

FIRST NEWS



March 10, 2023

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

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, March 12, 2023
Third Sunday in Lent

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

Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon Series: *Sailboat Church*
Sermon: "Masthead to Anchor"
Scripture: [Mark 6:7-13, 30-32, I Corinthians 12:12-27](#)

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 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.

Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 12

Don't forget to "Spring Forward" and set your clocks ahead one hour!



GUEST MUSICIAN THIS SUNDAY: Sarah Shellman, violin

Sarah Shellman is currently principal second violin with The Florida Orchestra; she joined the ensemble as a section violinist in 2002. She last appeared as a soloist on the TFO Masterworks series in March 2011, performing Thomas Ades' Violin Concerto *Concentric Paths*. She's also been featured on the Coffee series programs performing *Winter* and *Spring* from Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* and Bach's *Concerto for Two Violins in D minor* with Nancy Chang. She is an advocate for the performance of works by living composers as well as for the expansion of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives within the classical music profession. Shellman graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in music and the University of Houston in 2000 with a master's degree in music. While living in Houston, she played with the Houston Grand Opera, Houston Ballet, and as a freelance musician. In addition to her work on the modern violin, she has also performed with several early music ensembles as a violinist, violist, and mezzo-soprano.



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

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.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

I have enjoyed being out on sailboats a time or two, but I have not been a sailor. I thought you might enjoy this crazy story.

My family lived in Jacksonville, on the St. Johns River, a few "yards" away from the local YMCA. After my first year of college, I brought three college friends home with me from Atlanta: Julie, Carolyn, and Nancy. I wanted to show them all the adventures of my life in Jacksonville. We did lots of fun things that week, like sleep one night out on the dock. You know, fun things like that. One day we checked out one of the sailboats at the YMCA to go for a sail. They gave us a 10-minute course in sailing and away we went. It did not take long for us to be in big trouble, going nowhere but into the weeds alongside the riverbank. Big in my memory is the moment when our petite, Alabama farm-girl friend Julie, turned to tall, strong Tennessean and said, "Carolyn, you need to get out and pull." Without any debate, Carolyn was over the side into the water, dragging our sailboat to the nearest dock. I guess the Y may have sent someone to get the boat while we walked back on land to my house. It might have been Carolyn's idea to try sailing. Even that was a great adventure for 19-year-old college students.

Being a sailboat church will take some learning, some practice, some partnership. We will not get it right at the beginning. I am sure it would take more than a 10-minute crash course in sailboat churching. That's why we are reading the book, offering class discussions, working on the 40 days of prayer. In fact, we have arranged for Joan Gray to come meet with us for our church retreat at Cedarkirk at the end of April. It will be our opportunity to share our thoughts and questions with her, on the church guided and powered by the Holy Spirit and prayer. I hope you are enjoying the journey!

Blessings, Pastor Ginny

Lectio/Visio Divina on break

Our Monday morning Zoom devotional time will not meet Monday March 13. Consider joining us when we resume on March 20, when we will be studying the scripture slated for the last Sunday in Lent.

Can you believe the **FIRST ANNIVERSARY** of the **LITTLE FREE LIBRARY** at **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** is this week? My, how time flies! From the rave reviews we hear, we know it is a success. We know this from the constant turn of books, seeing members and neighbors looking through the collection and bringing bags of books, and, most of all, from the worn out spot of grass in front of the LFL.



Thanks to all who use the service and support our efforts. It has been a wonderful, quiet outreach into the community during a time we needed

something totally positive. More than 40 Bibles have passed through the LFL in the last year!

Please keep the LFL in your mind and hearts during this coming year. Be a part of our mission of outreach into the community. A special thanks to the loyal and capable Librarians who clean and keep it stocked with a variety of reading material (and bonuses).

Ronn Johnson, Steward



On Sunday, March 19, two new Stephen Ministers, Dave Hunt and Sherry McNeel, will be commissioned during the 11 AM Sanctuary service. These lay ministers will be providing care for people in and around our congregation who are going through some difficult times in their lives. Please show your support and appreciation for these dedicated people by your presence at the commissioning service and through your prayers.

All former Stephen Ministers are encouraged to come with current ones to surround the new Stephen Ministers during the installation portion of the worship service on March 19. If you have served in this or any other church in the past, you are also welcome to participate.

Midweek Family Fun: Italian Dinner and Game Night Wednesday March 22nd, 2023

The spaghetti and meatballs will start around 5:30, the board games and playtime will follow! Please [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP so we get the correct number of meatballs and noodles, and green-leafy "salady" stuff. There will also be a sign-up sheets available at both worship services on Sunday.



Meet Our Bunny - Nibbles!

Thanks to everyone who gave us name suggestions and those who participated in the voting process!

Using Your IRA to Fund Your Pledge

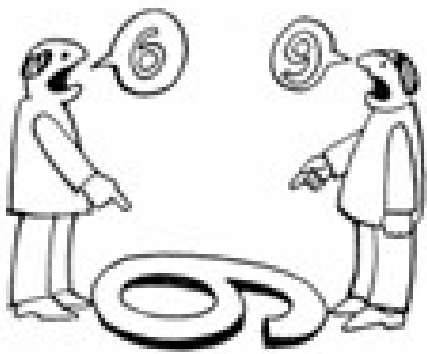
The IRS requires annual withdrawals from a traditional Individual Retirement Account for everyone 73 or older. These withdrawals are known as Required Minimum

Distributions or RMDs. Since IRAs are funded with pretax dollars, the government implemented RMDs to generate income tax from the IRA. Failure to meet the required amount could result in a penalty of 50% of the required amount!



One way to satisfy both the RMD and support the church financially is with a Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD. A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a qualified charity, such as FPC St Petersburg. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year if certain rules are met. The money is a direct transfer that never passes through the hands of the IRA holder. Instead, the IRA custodian can either send a check directly to the charity or the account owner, who then hands it over to the charity. This allows the donor to avoid paying taxes on the amount withdrawn and potentially stay in a lower income tax bracket. A QCD reduces your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) which may reduce your overall taxes. In most cases, a QCD is the MOST tax-efficient way to support a qualified charity, like FPC St. Petersburg.

For further information on this topic, consult your tax advisor or call the Church Office.



Workshop: "Moving Out of our Comfort Zone: Making Space for People with Differing Views"

Thursday, March 23, 2023,
6:00-9:00 PM

Do you ever find yourself thinking or saying, 'I can't believe you think that' or 'You're so wrong!?' This sociodrama workshop will focus on how we can become more comfortable with holding other's views with kindness and open-heartedness while still maintaining our own views without defensiveness or aggression.

Sociodrama is a group learning process that focuses on providing practice in solving problems of human relationships. It helps people clarify values and offers opportunities to explore new and more satisfying ways of interacting. This evening of reflection is being offered by First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg and is open to all.

TO REGISTER: [CLICK HERE](#)

WHERE: FPC - St. Petersburg (701 Beach Drive, NE, St, Petersburg FL), in the Youth Center

WHEN: Thursday, March 23, 6-9 PM

COST: Free! (a free will offering will be collected)

FACILITATOR: Antonina Garcia, LCSW, EdD, TEP, RDT/BCT

Nina is an internationally noted trainer and educator in sociodrama and has a private practice in New Jersey. She is co-author of *Sociodrama: Who's in Your Shoes?* 2nd edition with Patricia Sternberg and written many articles and chapters in books. She is on the faculty at New York University's Drama Therapy program. She has served as co-editor of the Journal of Group Psychotherapy and Psychodrama and was former chairperson of the American Board of Examiners in Psychodrama & Group Psychotherapy. She has received numerous awards and commendations from many professional organizations.

Get Ready for BEACH DRIVE FORUMS



Your Community Outreach Committee is planning some exciting events at First Presbyterian Church! Beach Drive Forums are a series of conversations for congregation and community on thought-provoking topics, a sort of "Chautauqua South." We hope this forum series will get people talking about First Presbyterian Church and its place in St. Petersburg.

The monthly (or so) conversations with intriguing guest speakers and subject matter are open to our members and the public and will take place on Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. on the church campus, location to be announced. Light supper repast will be available afterward for lingering and more discussion.

Here is the lineup so far, with more engaging speakers and topics in the works:

- **APRIL 26 - *A Tale of Two Cities: St. Petersburg and Tampa, Then and Now.*** Longtime friends and historians Ray Arsenault and Gary Mormino will take us on a "tour" of some of their favorite (or not so favorite) buildings and people, past and present.
- **MAY 17 - *Science, Faith, and Reality: The View from the Cosmos.*** Eckerd College Emeritus Professor of Physics Harry Ellis will explore the difficult relationship religion and science have had throughout history and the question: Are they really natural enemies?
- **JUNE (date TBA) - *Food Is Medicine.*** Dr. Kelli Cross of Complete Wellness Pediatrics has been caring for children for more than 24 years. She is passionate about helping people of all ages embrace the benefits of healthy eating and will share her wisdom on the topic.

Mark your calendars, tell your friends and neighbors, and stay tuned for more information! And send ideas you have for dynamic speakers to Ann Murray at aempuff@aol.com

-- **Community Outreach Committee:** Chair Ann Murray; members Vicki Fox, Sarah Helck, Gretchen Letterman, Lynne Mormino; staff Pastor Ginny Ellis and Parish Associate for Community Life, Jeanie Barnes

College Scholarships - Apply Soon!

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 2023 and Spring 2024 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.

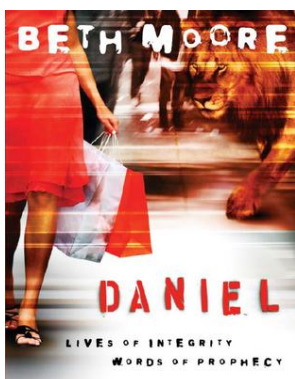
The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and the Session will approve the final awards. Successful applicants will be asked to provide proof of enrollment and acceptance by their educational institution. Funds for the scholarship will be sent directly to the institution so be sure to give the proper name and address to which the funds are to be sent. Questions? Please call the Church Office (727-822-2031).

Easter Eggstravaganza is coming...Please help us prepare!

We are excited to welcome the St. Pete Preschool children to join our Easter Egg Hunt this year, so we need **LOTS** of filled Easter eggs! Collection baskets for (preferably) filled eggs, OR any plastic eggs, candy, or small toys, will be in both the 9 AM and 11 AM worship spaces during the months of February and March.



The Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt itself will be held on **Palm Sunday, April 2, promptly at 10:30 AM** on the Front Lawn. If you would like to volunteer to be an expert Eggstravaganza egg hider or safety helper on the lawn that morning, please sign up at the Sanctuary Welcome Center or call the Church Office. Thanks!



Daniel: Lives of Integrity – Words of Prophecy

Tuesdays (through April 18)

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

Everyone is welcome – no previous Bible study experience is necessary! We will be exploring 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.

Handbell Choir Spectacular

Featuring: Ring Sarasota

Sunday, April 2, 2023 at 4 PM

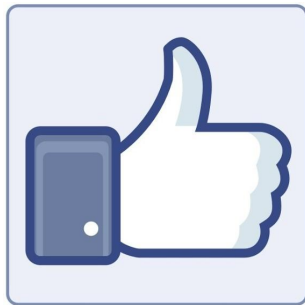


[Ring Sarasota](#), the area's premier handbell ensemble, is making music throughout the Gulf Coast. With a passion for playing, these spirited musicians captivate audiences age seven to seventy-seven with a unique combination of entertainment, education, and community engagement. Offering will be taken for First Presbyterian Church Concert Series.

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 March 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](#)
- **Sundays, 12:15 PM**, *Sailboat Church* study group (through April 2), Chapel

- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Divina, via [Zoom](#) (on break; resumes March 20)

- **Tuesdays, 9 AM** - Ladies' Beth Moore Bible Study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, Chapel (meets in-person the 2nd and 4th 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, 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)

Upcoming Events:

- **Thursday, March 23, 6 PM**, SocioDrama Workshop
- **Sunday, April 2, 10:30 AM** Easter Egg hunt!
- **Sunday, April 2, 4 PM**, Handbell Choir Concert
- **Sunday, April 9**, Easter Sunday

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

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 amyg@fpc-stpete.org](#)

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

Sent by office@fpc-stpete.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!