

# FIRST NEWS



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

**November 19, 2021**

## **WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY**

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary  
for an In-Person or Online Worship Service  
this Sunday, November 21  
Christ the King Sunday

Rev. Megan H. McMillan  
Sermon: "The Kin-dom of God"  
Scriptures: [Psalm 93](#), [Revelation 1:4b-8](#), [John 18:33-37](#)

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If you are unable to worship with us in person,  
you can click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

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## **Praise Band Preview - We're Back!**

The FPC Praise Band had a lot of fun performing for Run Fest last Sunday, but we missed YOU! We'll be returning to 10 AM worship this Sunday with two of our most popular tunes: *Rising* and *God So Loved*. You likely know these by now, but you can click the links below if you need a refresher. See you on Sunday!

[Rising](#)  
[God So Loved](#)

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*As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM,  
so please plan to arrive a few minutes early!*

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## UPDATED FPC Mask Policy

Session has approved the motion to change the FPC St. Petersburg Mandatory Mask policy to a **mask-optional policy for fully vaccinated individuals**. This applies during worship service and while on church campus. Everyone is welcome to wear a mask in any setting; however, we recommended that masks be worn for those not yet fully vaccinated.



**Please remember in prayer:** Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Peter Eckert, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, 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, Peter Pav, 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; 1st LT. 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](mailto:amym@fpc-stpete.org).

## A Note from Interim Pastor, Ginny Simmons Ellis

First Friends,

Last week we took some really important steps. On Friday (Nov. 12), the Session met (with the Presbytery Administrative Commission) and approved some "open-up" steps. The church is now in mask-optional status for those who have been fully vaccinated: in the offices, and classrooms, for worship, for singing, and for outside events or groups using our spaces. For those not yet fully vaccinated, we recommended that masks be worn.

We will also be reinstating a Moment for All Ages (which we sometimes refer to as a Children's Sermon), and a non-touch Passing of the Peace. This coming Sunday we'll teach everyone the sign language for the Passing of the Peace. No

hugs yet, folks, no walking around the room, but we can say it: "The Peace of Christ be with you!"

The other big step was, as you know, that last Sunday afternoon, the congregation elected 7 new elders. These men and women will be installed in December after their time of study and preparation. It is a good group of church leaders and a wonderful moment of us in our ministry together. First Church has had a hard year or two; it is now time to breathe a sigh of relief and listen for how God will answer our sighs and call us forward in ministry and in mission.

Please continue to pray for the church, for its staff and leaders, and for the world as we seek to get past the Coronavirus and so many other issues.

Meanwhile: Happy Thanksgiving! Blessings!

## **Thankful for You** from your First Presbyterian Deacons

Sending you greetings this lovely November day!

What a heart-warming month October was for so many at First Presbyterian Church! The joy of having our wonderful interim Pastor Ginny Ellis join us, forming such a dynamic team with Pastor Megan McMillan; the fabulous concerts Matt Clear has brought to our sanctuary; the celebration of many of our "snow birds" returning to join our worship; the lovely music our choir and Jack provide every Sunday; the terrific Trunk or Treat event that was packed with happy children; and finally the Scottish Heritage celebration, complete with bagpipes and drums. But MOST importantly the knowledge that COVID is abating and we can be together again fills our hearts with joy!

If you have not been able to be with us...we miss you! If you are joining the service via Zoom...we send our cheers and greetings! If you have had health issues or other challenges...we pray for you for healing and comfort.

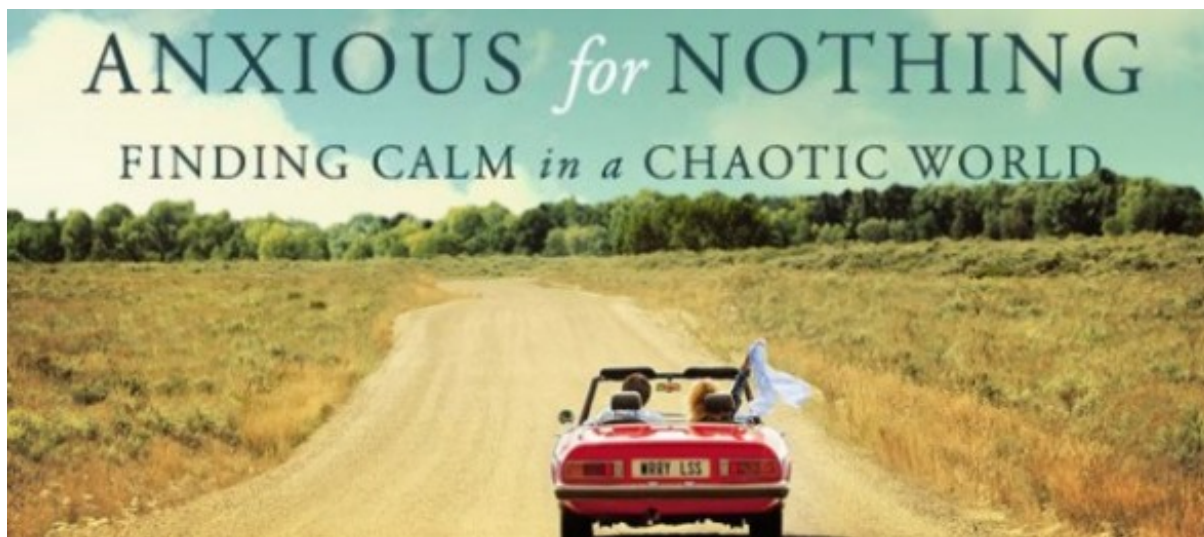
This Thanksgiving we are thankful for YOU! As we join in singing "Come Ye Thankful People Come" let us also remember Philippians 4:8 "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about these things." Because thinking about these things lifts our spirits, our hopes, and our hearts.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and please let us know if there is any way we can lend a hand or listen to a need.

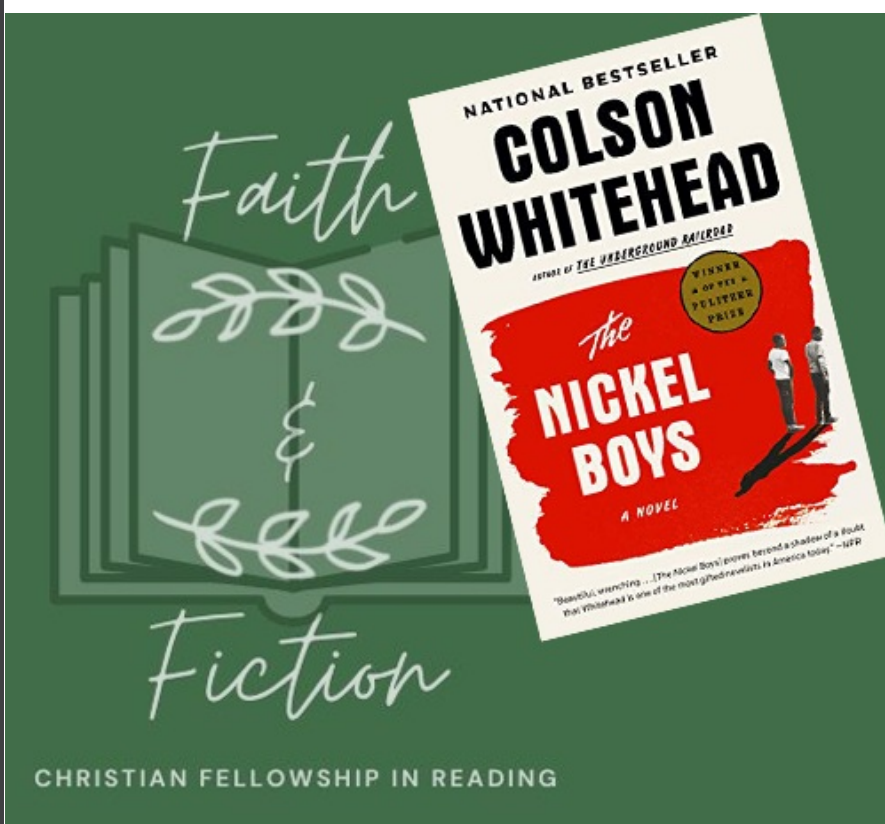
Many blessings,  
Your First Presbyterian Deacons

**Do you feel weighed down with worry?  
Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night?  
Are irrational fears your constant companion?**

If so, join us for "The Power Hour" Sunday School Class  
Beginning December 5th at 9:00 a.m. in the Youth Center



A 5-week study with fun, fellowship, food, & a DVD based study "Anxious for Nothing" by Max Lucado. In this study, we will explore God's treatment plan for anxiety and learn how to find calm in a chaotic world. Reserve a spot by contacting Karen Mossman at [karenamossman@gmail.com](mailto:karenamossman@gmail.com) or text 727-400-5079.



Faith & Fiction will next meet on December 6th, at 7:00 p.m., in person, in Room N-123 where we will discuss the Pulitzer Prize winning novel *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead. If there is sufficient interest in meeting via Zoom, we will include that option and have a hybrid meeting.

Please let Linda Santoro know if you prefer to meet virtually via Zoom at [lindajsantoro@gmail.com](mailto:lindajsantoro@gmail.com)

Celebrate the miracle of Christmas with us through the  
**Many Moods of Christmas Concert**  
Sunday, December 12 at 4 p.m.

*Featuring: Pinellas County Center for the Arts Choirs, Pinellas County Center for the Arts Instrumentalists, First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, First Presbyterian Church Handbell Choir, and Guest Singers from the Tampa Bay Area*

# The Many Moods of Christmas

Sunday, December 12, 2021  
4:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, St. Petersburg

A Benefit Concert for  
**SPFC**  
ST. PETE FREE CLINIC

701 Beach Dr. NE St. Petersburg FL, 33701 | 727-822-2031

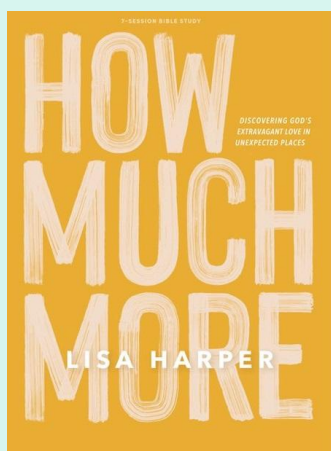
**Grieving?  
Know someone who is?**

**Join us for GriefShare Sundays  
at 4 PM, meeting virtually (via  
Zoom).**



Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, you will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The 13-week DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. This is a great opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

**Need more information? Want to sign up? Call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.**



**Ladies, you are invited to join us  
for a Lisa Harper Bible Study:**

***How Much More*  
Discovering God's Extravagant Love  
in Unexpected Places**

This study tackles some overlooked or misunderstood passages in Scripture, uncovering how they amplify the love and goodness of God.

**Join us on Tuesday mornings through November 30, 2021  
9:15 – 11:30 a.m. in the Youth Center**

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.  
Questions? April Hussung: 727-420-1758 or [stapler39@aol.com](mailto:stapler39@aol.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!

### Pastoral Emergency Number



If you have a pastoral emergency, please call (561) 805-1514.



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 November Birthdays



Some groups are continuing to meet 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, meeting in-person, Chapel.
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, In-Person Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#).
- **Sundays, 4 PM**, GriefShare (via Zoom)
  
- **Tuesdays, 9:15 AM**, Ladies Bible Study, Youth Center.
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Christian Meditation, meeting every other week in the Chapel at 7 PM (next in-person meeting is **Nov. 23**). For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).
  
- **Thursdays, 7 PM**, Choir rehearsal, Choir Room
  
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, in-person, Room N-123. For more information, please contact Ken Young ([youngkd1492@comcast.net](mailto:youngkd1492@comcast.net)).
- **Fridays, 12 PM**, Men's Lunch Bible Study; the last Friday of the month is in-person in Room N-123; otherwise, via Zoom. For more information, contact John Underwood ([pjfwon@gmail.com](mailto:pjfwon@gmail.com))
  
- **Monday, November 22, 7 PM**, Stated Session Meeting
  
- **Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26**, Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday (no activities on campus).
  
- **Sunday, December 5, 9 AM**, "The Power Hour" Sunday School class begins, Youth Center
  
- **Monday, December 6, 7 PM**, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123
  
- **Sunday, December 12, 4 PM**, Many Moods of Christmas Concert, 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).

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(727) 822-2031

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

