

FIRST NEWS



December 29, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, December 31, 2023
First Sunday of Christmas**

**CONNECT SERVICE at 9 AM (Youth Center)
or
SANCTUARY SERVICE at 11 AM (Sanctuary)**

**Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "Travelling By Night"
Scripture: [Isaiah 63:7-9](#), [Matthew 2:13-23](#)**

Click [HERE](#) to watch the 9 AM service online.
Click [HERE](#) to watch the 11 AM service online.

This link may also be found on the home page of the church's website (www.fpcstpete.com - click the "Watch Live Streams Here" button) as well as on the church's Facebook page. The service is also available for viewing on [our YouTube channel](#) throughout the week. Feel free to share these links with family and friends!

Click [HERE](#) for the 9 AM worship service bulletin.
Click [HERE](#) for the 11 AM worship service bulletin.

No Note from Pastor Ginny this week....she's on vacation! But she'll see you on Sunday!



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Will Catul, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Kathie Mayhall, Ginger McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Vivian Ramirez, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey, family and friends of Denny Zuercher



Joined the Church Triumphant

Denny Zuercher
December 24, 2023

Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: LT Marc-Antoni Juliá, USN; 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.



Thanks to all who attended our Christmas Eve services!



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024 for New Year's Day

Plan to join us on Sunday, January 7, 2024, at 4:00 PM for a Concert by Solo Organist, Bradley Welch

[Bradley Hunter Welch](#) is increasingly in demand as a recitalist, concerto soloist, and collaborative artist. He is the 2003 First Place winner of the Dallas International Organ Competition and was also awarded the Audience Prize for the second time, having previously won it in 2000.

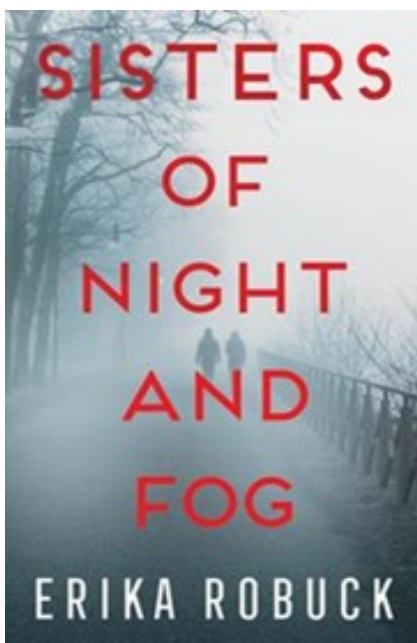
He has taught at Southern Methodist University and Baylor University and was Director of Music & Arts at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX from 2009-2014.



A native of Knoxville, TN, Dr. Welch holds the Doctor of Musical Arts, Master of Musical Arts, and Master of Music degrees, as well as the coveted Artist Diploma from Yale University where he studied with Thomas Murray and Martin Jean. He also holds the Bachelor of Music degree from Baylor University where he studied with Joyce Jones.

To invoke an old Southern expression, Bradley Hunter Welch plays the organ like nobody's business. Between the virtuosity of the playing and the easy-going spoken commentary, he also proved that 'entertainer' and 'organist' needn't be mutually exclusive. It would be hard to play Widor any better than this....splendidly idiomatic and communicative. ~Dallas Morning News

An offering will be taken for First Presbyterian Church Concert Series.



Next Faith & Fiction - January 8, 2024

2:30 PM, Room N-123

Sisters of Night and Fog, by Erica Robuck

Discussion Leader: Kathy Arsenault

Two women, two countries. Nothing in common but a call to fight. An exciting new tale based on true stories of an American socialite and a British secret agent whose stunning acts of courage collide during WWII. Plus, there is a connection to FPC!

Ladies, you are invited to a new Beth Moore Bible Study:
"A Study of Philippians -
The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ"

Let's start the new year by doing the Beth Moore & Melissa Moore 5-week study of Philippians. By the power of the same Holy Spirit who took the gospel to Europe by way of Philippi, let's discover what Paul magnificently called "The Surpassing Value of Knowing Christ."

BETH MOORE & MELISSA MOORE

THE
**SURPASSING
VALUE
OF
KNOWING
CHRIST**

A STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS

Join us on Tuesday mornings,
January 16th - February 13, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is required. Workbooks will be available for \$15. If interested, please contact April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.



**Our next Beach Drive Forum is
Wednesday, January 17, 6 PM**

"Trouble in Paradise: Our Allergies"
by Dr. Harrison Brownlee

Dr. Harrison (Jamie) Brownlee will give us an overview of the joys and challenges of living in Florida when it comes to allergies. As an experienced family doctor and allergy-sufferer himself, Dr. Brownlee will share tips on how to deal with a whole variety of allergies, including how to save money by treating yours or your loved ones' allergies in the most practical ways.

Also, mark your calendars for our Spring 2024 line-up!

- **FEBRUARY 21:** *Standing on the Promises: The Woodson African-American Museum of Florida on the Historic Gas Plant Site* by Terri Lipsey Scott, Executive Director of the Carter G. Woodson African-American Museum.
- **MARCH 20:** *The Dynamic History of St. Petersburg's Marine Science Complex* by Peter R. Betzer, PhD, Founding Dean Emeritus of the College of Marine Science at USF.
- **APRIL 17:** *From Folk Medicines to Therapeutic Drugs: Research in Progress* by Akiko Tamiko PhD, president, and co-founder of The Tampa Bay Research Institute (TBRI).

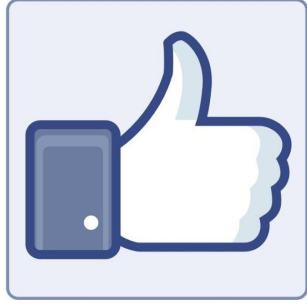
Beach Drive Forums are monthly conversations for the community with intriguing speakers on thought-provoking topics. On Wednesdays from 6-8 PM in Fellowship Hall (doors open at 5:30, presentation at 6:00). Refreshments and Q&A included. Open to the public; best parking is the parking lot off N. Shore Drive.

All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.

Stay
CONNECTED

- 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!



We continue to be thankful for the generosity of all who contribute financially to our church, along with the other contributions they bring to our ministry.

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 January 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-12:30 PM**, childcare is available, Room S-203
- **Sundays, 9 AM**, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center or [Online](#)
- **Sundays, 9:45 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Room S-202
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Young Adults/Parents Sunday School Class, Room S-206
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Teens' Sunday School Class, Room S-205 (meets every other week)
- **Sundays, 11 AM**, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#) (on break until Jan. 8)

- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month)
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center
- **Thursdays, 6 PM**, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite (on break)
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite (on break)
- **Fridays, 8:00 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)

Upcoming Events:

- **Monday, January 1**, Happy New Year! Church Office closed
- **Sunday, January 7**, 4 PM, Concert by solo organist [Bradley Welch](#)
- **Monday, January 8**, 2:30 PM, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123
- **Monday, January 15**, Church Office closed (MLK Day)
- **Tuesday, January 16**, 9 AM, New Beth Moore Bible Study begins
- **Wednesday, January 17**, 6 PM, Beach Drive Forum, "Trouble in Paradise: Our Allergies" by Dr. Harrison (Jamie) Brownlee

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 | 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.



First Presbyterian Church | 701 Beach Drive N.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2618

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