

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

April 8, 2022



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service
at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
this Sunday, April 10, 2022
Palm Sunday

Rev. Megan McMillan

Scriptures: [Philippians 2:5-11](#), [Luke 22:14-23:56](#)

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

**PLEASE NOTE: we have 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!

Praise Band Preview - Palm Sunday

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest! For Palm Sunday, the FPC Praise Band has two wonderful tunes to share with you. First up is our beautiful rendition of *Jesus Paid It All*. Our second tune, *Hosanna (Praise Is Rising)*, we last performed in 2020 and we're excited to bring it back. Click the links below to hear the tunes and we'll see you on Sunday!

[Hosanna \(Praise Is Rising\)](#)

[Jesus Paid It All](#)



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



Joined the Church Triumphant

Nicola (Nikki) Stubbs

April 4, 2022

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

Friends,

Tomorrow (Saturday), the Church Session is meeting with Rev. Megan and me at Eckerd College's Lewis House for a day of reflection and discussion. This will be led by my talented colleague Kaaren Nesmith, who, except for spelling her name funny, is wonderful in every way. Pray for this to be a fruitful time for these church leaders.

The Session retreat catapults us into the busy and spiritually rich time of Holy Week. I hope you will prepare yourself for the various events of next week and participate to all you can:

- This Sunday, April 10, is Palm Sunday
- Wednesday, April 13, will be the last Lenten Lunch
- Maundy Thursday, April 14, you can receive communion and you will have the opportunity to have your feet (or hands) washed and wash the feet (or hands) of another. (Wear shoes or sandals with this in mind!)
- Friday, April 15, there will be a Service of Shadows in the Sanctuary as we remember that Holy Friday when Jesus was nailed to the cross for our sakes.
- Then: Sing and say Alleluia! on Sunday morning, April 17, outside at 7:30 AM, or inside at 10:00 AM. God brings life from death, hope from emptiness, joy from despair.

If that were not enough to plan for, the next Saturday and Sunday (April 23 and 24), many of us will gather at Cedarkirk to celebrate the gift of God's creation and the fellowship of the church. *The Beloved Community in a Beloved Place* will be our theme: learning about Tikkun Olam - Repair the World. What does that mean to you?

Blessings for this busy time,
Ginny Ellis

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

The Book on Forgiveness has been a powerful book for reading and discussion. The Zoom group is *not meeting during Holy Week* (April 13) but will finish its study/discussion on Wednesday, April 20. Click [HERE](#) to join.

JOIN US FOR

Easter

at

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH - ST PETE
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 10

10:00 AM - Sanctuary

Blended worship service featuring palm fronds and celebrating Christ's journey to the Cross. All children are welcome to join us for an Easter Egg Hunt outside, directly following the worship service!

MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 14

7:00 PM - Sanctuary

Communion Service with foot and/or hand washing. Maundy Thursday commemorates Jesus washing of the disciples' feet, his agony in the Garden of Gethemane, and his betrayal by Judas Iscariot.

GOOD FRIDAY TENEBRÆ SERVICE - APRIL 15

7:00 PM - Sanctuary

Taizé-style service with Scripture and Hymns; based on the worship style of an ecumenical Christian community in Burgundy, France, Taizé is a contemplative service centered around repetitive music, prayer, and silence, to quiet the mind, open the heart, and feed the soul. It is a simple, meditative form of worship, calling us to dwell deeply on Christ's presence around and within us.

EARLY MORNING EASTER PRAISE SERVICE - APRIL 17

7:30 AM - Front Circle Drive (outside)

Celebrate the race to the empty tomb with the FPC Praise Band leading us in Contemporary Worship out in front of the Sanctuary.

TRADITIONAL EASTER SERVICE - APRIL 17

10:00 AM - Sanctuary

Traditional Easter service; celebrate the empty tomb with worship featuring the Pipe Organ, Brass Ensemble and Handel's "Hallelujah!" chorus.





Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt!

We invite all the children to join us for an Easter Egg Hunt after the worship service on Palm Sunday, April 10th.

7 Mission Items for 7 Sundays of Lent

Every Sunday in Lent, 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!

- April 10 - Shampoo and Conditioner (for men and women)
- April 17 - Bath towels and/or wash cloths



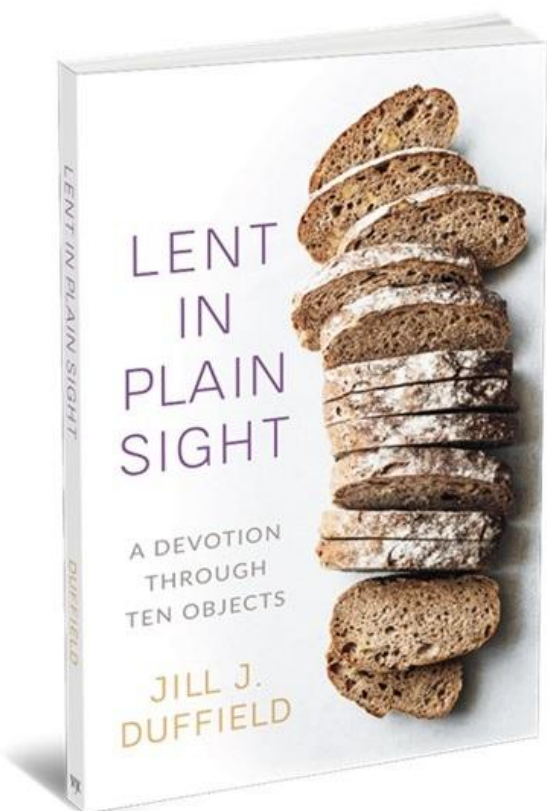
Easter Lilies

Share Easter's beauty by sponsoring a lily to be used as part of our Easter worship service. These traditional symbols of Easter can be given in memory of a loved one or to honor friends and family (\$20 each). To order, contact Amy in the Church Office (727-822-2031 or [AmyM@fpc-](mailto:AmyM@fpc-stpete.org)

stpete.org). *The last day to place your order is Tuesday, April 12.* You may pick up your lily after the 10 AM Easter Sunday service.

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
in the Youth Center

Wednesdays at Noon
through 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.



Cedarkirk Church Retreat

Sunday, April 10th is the **LAST DAY** we will be accepting registration forms and checks for our church retreat at Cedarkirk on April 23rd and 24th. Join us for the day or the weekend and experience a relaxing, fun-filled, spiritual retreat. Pastor Ginny and Pastor Megan will offer us insights and discernment on *Beloved Community*

in a Beloved Place. We hope to see you there! For registration forms or information call Kathy Bardin at (727) 418-4577 or pick up a form before or after church this Sunday, April 10th.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) supports efforts to relieve hunger (through the *Presbyterian Hunger Program*), promote development (through the *Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People*), and assist in areas of disaster (through *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*). The three programs all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Meal on Wheels - Volunteers Needed!

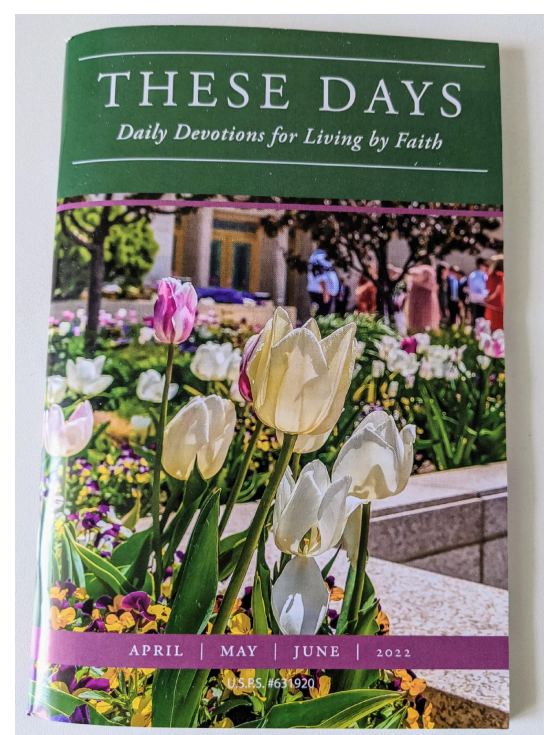
Meals on Wheels is a mission FPC has supported for over 50 years. Volunteers pick up and deliver meals to needy individuals from the Sunshine Center in downtown St. Pete. We currently make about 12 stops, and the whole process from pick-up to return takes about two hours. We deliver five days a week and ask that people sign up for the same day every week or every other week.

We are currently in need of someone on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Monday of the month, the 3rd and 4th Wednesday, and/or occasionally as a back-up driver. Volunteers will take a short training course and fill out paperwork before being able to deliver. Please call Kathy Bardin at (727) 418-4577 if you are interested or have any questions. We encourage people to ride along with a current volunteer before making a decision.



Devotionals Available

Copies of the Apr/ May/ Jun edition of "Our Daily Bread" and "These Days" devotionals are now available for pick-up from the Church Office during normal business hours or at the Welcome Center on Sundays.



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.

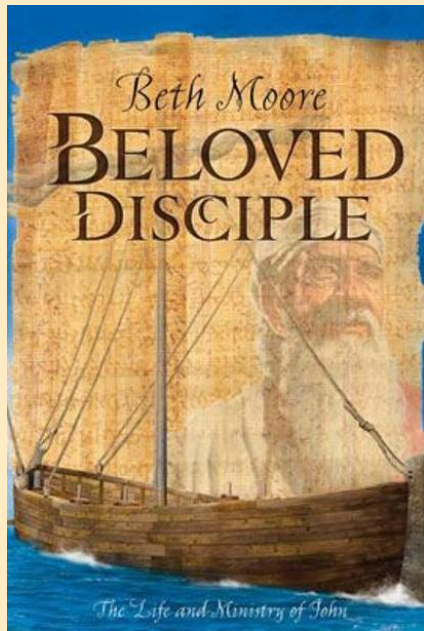
For further information, you may contact Missy (contact information is above), or feel free to contact Mary-Linda Armacost (727-465-8108, mlsma@cs.com).

Power Hour Sunday School Class (Not Meeting April 10 or 17; Will Resume April 24)

The Power Hour Sunday school class invites you to join them April 24 in the Youth Center as we animate or “give life to” our faith & community, the Bible, and our core faith practices. We will hear perspectives from some of the best contemporary voices with this DVD-based program. There will be lively, relevant conversation starters that will spur on great conversations as we grow in our faith. For more info, visit the website:

www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286832/Animate.

Coffee and fellowship begins at 8:30 AM; class begins at 9 AM You won't want to miss it! Any questions, call Karen Mossman at 727-400-5079.



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 optional. We will keep you updated on this. Thank you for your understanding! Questions? Contact April Hussung at 727-420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.



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 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, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- Sundays, 9 AM, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center (not meeting April 10 or 17)
- Sundays, 10 AM, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- Mondays, 10 AM, Lectio Devina, [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 in-person on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month (next in-person meeting is April 12, in the Chapel). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux

(cmaddux@maddux.com)

- **Wednesdays, 12 PM**, Lenten Lunch Study, Youth Center
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM**, Wednesday Night Live, [via Zoom](#); book study: *The Book of Forgiving* (not meeting April 13)

- **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)

Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, April 10, Palm Sunday.** Worship service at 10 AM, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children

- **Thursday, April 14, 7 PM**, Maundy Thursday service, Sanctuary

- **Friday, April 15, 7 PM**, Good Friday/Tenebrae service, Sanctuary

- **Sunday, April 17, EASTER!** Two services, 7:30 AM (outside) and 10:00 AM (Sanctuary)

- **Saturday, April 23 and Sunday, April 24**, All-Church Retreat at Cedarkirk (last day to register is April 10)

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

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

