

# FIRST NEWS



## First News, February 2

February 2, 2024

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, February 4, 2024  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany / Lord's Supper  
**CONNECT SERVICE** at 9 AM (Youth Center)  
or  
**SANCTUARY SERVICE** at 11 AM (Sanctuary)

Guest Preacher: Rev. Mike Peacock  
Scripture: [1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#), [Mark 1:29-39](#)

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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](http://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.

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**COMMUNION SUNDAY:** We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this Sunday during both worship services. If you are joining us online, please gather bread, crackers, or rolls and something to drink (juice, wine, milk, water) ahead of time for all in your home who will be participating.

## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

Despite my best efforts – getting all the shots, keeping distances - I did get COVID, so I have spent this last week at home: coughing some, resting a lot, working a little, generally being quiet. I hope to get back to some sort of “normal” as soon as I can.

That said, I am making plans to offer a Sunday morning class from 10:15 to 10:45 each week. Let's call it Presbyterianism. I'll make the class pretty fluid, so it can cover the basics about our beliefs, structure, and character as well as things our people may have questions about. I want to add in two other things on a regular (monthly) basis: an Inquirer/Membership class most months and an introduction to one of the creeds or confessions we have in our Book of Confession. The class will meet in the Church Office Conference Room, upstairs just past the choir room. For the next month or so, we'll do this:

- Feb. 4 – no class, due to Annual Congregational meeting
- Feb. 11 – New Member Inquirers Class for those who would like to know more about the church and consider becoming members
- Feb. 18 – What makes us Presbyterian?
- Feb. 25 – A look at the Apostles and Nicene Creeds
- Mar. 3 – How Presbyterian Churches function
- Mar. 10 - New Member Inquirers Class for those who would like to know more about the church and consider becoming members

We do have three other vibrant Adult classes: **Faith Journey** meets in Room S-202 to discuss chosen readings on faith development and deeper spirituality; **Power Hour** meets in the Youth Center Café area with discussion on Biblical themes; and a **Next** group for young adults/parents using short, theologically informed videos, meeting downstairs in Room S-100.

### NEW STAFF MEMBER!!

As of this very week, we welcome Carol Riley back to our staff as Coordinator of Family Ministries. Carol will be work for us an average of 15 hours per week, working with the Christian Education Committee, with children and families. We are very excited to have Carol coming on board for this important work. Welcome, Carol!

Blessings to all,



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Jane Harris, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Carol Hunt, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Ginger McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, family & friends of Helen Rogers, Robert Safransky, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey, family & friends of Ken Young

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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

### Fun and Fellowship: Create a beaded bracelet!

Today, February 2, 10 to noon  
In Room S-100

Come have fun with us! No fee requested!  
Limited seating! Reservation REQUIRED! Please  
call or text Susan Luehrs at 727-866-7965 and  
provide name and phone number. 😊



### St. Olaf Choir Concert at FPC-St. Pete Tomorrow, Saturday, February 3, at 7 PM

For more than a century, [The St. Olaf Choir](#) has set the gold standard for

choral singing, performing for millions around the world. Composed of 75 mixed voices, the St. Olaf Choir is hailed as one of the nation's premier a cappella ensembles, renowned for its artistry and beauty of sound. The choir, conducted by Anton Armstrong, will perform at First Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg, Florida on Saturday, February 3 at 7:00 PM during its 2024 National Tour (valet parking will be available).

Tickets are \$40 adults/seniors and \$10 for all students, available online [HERE](#) or by calling 1-800-363-5487. Group discount of 10% available for groups of 10+ available via phone.

The St. Olaf Choir is internationally renowned for its unique combination of

advanced choral singing and the presentation of challenging choral programming with a vast repertoire that includes sacred and secular choral standards, traditional hymns, new compositions, spirituals, and more. To view a quick video about the choir, click the picture above!

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## Annual Congregational Meeting This Sunday, February 4

First Presbyterian Church will hold its ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4 at the close of each worship service.



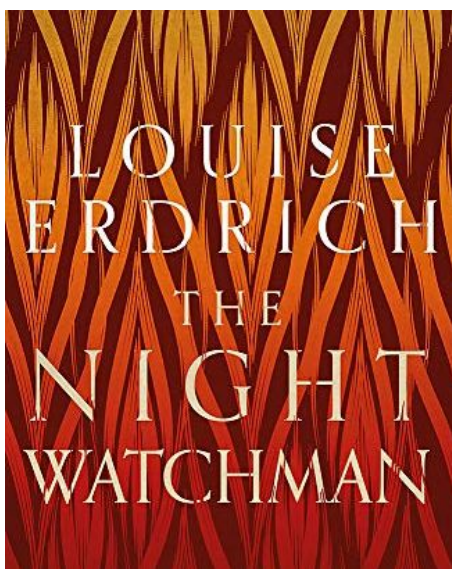
The 2023 Annual Report from all of our church ministries will be available ([CLICK HERE](#) to preview the electronic copy; a limited number of paper copies will be available Sunday morning and in the Church Office). The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) will offer its first report. Also the following will be nominated for election:

- To serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee to replace Chris Mossman, who is moving away: Gretchen Letterman.
  - To fill Karen Mossman's unexpired term on the Session: Vicki Fox for a two-year term and
  - To serve as the 2024 Officer Nominating Committee: Bill Shelton, Joan Karins, Rue Ann Porter, Al May, Kyle Brinkman and Eva Popovich.
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## Lectio/Visio Divina, Mondays at 10 AM

Try a new way of studying the Bible with Lectio/Visio Divina, a guided practice of reading and discussing four different translations of a passage that will be used in the following Sunday's worship. The hourlong Zoom session meets at 10 a.m. on Mondays and includes discussion of art that corresponds to the scripture. Click [HERE](#) to join.

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### Faith & Fiction

Monday, Feb. 5, 4 PM, Room N-123

Our next read for Faith & Fiction will be *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. This award-winning Native American author takes us to North Dakota to tell the tale of the fight against Native dispossession. Joan Karins will lead our discussion.

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## New Member Inquirer's Class - Sunday, February 11, 10 AM in the Church Office Conference Room

Whether you have been visiting FPC St. Pete for a brief time or for longer, you will want to join us for a new member inquirer's class. This is your opportunity to learn about what it means to be a Presbyterian, plus hear the answers to all those questions you may have about our church, faith, and what you need to do to become a member. We will meet in the Chapel on Sunday, February 11, immediately following the 9 AM worship service, where we will enjoy a

great program from Pastor Ginny. Elders will be on-hand should you wish to join the church following the class. This is a great chance to learn about and join downtown's most welcoming church!

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## Ash Wednesday - February 14

Drive-through imposition of ashes and communion in the front circle drive from 12-2 PM.

There will be an Ash Wednesday service in the Chapel at 7 PM.



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## SNEAKERS & SOX MISSION SUNDAY

February 18, 2024

10:00 - 11:00 AM

Lakewood Elementary School has been telling our Mission Committee for a while now that many of its students have a real need for sneakers. So our committee decided to see if we at First Presbyterian are able to do an all-in, can-do effort and donate 160 pairs. **All sizes are needed, from size 5 to 12, boys and girls.**



**We're asking for three things from our generous members:**

1. Sneakers
2. Money for Socks
3. To help us box and pack the sneakers during our next Mission Sunday, February 18. We will do this between the two services, from 10-11 AM.

Let's first discuss the boxing and packing. We need as many hands as possible to help us box and pack during our next **Mission Sunday, February 18. Time 10-11am**, the hour between our two services. Our Fellowship Committee has graciously offered to provide light refreshments.

**Where?** Fellowship Hall.

*(P.S. The Mission Committee has learned its lesson: At the previous Mission*

*Sunday we didn't wait for church members to show up while we did much of the work with little left for others to do. From now on, we'll help organize and assist but let you do the work. Scout's honor.)*

Now let's talk socks. Rather than ask members to buy socks individually at a higher price, we're asking you to contribute **\$money\$** so the committee can purchase the socks in bulk.



Finally, the sneakers. To make sure our generous members don't all contribute one size—say, size 5 boys—a board will be at each service with tabs on it that you can pull off. This tab will designate a shoe size and kind (boy or girl) for you to purchase. Select whatever color you like. And take as many tabs as you like!

**What to do with the sneakers?** You can bring your sneakers to church prior to February 18. Bins labeled *Lakewood Sneakers* will be available beneath the Giving Tree at each service for you to place them in. If you would like to contribute money for the socks, please place your check in the offering plate, made out to First Presbyterian; Memo line: *Lakewood socks*. Or, you can deposit cash or check made to FPC in an envelope attached to the tab board.

*Thanks to each of you for your generous spirit. Let's see if we can reach our goal of 160 sneakers!*



If you have any questions or concerns, contact committee member Melody Proud (865.599.6767; [melody@livelovespete.org](mailto:melody@livelovespete.org)) or Michelle Heinsimer (727.510.2045; [michelle.heinsimer@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.heinsimer@gmail.com)). Or you may contact Mission Committee Chair Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300; [saveritt@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:saveritt@tampabay.rr.com)).



## College Scholarships - It's Time to Apply!

We are now accepting applications for college scholarships! These scholarships include the Ohrns Scholarship for undergraduates and the Osborn Scholarship for Theology students. We only require one application is for both Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters (awards are split); the applicant needs to let us know if they only need it for one semester.

For further details about these scholarships (including downloadable application forms and deadlines), [CLICK HERE](#). Please note to apply for either of these scholarships, you will need to include:

1. a completed application form;
2. a copy of your most recent high school or college transcript;
3. a 500-word essay describing your involvement in church-related activities as well as extra-curricular and community involvement activities, why you want this grant, and what you expect to do following the completion of

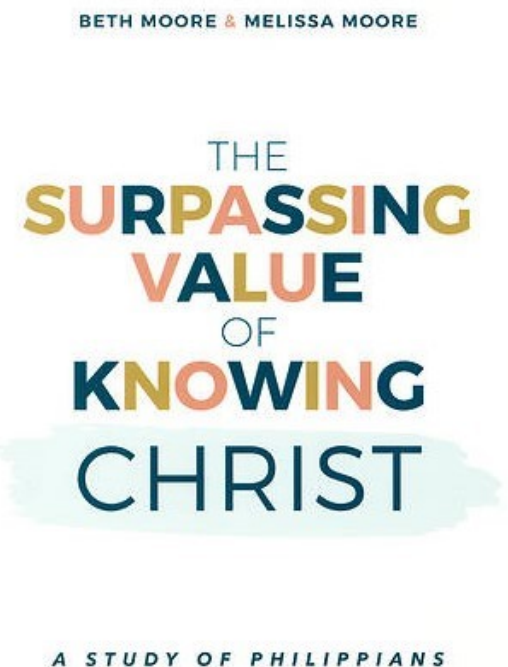
your education.

The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and the Session will approve the final awards. Successful applicants will be asked to provide proof of enrollment and acceptance by their educational institution. Funds for the scholarship will be sent directly to the institution so be sure to give the proper name and address to which the funds are to be sent. Questions? Please call the Church Office (727-822-2031).

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**Ladies, you are invited to join us for a 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."



Join us on Tuesday mornings  
through February 13  
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](mailto:stapler39@aol.com).

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**Mark your calendars for our "Beach Drive Forum" Spring 2024 line-up!**

*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.*

- **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).
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**SAVE THESE DATES!**

The Explorers of First Presbyterian (Fun, Fellowship, and Friends group) are starting the new year with some events for EVERYONE:

- Thursday, February 22, at 5:01 PM for an evening at the [Dali Museum](#)
- Sunday, March 17, at 1:30 PM at the [Tampa Bay Automobile Museum](#).



More details to come, or see Dave Hunt (513-604-6090).

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!



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 February 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-100 (new room!)
- **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/Visio Divina, via [Zoom](#)
  
- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' Bible Study, Youth Center
- **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
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite
  
- **Fridays, 8 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, February 2, 10 AM**, Fun and Fellowship: Create a beaded bracelet! Room S-100
- **Saturday, February 3, 7 PM**, St. Olaf Choir Concert
- **Sunday, February 4**, Congregational Meeting in each worship service
- **Monday, February 5, 4 PM**, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123
- **Sunday, February 11, 10 AM**, New Member Inquirer's class, Office Conference Room
- **Wednesday, February 14**, Ash Wednesday; Drive-through ashes and communion, 12-2 PM; worship service in the Chapel, 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 Amy McCutcheon at [amym@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

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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