

FIRST NEWS



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

March 18, 2022

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our Worship Service
at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
this Sunday, March 20, 2022
Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday's Sermon: "Come for the Water"
Rev. Ginny Ellis

Scriptures: [Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-9](#), [Psalm 63:1-4](#), [John 4:7-15](#)

We welcome you to join us for in-person worship services!

**PLEASE NOTE: we have a MASK-OPTIONAL policy
for worship services and on-campus activities.**

Click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.
Click [HERE](#) for the worship service bulletin.

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.

If the 10:00 hour on Sundays does not fit your schedule, the service is available
for viewing on our YouTube channel throughout the week. Feel free to share

the link with family and friends!

Praise Band Preview - A Few Favorite Things

This week, your FPC Praise Band is excited to perform two of our most popular tunes. First up is *Holy Water*, a tune we consider a "fan favorite" due to all the positive feedback we receive when we play it. Our second tune, *All to You*, is definitely a "band favorite" because we have so much fun playing it. :) Click the links below to hear the tunes & we'll see you on Sunday!

[Holy Water](#)
[All to You](#)



Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, Carol Daniel, Peter Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Lillian Harris, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Jean Kohler, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Henry Shaw, Judy Smith, Jane Snoke

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; 1st LT Mallory Wasik, USMC; 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 First Friends,

I did not, in fact, put on my bathing suit in Connecticut, though I had packed it. I had a fine trip to see my daughter's family (two grandsons, snow, deer, good food, etc.) and got back to Florida safely. It is good to be with your family! And it is also good to be back home!

Meanwhile my heart is aching, like yours probably is, as I see and hear the continuing news from Ukraine. If you want to send support in a constructive way, you can give through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). The theme

of PDA is: *Out of Chaos: Hope*. PDA is ready to send aid through partners in the region, and they say what we know: the needs for the response will be great. For more information about their response, [CLICK HERE](#).

God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — GIVE. ACT. PRAY. Some of you have found ways to ACT by assisting with the Ukrainian church here in St. Petersburg. I know you are all PRAYing about this incredible need. If you also want to GIVE, you can give by check, which should be made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and mailed to P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700. Please put *DR000156* in the memo line. If you would like to give by credit card, you can call 1-800-872-3283 or use their website: pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000156/#.

See you at worship!

Lectio Devina - Monday Mornings

We would love for you to join us on Monday mornings via Zoom at 10 AM for Lectio Devina, when we reflect on scriptures that will be used in the coming Sunday's worship service. To join, just click the link: [HERE](#).

Wednesday Night Book Study

Join us via Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for a book study based on *The Book of Forgiving* by Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu. The book explores "the four-fold path for healing ourselves and our world." Click [HERE](#) to join.

7 Mission Items for 7 Sundays of Lent

Every Sunday in Lent, we will be collecting items for our community during the season of Lent. These items will go to places like the St. Pete Free Clinic, CASA, and Lakewood Elementary School. Please bring the specified item only on the specified date below. Thank you for the many ways you continue to support our community!

- March 20 - Diapers and/or baby wipes
- March 27 - Toothbrush and toothpaste
- April 3 - Feminine hygiene products
- April 10 - Shampoo and Conditioner (for men and women)
- April 17 - Bath towels and/or wash cloths

The 35th Annual Festival of Praise: "Messiah" Part the Second and Part the Third

This Sunday, March 20, 2022
at 4 PM

Featuring: Nancy Callahan, guest clinician, [Tampa Oratorio Singers](#), First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, Guest Singers from the Tampa Bay Area, Festival of Praise Orchestra, and Jack Rain, organ



Enjoy one of the most well-known and beloved works of all time: Handel's *Messiah*. Under the baton of guest clinician Nancy Callahan, the Tampa Oratorio Singers, First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, and singers from across the Tampa Bay area will join with a full orchestra to perform this exciting work. Offering will be taken for Tampa Oratorio Singers.

**Mark your calendars and join us next Sunday
during worship for
Stephen Ministry Sunday!**



Easter Lilies

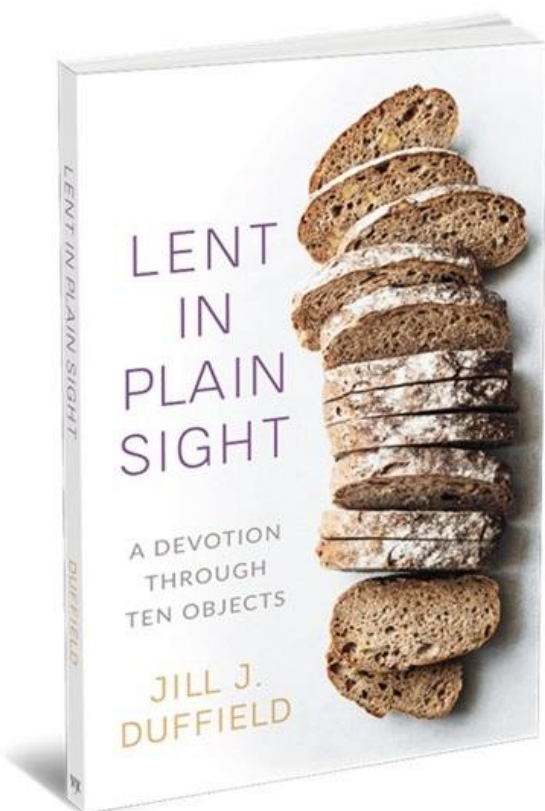
Share Easter's beauty by sponsoring a lily to be used as part of our Easter worship service. These traditional symbols of Easter can be given in memory of a loved one or to honor friends and family (\$20 each). To order, contact Amy in the Church Office (727-822-2031 or AmyM@fpc-stpete.org). You may pick up your lily after the 10 AM Easter Sunday service.

New Power Hour Sunday School Session beginning March 27 Curriculum: *Animate*

Come to the new Power Hour Sunday school class as we animate or "give life to" our faith & community, the Bible, and our core faith practices. We will hear perspectives from some of the best contemporary voices with this DVD-based program. There will be lively, relevant conversation starters that will spur on great conversations as we grow in our faith. For more info, visit the website: www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286832/Animate. Set your alarm and join us every Sunday @ 8:30 AM in the Youth Center. Coffee and fellowship begins at 8:30 AM; class begins at 9 AM You won't want to miss it! Any questions, call Karen Mossman at 727-400-5079.

JOIN US FOR A SIX-WEEK LENTEN STUDY SERIES BASED ON

Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion through Ten Objects, by Jill J. Duffield



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Wednesday Lenten
Lunch Study
in the Youth Center

Wednesdays at Noon
through April 13th

Led by Rev. Megan McMillan and Dave Aumack

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. The book, *Lent in Plain Sight*, draws our attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem.

We will use the season of Lent to facilitate conversation and connection to each other and the meaning of this time in the church year. The goal of this lunch and fellowship time will be to focus on spiritual lessons and recognize how the seemingly ordinary can reveal the extraordinary presence of God in our lives. Join us for soup and salad in the Youth Center at noon on Wednesdays during Lent. Purchase of or reading the book is not necessary to participate.

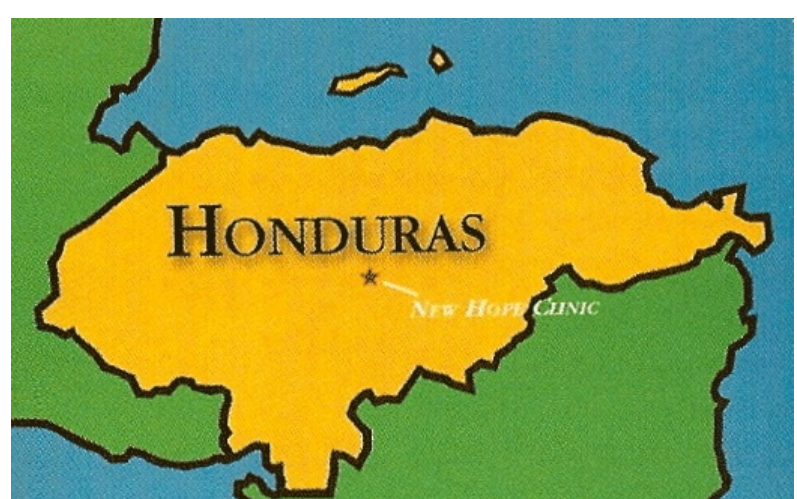
Lakewood Elementary School Initiative

Lakewood Elementary School has begun an initiative that, if successful, will result in having 100 books read to every kindergartener at Lakewood this school year. To do this, they need volunteers to read to one child at a time. If you have an hour to spare and would enjoy reading to a child (actually 3 children in an hour works – twenty minutes per child), please contact Missy Olsen (olsenme@pcsb.org) or call 727-893-2196 and ask for Missy. You can discuss schedules with her.

You will need to fill out a volunteer form that will include your driver's license number and your social security number. You do NOT need to be fingerprinted but the school will do a background check on you since we sit alone with each child.

For further information, you may contact Missy (contact information is above), or feel free to contact Mary-Linda Armacost (727-465-8108, mlsma@cs.com).

**Update from Dr. Davila,
New Hope Clinic, Honduras
March 7, 2022**



Greetings and Blessings,

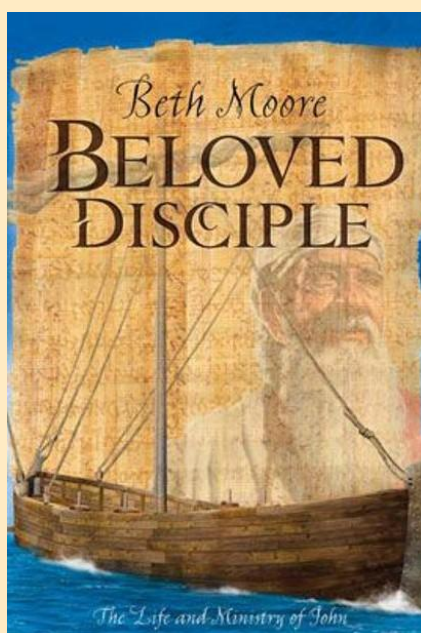
This week the government reports 413,699 COVID infections and 10,785 deaths as a result of contracting COVID. Infections and deaths continue daily although hospitalizations and COVID intensive care have diminished.

At the clinic we continue to diagnose and treat COVID patients since there is a high percentage of the population that don't use a mask and the means of prevention are minimal; the serious cases have gone down. I thank the Lord first and then for the vaccination campaigns that are in Honduras almost obligatory.

In the clinic all the staff have contacted COVID. Thanks to the Lord I am the only one who has not yet been infected. I believe that is because I always try to employ biosecurity means, I avoid compromising social situations, I double mask and I have had the two shots and a booster. The Lord has been good to me and to my family.

The Secretary of Health has finally given us the health certificate valid until Dec. 2027.

Many people in the communities ask me with great joy and hope about the missionaries and the health fairs but they understand the situation and that their absence is due to the pandemic. The people are praying for you all and for the daily benefit the clinic brings them with its many attentions and services.



**Join us on Tuesday mornings
through April 26, 2022
9:15 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center
for a Beth Moore Bible Study!**

**“Beloved Disciple:
The Life and Ministry of John”**

Join us for an 11-week study of the life of John the apostle and his relationship with the One who loved him. Beth Moore says, “John was free to love because he was so utterly convinced that he was loved. How differently would each follower live if we characterized ourselves above all else as the beloved disciple of Jesus Christ? This is the goal of our journey.”

Workbooks will be available for \$20. No previous Bible study experience is needed. Bring a friend! Sorry, at this time there is no childcare available. Currently, masks are optional. We will keep you updated on

this. Thank you for your understanding! Questions? Contact April Hussung at 727-420-1758 or stapler39@aol.com.



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!

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!



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.

- Sundays, 8:30 AM, Faith Journey Sunday School Class, Chapel
- Sundays, 9 AM, Power Hour Sunday School Class, Youth Center.

- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#)
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Lectio Devina, [via Zoom](#)
- **Tuesdays, 9:15 AM**, Ladies' Beth Moore Bible Study, Youth Center
- **Tuesdays, 1 PM**, Praise Band Rehearsal, Sanctuary
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting virtually every other week. Next in-person meeting is **March 22**, in the Chapel. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com)
- **Wednesdays, 12 PM**, Lenten Lunch Study, Youth Center
- **Wednesdays, 7 PM**, Wednesday Night Live, [via Zoom](#); book study: *The Book of Forgiving*
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, Room N-123. Please contact Ken Young at 207-841-8562 for more information.
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)
- **Sunday, March 20, 4 PM**, *The 35th Annual Festival of Praise: "Messiah" Part the Second and Part the Third*, Sanctuary
- **Monday, March 28, 7 PM**, stated session meeting

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.

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

