [December Birthdays](#)
- [December Child Care Calendar](#)
- First Monday of each month, 7:30 - 8:30 PM, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123. [Here](#) is the Reading List.
- Faith Development Bible Study, S-100, 9:30 AM (Tuesdays)
- Yoga With Adam, 3 PM, Fellowship Hall (Sunday afternoons, refer to church calendar for any variation).

- Tuesdays, 10 AM, GriefShare Support Group, Chapel (meets Tuesdays, refer to church calendar for any variation)
- Sunday, December 8, Combined Worship Service, 10 AM, followed by a Christmas Pancake Party
- Sunday, December 8, HONNA Hospitality Stop at First Pres, 3 - 4 PM
- Wednesday, December 11, GriefShare: Surviving The Holidays, 6 PM
- Sunday, December 15, The Many Moods of Christmas Concert, 4 PM, Sanctuary
- Tuesday, December 17, Meditation for Christians, 7 PM, Chapel (Meets on alternate Tuesdays. Contact: [Carlen Maddux](#))
- Friday, December 20, Youth Lock-In, 5 PM
- Friday, December 20, Drive-Through Live Nativity, 6-8 PM
- Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Services, 4 PM and 7 PM



- Wednesday, January 8, Financial Peace University, 6 PM (continues through March 4)
- Sunday, February 2, Congregational Meeting following the 11 AM service

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 [Mary Johnson](#) and [Amy Grossenbacher](#).

First Presbyterian Church
 701 Beach Drive -- 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.

