

# FIRST NEWS



January 13, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, January 15, 2023  
*Second Sunday after Epiphany / Installation of Officers*

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

Rev. Jeanie Barnes  
Sermon: "Letter Writing 101"  
Scripture: [Isaiah 49:1-7](#), [1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)

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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 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 the link with family and friends!

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

We have a **MASK-OPTIONAL** policy for worship services and on-campus activities.

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## Please Note

During our 11:00 AM Service this Sunday, the Chancel Choir will sing "He's Got the Whole World in His Hand," an African-American spiritual. Because spirituals originated in the enslaved community, no one ever received any royalties or acknowledgment for the composition of the songs. First Presbyterian Church has established a special fund to benefit a person or group in the local African-American community. When we have sufficient funds to make a gift as a result of this totally voluntary giving opportunity, the Worship Committee and Session will designate the recipient. Anyone wishing to donate to this fund can make a gift, noting it "for the African-American Spiritual Fund."

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Flowers on the chancel this Sunday are dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of our son Ken Oliver, from his family.



**Please remember in prayer:** Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, John Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Margo Hart, Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Susan Key, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke, Marsha Starkey

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; 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).

### From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

This Sunday, we will be installing the elders and deacons you elected in November. I have had the honor and delight of working with each of them, singly or in groups, to help them prepare for installation. We've talked about Presbyterian theology and structure, even about Presbyterian history. We've



spoken about how our own church operates and I've given a copy of (and talked with each of these officers about) the current Book of Order. Having been examined by the Session, they will be installed to their ministry this coming week. Also, we have the great privilege of ordaining Ginger McCoy as a first-time Deacon, with prayers and the traditional laying on of hands! As we welcome 9 new elders and deacons to the work of church leadership, I want to say a word of DEEP APPRECIATION for three elders and three deacons who will be stepping aside from church leadership for now.

DEACONS: Marilyn Mulcahy, Linda Santoro, and Rue Ann Porter have all served six consecutive years on our Board of Deacons. They have been consistent, dependable, and compassionate. MARILYN has served as moderator of the Deacons this past year. To her leadership, Marilyn brings an encouraging manner and has coordinated all the deacon ministries, even adding a Card Ministry after the loss of our beloved Lillian Harris who did it herself for many years. Thank you, Marilyn! LINDA has been co-leader of the deacons in the past and has continued to oversee the Prayer Shawl Ministry. She was pleased this year to be able resume the wonderful Seniors Luncheon. What a great event that was back in the fall! Thanks, Linda! RUE ANN is a wonderful deacon, staying in contact with her own flock of members and delivering flowers to the homebound on Sundays in her turn. We are so grateful for your ministry, Rue Ann. Another deacon has left us this year, as God called Larry Kirsch to his heavenly home. We give thanks for Larry and for his faithful work as a deacon for this church.

ELDERS: Three of our elders are rotating off the Session as new elders are installed. LEAH CUTTING has served First Presbyterian many years with skill, faithfulness, and love. She has served well as Treasurer of the church and chair of the Finance Committee. She is always ready to explain our financial resources, both the assets and the challenges. We have been ably and lovingly served in Leah's many years on the Session, and we will miss her. ROBIN LYLE is rotating after this recent six years on the Session. He has served as chair and as member of Personnel and Administration, has taught classes and seminars, and has served on Pastor Search Committees. Robin's family has been involved in the leadership of FPC, practically from the beginning of the church's life, and I think Robin said he has served 40 years as elder. Whoa! BETH HOUGHTON will step off the Session after a one-year term, but she will continue in leadership at the church, responding when needed. Her wisdom is greatly appreciated whenever there are issues to think through. Meanwhile Beth continues to serve as moderator of the Faith Journey Sunday adult class and as a leader in Foundation for International Mission. All of you, Leah, Robin, and Beth will be missed in the Session's meetings and will be called on for help as needed in days to come.

Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU to Marilyn, Linda and Rue Ann, Leah, Robin and Beth.

*Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone. I Corinthians 12:4-6*

ONE MORE THING: The Session has authorized a church-wide study for this year. We will use the book: *Sailboat Church – Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice*. I plan to use the chapters of the book as I develop preaching themes during Lent. I hope many of you will read and discuss this book, its ideas and insights, in February and March. At the end of the book, author Joan S. Gray offers a guide to Forty Days of Prayer. I invite you to consider entering into this study, and this time of prayer, with me and the church. Will you gather a small group to do this study in your home once each week, or in a room at the church? Will you join a group? I hope to begin this study after Ash Wednesday on February 22. I hope you will pray about this, as I will.

Blessings, Ginny Ellis



**Church Prayer Walk**  
**Monday, January 16**  
**1:30-2:30**



Would you like to join with others who love First Presbyterian Church for a Church Prayer Walk on **Monday, January 16 from 1:30 - 2:30 PM?**

We will meet in the Chapel (next to the Sanctuary) and then move all around the campus, praying in many of the spaces where people gather and where work is done. The purpose of the Prayer Walk is to pray with gratitude for all God's blessings, guidance, and direction for the new year opening ahead of us. We may share thoughts and ideas, memories and hopes as we make our way around the campus. Come pray with us, in person or in spirit!

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### **Lectio/Visio Divina**

Join in the Zoom devotion time at 10 a.m. on Mondays for the practice of Lectio/Visio Divina, a contemplative study of Scripture (and corresponding art) that will be used in worship the following Sunday. Click on the link [HERE](#) to join or enter meeting code 859 9201 7591 and password *lectio*.

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**Ladies, let's start the New Year with a favorite Beth Moore Bible Study!**

### **Daniel: Lives of Integrity – Words of Prophecy**

**Starts next Tuesday, January 17**

**9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center**

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is necessary! This 12-week study will be in 2 parts:

- Part 1 (6 weeks: January 17 – February 21st) we will study Daniel's life as he faced the kind of pressures and temptations Christians encounter today. Daniel models how to develop

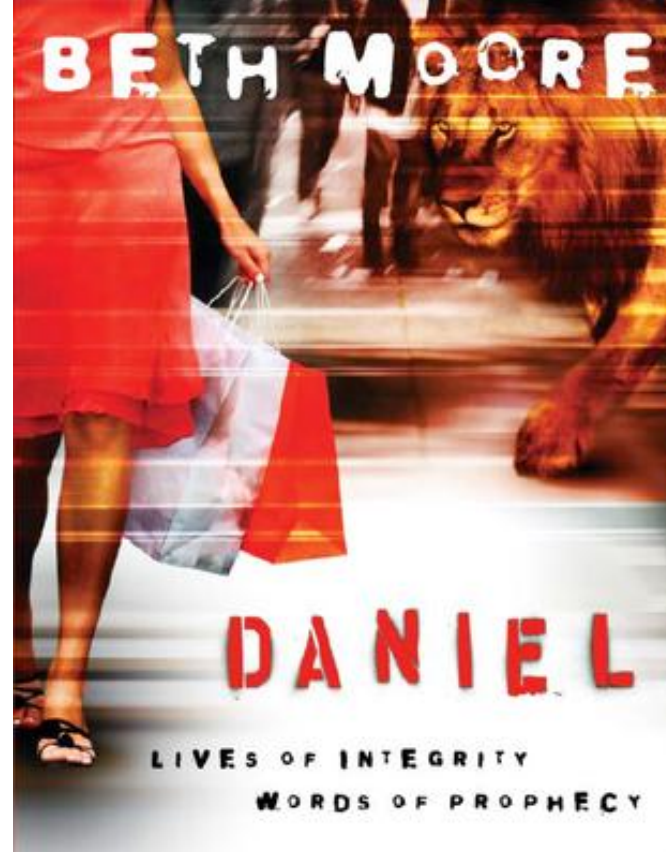


integrity in an enticing world. (Note: there will be a 2 week break between Part 1 & Part 2)

- Part 2 (6 weeks: March 14th – April 18th) we will explore the thrilling prophecies from the time of Daniel through the coming of Christ.

Workbooks will be available for \$20. Sorry, there is no childcare available at this time.

Questions? Contact April Hussung at (727) 420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.

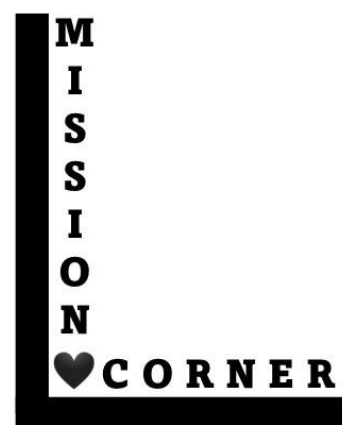


## The 36th Annual Festival of Praise Sunday, January 22, 2023 at 4:00 PM

Featuring: Jon Arterton, guest clinician, [One City Chorus](#), First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, Guest Singers from the Tampa Bay Area, Jack Rain, organ

One City Chorus and Jon Arterton are a local tour-de-force for social justice through singing. Jon will lead the Festival of Praise Chorus in a celebration of diversity and community. Offering will be taken for One City Chorus.

If you want a peek at last year's concert, you can view it [HERE](#).



### UPDATE: Our Upcoming Fifth Sunday Mission *Pancakes, Children's Books, and Diapers*

Here's the latest info from the Mission Committee on our Fifth Sunday Mission on January 29. Let us know you are planning to come by clicking [HERE](#) (so we'll know how many pancakes to make!).

Items needed from members and friends to be sorted and distributed:

1. Baby diapers, all sizes plus baby wipe'ems. Sharp-eyed shoppers say you can get good deals on these at Dollar General and WalMart.
2. Children's books ONLY. New or gently used books, grades Kindergarten thru 5th Grade.



What we will be doing after slurping down our delicious pancake breakfast?

1. For the children's books, we have 45 canvas backpacks to be creatively decorated with stickers and sharpies, then filled with a few books. PLUS, there will be bookmarks to be decorated with messages and



drawings.

2. The diapers and wipes will be sorted and placed in bags.

**Who do we need help from?** Children and their parents from our church and from our day school, St. Petersburg Primary. Other children from ages 10-100+.

**What non-profits will be receiving the diapers and wipes and the books and canvas backpacks?** Resurrection House, CASA, and COSA (Operation PAR's pre-school).

**What's our schedule on Sunday, January 29?**

**9:00 AM:** In Fellowship Hall, we'll sit down for a delicious pancake breakfast brought to us by the Christian Education/Fellowship Committee with help from the Meat Loaf Boyz. We'll also be entertained not only by the FPC Praise Band but also by a children's chorus from the day school.

**10:00 AM** or thereabouts: Children, parents, grandparents and otherwise will begin decorating the backpacks and filling them with books. We'll also be stuffing and sorting for distribution the diapers and wipes.

**11:00 AM:** We'll move to the Sanctuary for our worship service. Please Note: There will be only one service on January 29th.

If you have questions of the Mission Committee, please contact Moderator Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300 or sanaveritt1@gmail.com). Questions of the Christian Education/Fellowship Committee? Please contact Moderator Kyle Brinkman (727.455.6931 or browncongo@yahoo.com).

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## More updates from Our Giving Tree

- Thanks to the generosity of our members and friends, children in need at **Lakewood Elementary** have received gift cards and had their Christmas needs met.
- Diapers and pull-ups were distributed to **Happy Workers**.
- The **Free Clinic** needs volunteers, volunteers, and more volunteers. Here are some quick highlights the clinic shared with our FPC volunteers: 1) Total households served during the fiscal year's first quarter: 28,998. Total individuals served: 94,371. 2) For the quarter, of those visiting the clinic's Indoor Choice Pantry, 38 percent were new households. The pantry provided 4,740 packs of baby diapers and provided 7,369 individuals with feminine hygiene products. Also, 717 households received financial assistance for their water bills. This is but a fraction of what the Free Clinic does. If you're interested in volunteering, please go to [www.thespfc.org](http://www.thespfc.org).

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

The logo features the word "Stay" in a large, blue, cursive script font, with the word "CONNECTED" in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font directly below it. The background is a light blue gradient with a subtle, abstract pattern.

- 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!



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 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, 9 AM, Connect Worship Service, Youth Center
- Sundays, 10 AM, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Room S-202
- Sundays, 10 AM, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center
- Sundays, 11 AM, Sanctuary Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- Mondays, 10 AM, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#)
- Tuesdays, 7 PM, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd

and 4th Tuesdays of the month)

- **Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, Praise Band Rehearsal, Youth Center**
- **Thursdays, 6 PM, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite**
- **Thursdays, 7 PM, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite**
- **Fridays, 7:30 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:

- **Monday, January 16, 1:30 PM Church Prayer Walk (starts in Chapel)**
- **Monday, January 16, Church Office closed for MLK Day**
- **Tuesday, January 17, 9 AM, Ladies' Bible Study starts**
- **Sunday, January 22, 4 PM, Festival of Praise Concert**
- **Sunday, January 29, MissionSunday, 9 AM pancake breakfast and 10 AM mission project in Fellowship Hall, and 11 AM worship service in the Sanctuary**

## 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**

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



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