

# FIRST NEWS



January 6, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, January 8, 2023  
*Baptism of the Lord*

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis  
Sermon: "A Splash of Water"  
Scripture: [Psalm 29](#), [Matthew 3:13-17](#)

---

Click [HERE](#) to watch the 11 AM service online.

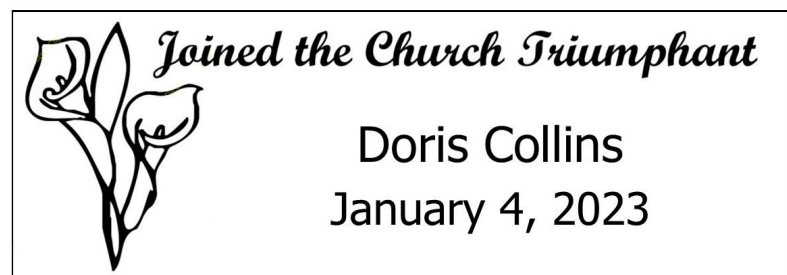
This link may also be found on the home page of the church's website ([www.fpcstpete.com](http://www.fpcstpete.com) - click the "Watch Here" button) as well as on the church's Facebook page. The service is also available for viewing on [our YouTube channel](#) throughout the week. Feel free to share 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.



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Ellen Carnahan, Bob Clark, 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



Doris Collins  
January 4, 2023

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,

I am writing for the First News that comes out on January 6, which is EPIPHANY! Some of the world calls it Kings' Day. Epiphany means "revealing." In the lectionary, we have a period of weeks between Christmas and Lent when we look at some of the scriptures that show how Jesus was "revealed" to be the Savior. Scriptures like the star over Bethlehem, the baptism of Jesus, the wedding at Cana where Jesus turned water into wine, Jesus first preaching in Nazareth. People were only beginning to see just who Jesus was.

How was Jesus "revealed" to you? Did you experience Christ as your Savior in a church when the music soared around you and lifted your heart to the spiritual realm? Was it out at sea or on top of a mountain when you saw the incredible power of the earth and its Creator? Was it the day a newborn child was placed in your arms? Was it when your life crashed through health issues or relationship loss or a job that didn't work out, and suddenly you knew you could

not face the future without the help of Jesus? However you came to see Jesus as your Savior, I remind you that Jesus will never let you down, that the power of God's revealing is seen in and for you daily. Thanks be to God!

So, how do you respond? Hopefully, you respond in two ways: First: by doubling down in prayer and Bible Study. Turn to the psalms and read them, listen for how they speak to your situation and your heart. Read one of the gospels straight through; make notes about your questions, pray as you read!

Second: find ways to be of use to others. Help the church by volunteering to drive the church van on Sundays or other days, or by assisting with our childcare needs: we could sure use some volunteers to help our paid Sunday morning nursery staff once a month or so. Try delivering Meals on Wheels; you might hear God calling you to that kind of service.

I pray that you find Jesus revealed more and more to you and in you, as you live each day. That's the joy of our faith!

Blessings!  
Ginny Ellis

---

## EMAIL AND TEXT MESSAGE SCAM REMINDER

Periodically FPC members and friends will call the Church Office to let us know they have gotten an email or text message that LOOKS like it is from a member of our staff, asking them to send a staff member something (money or gift cards). We have gotten multiple such messages this week. **PLEASE NOTE: THESE MESSAGES ARE A SCAM! PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND IN ANY WAY.** No matter what the wording on the message implies, our church and our staff will NEVER personally solicit money, gift cards, or bank transactions in this manner. Also, be sure to double-check the email address; often the "from" name will be correct, but not the actual sender's email address.

If you ever encounter any suspicious texts or emails, or if you have any questions about a message, please call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.

---



**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!

---

## 2023 PLEDGES

We have gratefully received pledges for the 2023 budget. If you have not been able to send in your pledge yet, please do so; humbly we invite your faithful support. You can also pledge on the church website - [HERE](#) - or ask us for a new pledge card. Together we will follow God's call on our *Road Ahead*. Thank you!

---

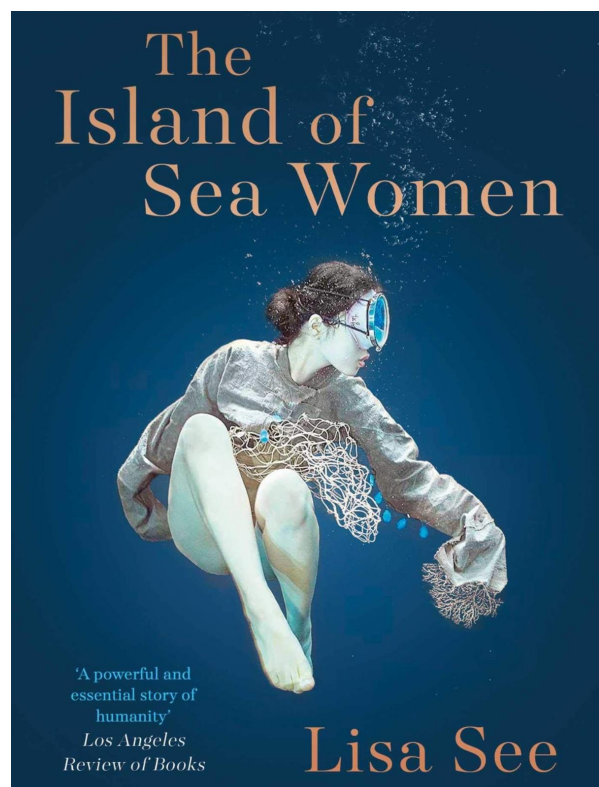
## Lectio/Visio Divina

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*.

---

**The Power Hour and Faith Journey Sunday school classes** will begin again this Sunday, January 8, at 10 AM (Power Hour in the Youth Center and Faith Journey in Room S-202).

---



## Faith & Fiction

Monday, Jan. 9 - Room N-123 - 7:00 p.m.

Our next meeting will be on January 9th; this means everyone has had an extra week for reading! Our January read is "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See. Historical fiction, it is the fascinating tale of the famous Korean women divers who were the breadwinners for their families while the husbands stayed home and cared for the babies. Linda Santoro will lead the discussion.

---

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

## Daniel: Lives of Integrity – Words of Prophecy

Starts Tuesday, January 17

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

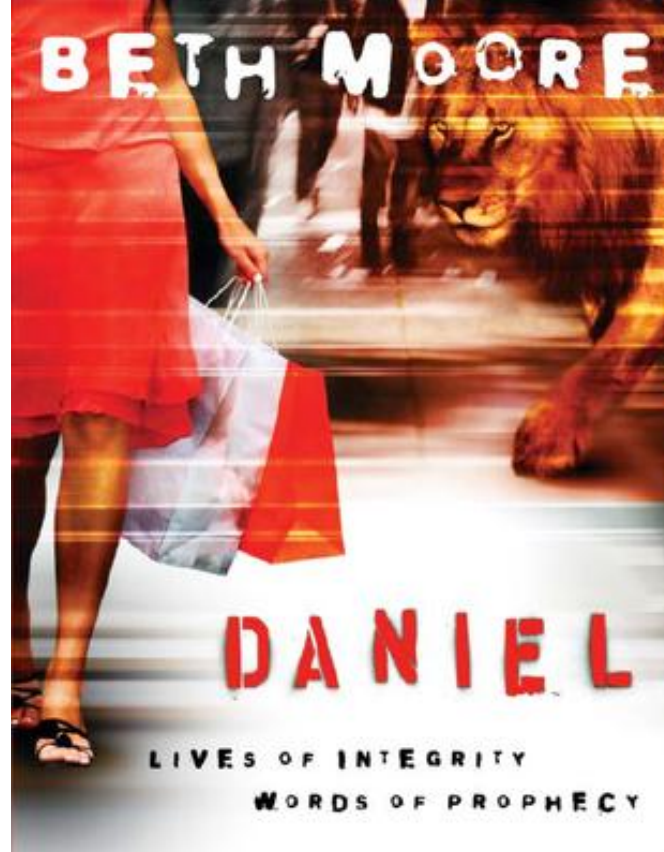
Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is necessary! This 12-week study will be in 2 parts:

- 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.



**M  
I  
S  
S  
I  
O  
N  
♥  
C  
O  
R  
N  
E  
R**

**Our Fifth Sunday MissionSunday  
will be on January 29  
*Pancakes, Syrup, Books, and Diapers***

Parents, Grandparents and Otherwise: get ready for our next Fifth Sunday MissionSunday! We'll have pancakes for breakfast and then books and diapers to collect, sort, and pack for distributing to selected non-profit agencies. And oh yes, worship will follow at 11 AM in the Sanctuary.

A pancake breakfast will be hosted at 9 AM in Fellowship Hall by the Christian Education/Fellowship Committee with help from the Meat Loaf Boyz. Entertainment by that world-famous group: The FPC Praise Band.



Following breakfast, members and friends of First Presbyterian are being asked by the Mission Committee to bring books, diapers, and diaper wipes to sort, pack, and distribute. St. Pete Primary children and their families are being invited to participate.

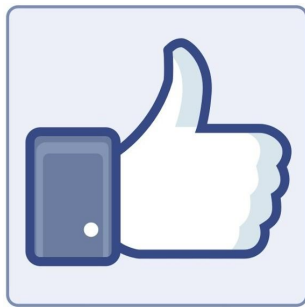
We will then move upstairs to the Sanctuary for our 11 AM Worship Service. Fun times! Stay tuned as more details emerge. Until then, Happy New Year! If you have questions of the Christian Education/Fellowship Committee, please contact Moderator Kyle Brinkman (727.455.6931). Questions of the Mission Committee? Please contact Moderator Sandi Averitt (727.424.9300).

**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!



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 9, 7 PM**, Faith & Fiction
- **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 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

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

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



First Presbyterian Church | 701 Beach Drive N.E., St. Petersburg, FL 33701-2618

[Unsubscribe amy@fpc-stpete.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [office@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:office@fpc-stpete.org) powered by



