

FIRST NEWS



November 17, 2023

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

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
this Sunday, November 19, 2023
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

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

**Rev. Ginny Ellis
Sermon: "Having So Much"
Scripture: [Matthew 25:14-23](#), [25-29](#)**

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 - 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 9 AM worship service bulletin.

From the Desk of Pastor Ginny

Dear Friends,

Give thanks to God and bless God's holy name!

This week we Americans will be saying Thanks.

I heard once that "if the only prayer you ever say is *Thank You*, it is enough." That would be true because, in saying *thank you*, we are acknowledging a source of good beyond ourselves: Thank you to father or mother, to the neighbor who helped you build a new shed, the doctor who gave you a new chance at life, the friend who believes in you when you hardly believe in yourself. Thank you!

Most of all: Thank You to God!

Psalm 100 says: *Give thanks to God, Bless God's name. For the Lord is good, God's steadfast love endures forever, and God's faithfulness to all generations.*

Thank you to this good and faithful and steadfast God, who has given us so much, and stands by us, no matter what. As you travel to be with family, or sit at a table to enjoy delicious turkey, dressing, and pumpkin pie, **give thanks!** Know that you are loved!

See you in church! And 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, Agnes Ingles, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Taffey Lichter, Dave & Pam Malone, Ginger McCoy, Nancy McLaughlin, family and friends of Edson Murray, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Vivian Ramirez, Henry Shaw, Jane Snoke, JB Starkey, 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.



It's time to give thanks for all of our blessings, especially for our church friends and staff. Join us for a Thanksgiving potluck dinner under the stars tomorrow, Saturday, November

18, at 6:00 PM at the Mossmans' home in Tierra Verde. Turkey and mashed potatoes will be provided. Please bring a side, salad, appetizer or dessert. Please RSVP to Karen (727-400-5079 or karenamosman@gmail.com) and let her know what you're bringing. Come and give thanks!



The Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on **Thursday, November 23** and **Friday, November 24**.

There will be no meetings or rehearsals on campus those days.

Put on your Santa hat and walking shoes and join us as we walk along the Christmas themed decorated church bus in the **downtown Santa parade on Saturday, November 25 at 6 PM**.

There are a few seats available in the bus, but the windows are covered (you can look out the front window). The golf cart shuttle will run between the church parking lot and the parade route between 4 and 5 PM on November 25. Walkers may also meet at the parade lineup. Please RSVP to the Church Office no later than 11/22.



Lectio/Visio Divina on Recess

Our Monday morning zoom devotion time is taking a short break. We'll resume Monday Nov. 27. Join us for a great hour of prayer, Bible reading and discussion about the following Sunday's scripture passages.



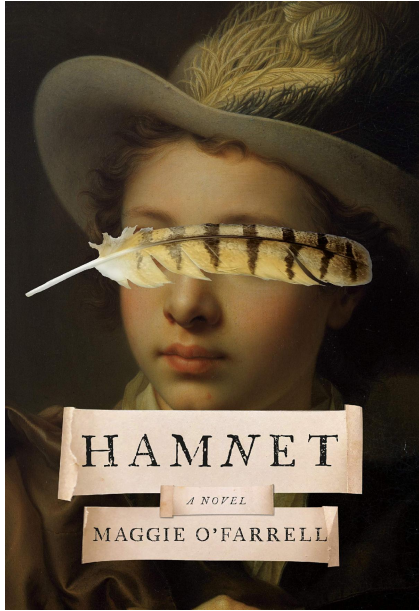
**Blue Christmas
Comfort Service
Thursday, Nov. 30,
5 PM**

We plan to hold a Blue Christmas Comfort Service this year, at 5:00 in the afternoon on Thursday, November 30. The service is meant to provide comfort, especially for those feeling sadness this holiday season.

Perhaps a loved one is missing this year, due to death, divorce, travel, or even service overseas. Perhaps the holidays are always hard for you,

because of painful situations in your past. We are planning this to be a quiet service in the Sanctuary, with candles and music. You are welcome to bring pictures of those you will especially miss this year, or to lift up a word or phrase for our prayers together.

Jesus said: *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you.* In this Blue Christmas Comfort service, we will acknowledge our sorrows and claim the comfort and peace we find in the Prince of Peace. Family and friends are welcome to attend this service.



Faith & Fiction

Monday, December 4, at 4 PM in Room N-123

Hamnet, by Maggie O'Farrell

Discussion Leader: Linda Santoro

Open the cover and be transported back to England, 1580's, where the Black Plague ravishes the countryside, and a struggling young playwright must deal with life's difficulties.

Christmas Greenery Donations

Christmas is just around the corner, and soon it is time to decorate the church!

- You are invited to make a donation in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend to **help purchase poinsettias and greenery**. Be sure to designate the individual to be honored or memorialized. We will compile and list the names of all those honored or remembered in the Christmas Eve bulletin.
- If anyone would like to help **decorate the Sanctuary**, come join the Sanctuary Guild on Tuesday, December 5th, starting at 9:30 AM, or contact Chris Agee (727-488-5217 cfagee@gmail.com) for more info!



Expect the Unexpected This Christmas

Join the Power Hour Sunday School class in December in the Youth Center as we look at often overlooked characters in the Nativity story. This 4-week DVD program will take us through the themes of hope,

joy, and peace through the stories of Elizabeth, Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each character teaching us something about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas. Questions? Email Karen at karenamossmann@gmail.com.

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!



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 November 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 Divina, via [Zoom](#)
- **Tuesdays, 9 AM**, Ladies' 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 (no practice on Nov. 22)
- **Thursdays, 6 PM**, Bell Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite (no practice on Nov. 23)
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Choir Suite (no practice on Nov. 23)
- **Fridays, 8:00 AM**, Men's Bible Study, Room N-123 (not meeting Nov. 24)
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood (pjfwon@gmail.com)

Upcoming Events:

- **Saturday, November 18**, 6 PM, Friendsgiving at the Mossmans'
- **Thursday, November 23** and **Friday, November 24**, Church Office closed for Thanksgiving
- **Saturday, November 25**, FPC participates in the downtown St. Pete Santa Parade
- **Thursday, November 30**, 5 PM, Blue Christmas Comfort Service
- **Tuesday, December 5**, decorating worship spaces for Christmas, starting at 9:30 AM

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
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(727) 822-2031 | 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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