

FIRST NEWS



January 19, 2024

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, January 21, 2024
Third Sunday after Epiphany**

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

**Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "The Fishermen Follow"
Scripture: [Mark 1:14-20](#)**

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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Friends,

Last week many of us gathered to say good-bye to Rev. Ken Young, who had been such an integral part of the life of this church: he and his wonderful wife Dottie. Ken had preached here. He had done weddings and funerals, had taught classes and had made so many pastoral visits. He had been part of this church family for many years. Most of us did not know how sick he had become and how quickly we would lose him. It was a shock to hear the news that he had passed. Nonetheless, it was a blessing to be able to gather here in the Sanctuary on a Sunday afternoon, to surround Dottie and the Young family with love and prayers, to celebrate Ken's life.

At times like this, I am aware of how deeply our faith can comfort and reassure us. I am aware that with each loss we experience, the grief we feel about previous losses can echo in our hearts and minds. It is such a comfort to gather with the church to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, and the promise of new life for those who trust in him.

I know that most of us have experienced recent and significant losses. I like to remind you (and me!) to be kind to yourself in times of loss. Get plenty of sleep, eat well, go for walks in the sunshine. Find friends or family with whom you can talk about the person or the situation that has left you grieving. Share the stories. Laugh and cry. And go to the Bible to read the promises:

Matthew 28:20: *Remember I am with you always to the close of the age.*

John 14:2-3: *In my Father's house there are many rooms. If it were not so would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.*

Life is a gift God has given to us. To move from this life to the next, in the company of Jesus and all the saints, that is a promise and a blessing. I give thanks to God for the gifts we have been given so abundantly, including this one.

Blessings,
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 Pfeider, Richard Pfeider, 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.

SAVE THESE DATES!

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



- This Sunday, January 21, at 1:00 PM, going to the [Museum of Arts and Crafts Movement](#); tickets are \$25 at the door (\$23 for seniors)
- 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).

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.



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).



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 (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.

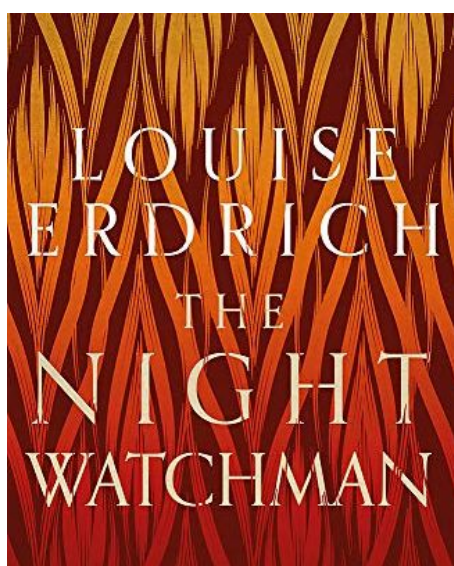
The St. Olaf Choir is internationally renowned for its unique combination of advanced choral singing and the presentation of challenging choral programming with a vast repertoire that includes sacred and secular choral standards, traditional hymns, new compositions, spirituals, and more. To view a

quick video about the choir, click the picture above!

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 4

First Presbyterian Church will hold its ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON FEBRUARY 4 at the close of each worship service. Reports from church ministries will be available; 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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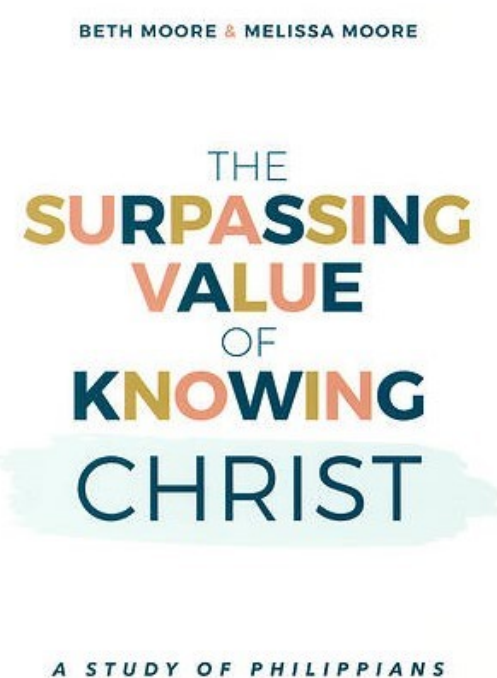
Next Faith & Fiction February 5, 4 PM, Room N-123

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.

Ladies, you are invited to a 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.



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).

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-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, 8:00 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:

- **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.

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.



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