

# FIRST NEWS



March 31, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**  
this Sunday, April 2, 2023  
**Palm Sunday**

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

Rev. Jeanie Barnes  
Sermon: "An Outbreak of Holy Questions,  
Contradictions, and Extremes"  
Scripture: [Matthew 21:1-11](#)



**COMMUNION SUNDAY:** We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this Sunday during our worship service. 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.

**Palm Sunday at FPC**

## Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30 AM

We have over 1,000 filled Easter eggs ready for your children, grandchildren, and neighbors to come hunt on Palm Sunday at 10:30 AM! Spread the good news of God's abundant love (and thank you for all your generosity!).



Also we will have a big basket of MISSION EGGS, filled and marked with FPC Easter blessings for YOU to pick up after church to give to a homeless person, a random person you see, a shut-in, a neighbor or friend! Make a connection however the Spirit inspires you! You can use it to invite someone to church on EASTER morning for either the Connect Service at 9 AM or the Sanctuary Service at 11 AM!



## Palm Processional at 11 AM

Following the "EGGstravaganza" at 10:30, all children are invited to stay for the 11 AM Sanctuary worship service and join in our Palm Sunday Parade, where the kids will process into the Sanctuary waving palms.

During that service, all children are invited to join a group of St. Pete Primary School children to sing two Easter songs. Afterwards, the children will go to the Fellowship Hall (or Room 203 for babies and young toddlers) for a Palm Sunday story, crafts, and snacks while parents attend the worship service. We hope to see you Sunday!

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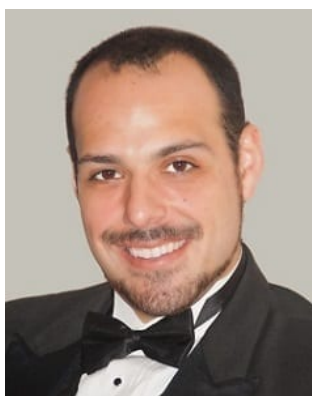
Click [HERE](#) to watch the 11 AM service online.

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.

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### Guest Musician This Sunday, 11 AM:

Chris Romeo, Tenor

To learn more about Chris Romeo, check out a short bio [HERE](#).

Please remember in prayer: Millie Bradley, 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, 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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

### From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

First Friends,

We've been sailing these last few weeks, feeling the way our united prayer can deepen church life, even as the wind and breath of God's Spirit can fill and direct a church. It has been a joy to preach from *Sailboat Church* in these last weeks. We've told some stories about sailing, we've looked at sails and parts of sailboats, and thought about how a church might understand itself to wait upon the power of God's Spirit to direct and empower our ministry instead of trying to figure it all out ourselves. That takes prayer, and conversation, and hope. I am looking forward to *Sailboat Church* author Joan Gray being here with us the weekend of April 28-30, to share with us more about her metaphor of the church: sailing instead of rowing.

Meanwhile: Holy Week begins this Sunday! Plan to enjoy the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday morning, April 2, the procession of palms at each service that day, Maundy Thursday's covered dish dinner and communion, and time for private prayer in the Sanctuary from 12 to 3 on Good Friday. It is time for us to prepare to go to the tomb where our Lord was laid. May the coming week be holy for each of us, indeed.

Blessings to each of you, my dear friends,  
Ginny Ellis

*"Martha Rudy Wallace Day" was observed at Eckerd College on March 2nd. Our Marty was driven around the college on a golf cart and seemed to be having a marvelous time! Marty, you have made a difference at Eckerd College and in many parts of St. Petersburg. Your faith, commitment and optimism are contagious! We*

give thanks for you!



## Handbell Choir Spectacular Featuring: Ring Sarasota This Sunday, April 2, 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.

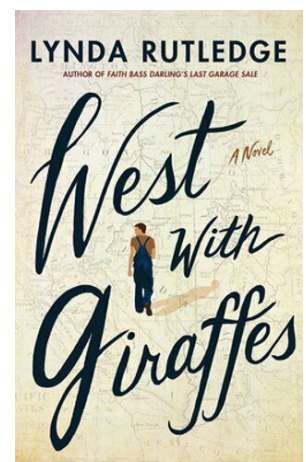


## Lectio/Visio Divina

Join us in a 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*.

## Faith & Fiction Monday, April 3, 6:30 PM

Our final book for Spring of 2023 is *West with Giraffes* by Linda Rutledge. We will meet to discuss this interesting tale of the transport of two giraffes in a truck across the country to the San Diego Zoo in 1938, on April 3rd, Room N-123 at 6:30 p.m. Lyn Greene will be our discussion leader for this book.



If you would like to be a part of selecting the books for next season (starting in October 2023), be sure to join us at this next meeting! We will review nominated books, and then have our discussion. All are welcome!



## Maundy Thursday

## Maundy Thursday April 6 at 6:00 PM

We will have a Covered Dish Dinner with Communion around tables in the Fellowship Hall; please RSVP by clicking [HERE](#) and plan to bring a dish to share for the meal. We will be ending the service out in the Memorial Garden with prayer and a hymn.

## Good Friday April 7, 12 - 3 PM

The Sanctuary will be open for private meditation from 12:00 to 3:00 PM.



We need 3 teams of people to host in the Sanctuary for an hour at a time. Please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031 or [office@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:office@fpc-stpete.org)) if you would like to volunteer.

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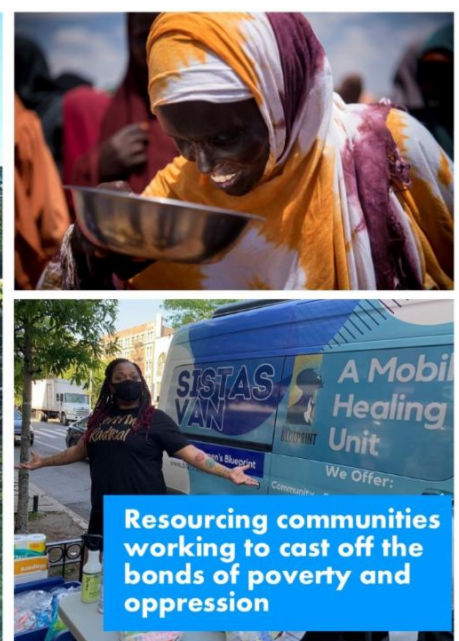
### Easter Lilies

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 (\$25 each). To order, contact Amy in the Church Office (727-822-2031 or [amym@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org)). You may pick up your lily after the 11 AM Easter Sunday Sanctuary service.

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### One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.



Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promotes development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

We will have informational brochures and giving envelopes available in both worship services on **April 2 and 9** or you can give online anytime [HERE](#).

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### Register Now for FPC's Annual Retreat at Cedarkirk April 29-30, 2023

This year, our guest speaker will be Joan Gray, author of *Sailboat Church*, our Lenten study. Joan will be giving two presentations on Saturday, as well as leading worship Sunday morning.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

ISAIAH 43:19

## SAILBOAT CHURCH

with author Joan S Gray

APRIL 29 - 30, 2023

CEDARKIRK CAMP AND CONFERENCE CENTER  
A PLACE APART TO BUILD UP THE BODY OF CHRIST IN LOVE.

**REGISTER TODAY!**

You can come for Saturday only or stay overnight; meal options are included. This will be a great weekend of fun and fellowship, food and friends, and a time to gather, learn, and grow together, all while enjoying the natural beauty of [Cedarkirk](#).

For the complete weekend schedule, pricing, and registration information, please [CLICK HERE](#).

Registrations are due by April 9, so sign up today!

Have questions? Please call Kathy Bardin (727-418-4577).

### Usher Coordinator Needed for 11 AM Sunday Services

If you would like to serve as the Usher Coordinator for the 11:00 worship service, please contact Al May at [ATM4983@gmail.com](mailto:ATM4983@gmail.com) or at 727-867-8285. We have 4 usher teams that serve every 4 months. We could use some additional ushers to fill some openings on several teams. The ushers hand out the bulletins, greet our members and guests, and take up the collection. This is a great way to serve our Church and get to know our members!

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### Our Next Mission Sunday - April 23 *For the New Hope Clinic in Honduras*

Thank you, thank you, thank you that our Mission Sundays have been such overwhelming successes! Our members and friends have donated many, many items as well as their time, effort and money.

Our next effort will be sorting and sending health kits to the Honduras Clinic when a group of 15 from FPC and other churches will be traveling there in June. To see what donations are needed and see the schedule of what we'll be doing on our April 23rd, click the button below!

**MISSION SUNDAY - APRIL 23**



## Save The Date: April 23/April 24

We will have an FPC Concert Series Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, April 23 at 12:15 PM in the Choir Room and another on Monday, April 24 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Before the town hall meeting, you can help us by completing a 3-minute survey that will be used to collect data to help us move forward with Concert Series Planning. If you would like to participate, [CLICK HERE](#).

## 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 about 6-8 p.m. (presentation from 6-7, followed by a time for Q & A and refreshments) in the Youth Center.

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](mailto: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

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## Summer at Cedarkirk

Your camp and conference center is offering more than 40 residential camp programs for campers who have completed 1st-12th grades, adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and families. Our summer theme *What's in a Name?* will focus on discovering who we are and how God equips us to care for others.



Register for a summer program at Cedarkirk and discover how a summer can impact a lifetime! For their calendar of events, curriculum, volunteer opportunities, and more, check out their website: [www.cedarkirk.org](http://www.cedarkirk.org).

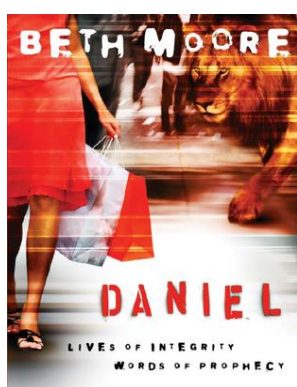
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## College Scholarships - Apply Soon!

We are now accepting applications for college scholarships! For further details about these scholarships (including downloadable application forms and deadlines), [CLICK HERE](#).

The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and the Session will approve the final awards. Questions? Please call the Church Office (727-822-2031).

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### **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](mailto:stapler39@aol.com).

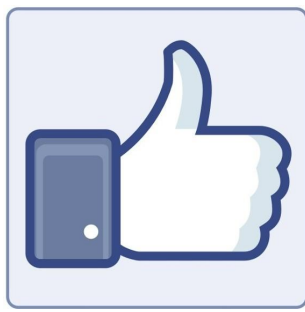
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**All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible.**



- 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!
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## 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 April 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, 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](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))

### Upcoming Events:

- Sunday, April 2, Palm Sunday (10:30 AM Easter Egg hunt!)
- Sunday, April 2, 4 PM, Handbell Choir Concert
- Monday, April 3, 6:30 PM, Faith & Fiction
- Thursday, April 6, Maundy Thursday; dinner at 6 PM, followed by a worship service, Fellowship Hall
- Friday, April 7, 12 - 3 PM, Good Friday; Sanctuary will be open for a time for private meditation
- Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunday!
- Sunday, April 23 and Monday, April 24, FPC Concert Series Town Hall Meetings
- Wednesday, April 26, 6 PM, our first Beach Forum: *A Tale of Two Cities: St. Petersburg and Tampa, Then and Now.*

## 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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