



Your
Weekly News
from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

November 29, 2019

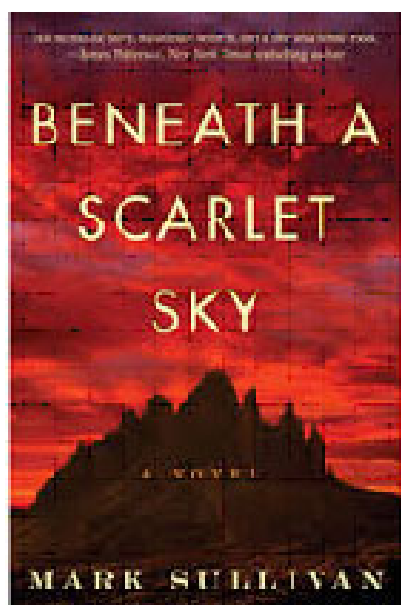
First Sunday of Advent
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

8:15 AM Communion Worship, Chapel
9:00 AM Contemporary Service, Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM Classic Worship with Choir, Sanctuary

The sermon for this Sunday is "God's Promised Day Can't Wait"
Dr. Dawn Conti

[Isaiah 2:1-5](#); [Psalm 122](#)

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



Faith and Fiction, Monday Night

Join us as we discuss *Beneath A Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. Faith and Fiction meetings are held on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 PM in classroom N-123.

For a list of the books being featured this year, visit [faith and fiction](#).

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 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 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.



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.

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



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

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

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.



Passing of the Peace Done Differently During Flu Season!

Flu season is here, and instead of shaking hands during the passing of the peace, the Priase Band inspired the congregation to "elbow bump" each other. Pictured at left, elbow bumping each other in peace, are Chris Mossman and Taina Specie. And, yes, that is a coffee cup in Chris Mossman's hand. Coffee is available during the 9 AM worship.

St. Pete Police Officer Speaks On Safety of the Church Campus

We had a great turn-out of people last Wednesday, November 20, for Officer Chip Wells' presentation on ways to make the church campus a safer place.

As a follow-up to this presentation, a Security Committee is being formed to continue to monitor and implement safety measures as needed around the campus of FPC. Below is information about this committee.



Security Committee Meeting

The FPC Security Committee meeting will be Monday, December 3, at 7 PM in room S-100. If you are interested in serving on this team please come to the meeting to see how you can help. If you are just curious and would like to learn a bit more about the committee and the safety of our church, please contact Dick Luehrs at (727) 667-7848 or dicklu@windstream.net.

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](#)
- 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). No Yoga this Sunday Nov. 24
- Tuesdays, 10 AM, GriefShare Support Group, Chapel (meets Tuesdays, refer to church calendar for any variation)
- Tuesdays through December 3, "Breathe" Bible Study
- Tuesday, December 3, FPC Security Committee Meeting, S-100, 7 PM
- Tuesday, December 3, Meditation for Christians, 7 PM, Chapel (Meets on alternate Tuesdays. Contact: [Carlen Maddux](#))

- Sunday, December 8, Combined Worship Service, 10 AM, followed by a Christmas Pancake Party
- Sunday, December 8, HONNA Hospitality Stop at First Pres
- Wednesday, December 11, GriefShare: Surviving The Holidays, 6 PM
- Sunday, December 15, The Many Moods of Christmas Concert, 4 PM, Sanctuary
- Friday, December 20, Drive-Through Live Nativity, 6-8 PM
- Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Services, 4 PM and 7 PM

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](#).

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

