

# FIRST NEWS



**January 12, 2024**

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
this Sunday, January 14, 2024  
Second Sunday after Epiphany**

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

**Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon: "Being Known by God"  
Scripture: [Psalm 139:1-6](#), [John 1:43-57](#)**

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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.

## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

I was "seeing stars" around the church on Sunday: After all, all of you are stars! Of course, also, you were picking up stars with words on them as part of worship on Sunday January 7. These "Star Words" were provided for your prayerful reflection in 2024. Many of you marveled at how the word you picked up felt so appropriate or helpful. We did run out of the stars, by the way; we will have more this coming week if you would like to pick one up. I was joking about auctioning off the one with JOY written on it. I put it back in the stack and someone else took it home! (Was this a fund-raising chance missed, do you think?)

By the way, the Session has called a Congregational Meeting for February 4, again at the close of each worship service. This meeting is our annual meeting, at which Session reports are submitted to the congregation. You will also elect the new Nominating Committee, along with an elder to replace Karen Mossman and a member for our Pastor Nominating Committee (pastor search) to replace Chris Mossman. As you may know, the Mossmans will be moving to Lexington KY in the near future, making it necessary to elect folks for these two leadership positions.

This seems to be a good time to remind you to please let the church know when someone is in the hospital or has a particular need. I as pastor, and Dave Hunt, as Coordinator of Pastor Care, cannot respond to needs if we do not have the information. This church and its fabulous deacons provide amazing care; we just need to know who needs that care. SO, please call the office! Let us know!

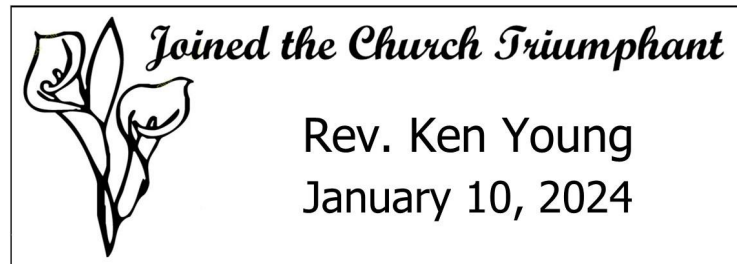
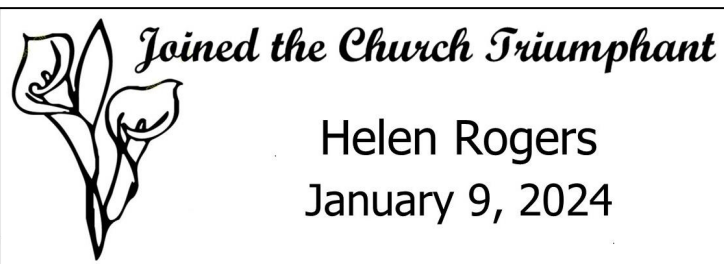
Blessings, all you stars. Care for yourselves. Reach out in love to the world God loves so dearly. Make a difference for Jesus!

Yours,  
Ginny Ellis



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, Kathie Mayhall, Ginger McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Vivian Ramirez, family and friends of Helen Rogers, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey, family and 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).

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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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## Come, Discover the Deep Joy Found in Honduras

There will be two interest meetings next Sunday, January 14, for anyone who would like to learn more about the June 2024 mission trip to Honduras: 10 AM in Fellowship Hall (after the 9 a.m. Connect Service) and 12 PM in the Chapel (after the 11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Service).

- Date of trip: June 9-16, 2024
- Where will the team stay?: At the medical clinic's onsite guesthouse.
- What will the team do?: Monday-Friday, we will visit five different communities served by the clinic and Dr. Cesar Dávila. We will perform health screenings with adults and conduct activities with the children. Translators will be by our side. We will also visit and worship with local churches.
- Any special skills required?: None. Other than a loving and open heart.



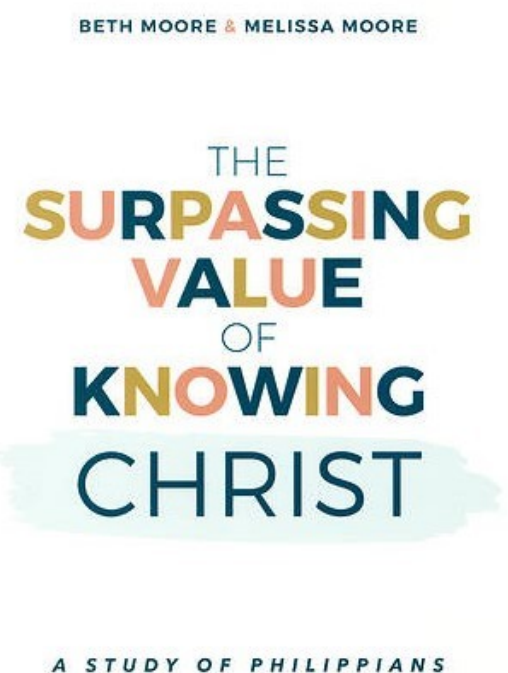
- **What is the cost?:** \$1,500 per person (including a \$100 deposit due in January) which covers all air and surface transportation, food, translators, cooks, and supplies.
- **Who should I contact for more info?:** Susan Schlecht: 727.735.5332 or schlecht21975@gmail.com or visit [www.ffim.org](http://www.ffim.org)



The Church Office will be closed on Monday, January 15 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**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."



Join us on Tuesday mornings,  
 January 16th - 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.



**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.

## SAVE THESE DATES!

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



- Sunday, January 21, at 1:00 PM going to the [Museum of Arts and Crafts Movement](#)
- 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).



Join us on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 5:30 – 7:00 PM for the first Wednesday Fellowship Dinner & Game Night of the New Year!

**When:** Wednesday, January 31, 2024 5:30 – 7:00PM

**Where:** Fellowship Hall at Frist Presbyterian Church

**What:** Potluck Dinner

Entrée Provided—Bring a Side or Dessert to Share

Get-to-Know-You Bingo

Kid's Choir

**RSVP:** To reserve your spot, click [HERE](#).

## St. Olaf Choir Concert at FPC-St. Pete 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

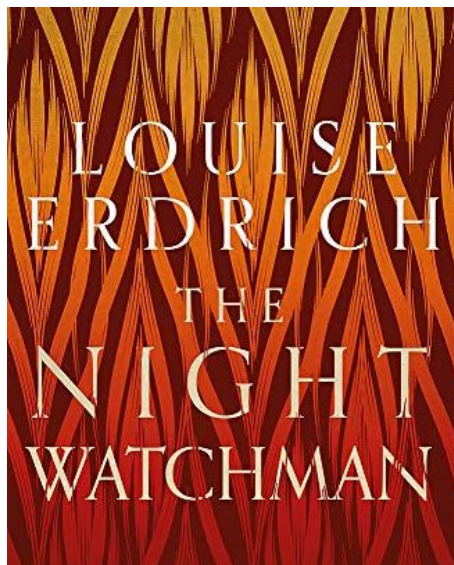




beauty of sound. The choir, conducted by Anton Armstrong, will perform at First Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg, Florida on Saturday, February 3 at 7:00 PM during its 2024 National Tour.

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!



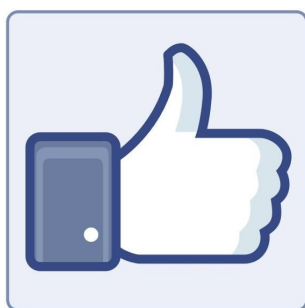
### Next Faith & Fiction February 5, 4 PM, Room N-123

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.

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 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/Visio Divina, via [Zoom](#)
  
- **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, 8:00 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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

### Upcoming Events:

- **Sunday, January 14**, 10 AM (Fellowship Hall) and 12 PM (Chapel), Interest meetings for Honduras mission trip
- **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
- **Sunday, January 21**, 1 PM, The Explorers of First Presbyterian outing to



the Museum of Arts & Crafts Movement

- **Wednesday, January 31, 5:30 PM, Fellowship Dinner (covered dish), 6:10 PM, Kids' Choir**
- **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**

## 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).

**First Presbyterian Church**  
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 822-2031 | [www.fpcstpete.com](http://www.fpcstpete.com)

**Church Office Hours: Mon-Thur. 9 AM - 5 PM; closed Fridays**

**[Contact Us](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTUBE](#)**

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



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