

# FIRST NEWS



**January 5, 2024**

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
this Sunday, January 7, 2024  
Baptism of the Lord / Lord's Supper**

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

**Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon: "Considering the Stars We Follow"  
Scripture: [Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11](#), [Jeremiah 29:11-14](#)**

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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.



**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.

The flowers on the chancel this Sunday were given to the glory of God and in memory of Ken Oliver by Gene & Sherry Oliver.



If you would like to honor or memorialize a loved one with chancel flowers, please fill out a flower envelope, available in the church pew or Welcome Center. Enclose your donation of \$45 with the memo "chancel flowers" and drop it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. You can also donate online [HERE](#); just select "Flower Fund" on the drop-down menu and put your loved one's name in the Memo box.

## From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

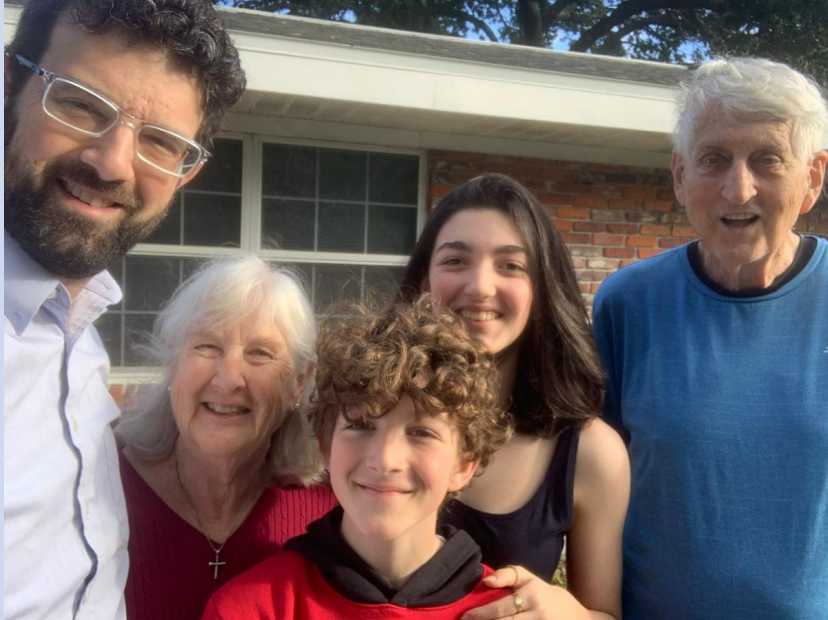
Dear Friends,

I am sure that like me you had a busy December: events to attend, tasks to do, thoughts to reflect on. It was a good time, leading to this promising new year.

Let me share a couple of pictures from my December: two from the church on Christmas Eve, two from my family time. As an interim pastor, I love both parts of my life: the ministry I have with you, as we share our faith and put it to work. There is true joy in seeing this church blossom in faith and in activities. I see such hope and such commitment to Jesus Christ here among you. Thank you for letting me be part of your work for this special time.



But also Harry Ellis and I had some time with family, so I share pictures of our Atlanta family when they came to visit: this is our son Luke and his daughter Rosie, his son Max, and our Connecticut family: our daughter Rachel, her husband Jason and their sons Davis and Carter. You sometimes show me pictures of your dearly loved people. God is so good to give us these connections. We are all so blessed!



Welcome to 2024, my partners in faith, to our ministry together and to this great life God has given us!

Blessings!  
Ginny Ellis



**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, 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, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey, family and friends of Denny Zuercher

**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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**Plan to join us this Sunday, January 7, 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.

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## Lectio/Visio Divina Resumes January 8 Start 2024 with new devotion!

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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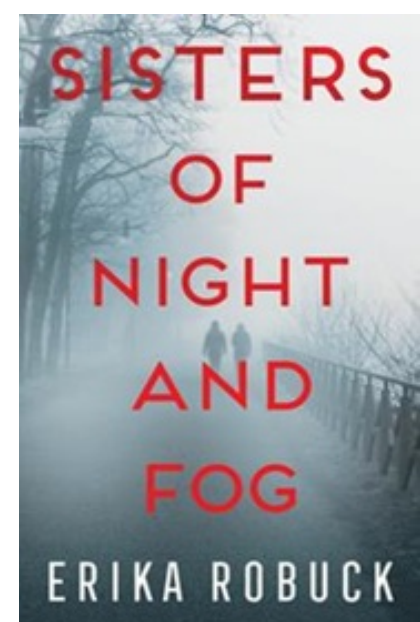
### Faith & Fiction - January 8

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!



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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.

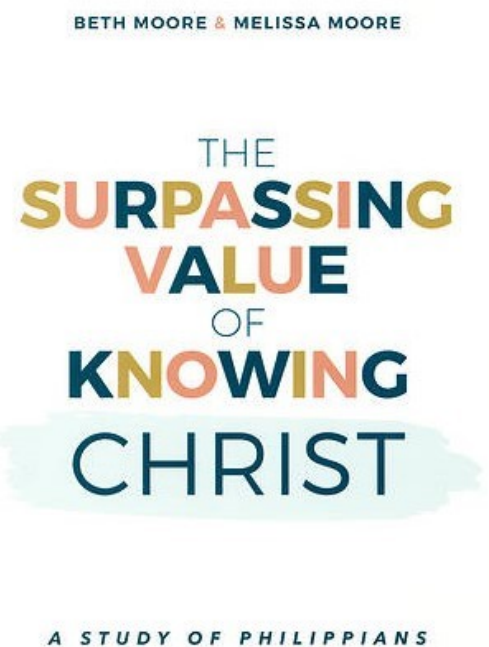
- **What will the team do?:** Monday-Friday, we will visit five different communities served by the clinic and Dr. Cesar Dávila. We will perform health screenings with adults and conduct activities with the children. Translators will be by our side. We will also visit and worship with local churches.
- **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).

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!

## Online Giving



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 (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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

### Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, January 7, 4 PM, Concert by solo organist [Bradley Welch](#)
- Monday, January 8, 2:30 PM, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123
- 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

## 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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