



Your
Weekly News
from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

December 20, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:15 AM - Communion Worship, Chapel

9:00 AM - Contemporary Worship, Fellowship Hall

11:00 AM - Classic Worship with Choir, Sanctuary

The sermon for this Sunday is "For the Love Of God" Dr. Dawn Conti

[Isaiah 7:10-16](#); [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

[Click here](#) for Sunday's bulletin & announcements

**FPC's First Drive-Through
Live Nativity, Tonight**

Join us for a FREE event that brings the Christmas story to life. Tonight, Friday, December 20, from 6 until 8 PM, on the church's front circle driveway, you can journey with Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem and await the arrival of their son, Jesus. A recorded narrative is provided with live models.



Bring the entire family and invite your friends to see and understand the true meaning of Christmas at FPC's first Drive-Through Live Nativity.



Christmas Eve Worship

Invite family and friends to be inspired by beautiful Christmas Eve Services

4 PM - "Happy Birthday Jesus"

Christmas Eve Service in Fellowship Hall

For God's children of all ages. This service will have an especially child-friendly format which includes the reading of a children's Christmas story interspersed with carols, and singing "Silent Night" to the light of glow sticks for kids and candles for adults. After the service, we will sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus, and celebrate with cupcakes.

7 PM - Traditional Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary
with Candle Lighting and Chancel Choir. All are welcome!

Bus transportation will be provided for the Westminster and Presbyterian Towers communities. Please sign up on the bus or call the Church Office, 727-822-2031.



Wear Your Radical Hospitality Hat, Invite Five New People To A Christmas Eve Service

If you were at worship this past Sunday, you saw Karen Mossman wearing her "Radical Hospitality" hat while she invited all of us to invite five new people to a Christmas Eve service. We are at our best on Christmas Eve! So be sure to invite some new people, and pray for the growth of our congregation.

Let's do this and together watch our congregation grow one person at a time!

If you have any questions or concerns about this, feel free to contact Karen Mossman at (727) 400-5079 or Karenamossman@gmail.com.

Security/Safety Organizational Meeting

A PRUDENT PERSON FORESEES DANGER AND TAKES PRECAUTIONS—PROVERBS 22:3

Church Leadership has requested a committee to determine how best to protect the congregation from unwanted disturbances. It is important to have a written policy. An unwritten policy is NO policy.

The church needs your ideas and opinions. By attending the Monday, January 6, 2020 meeting at 7 PM in Room N-123 you can help put together a working document to direct our efforts. After the initial meeting, much of the work will be done by small groups via phone/email.

Your attendance is important for the welfare of your church and your friends. Questions? Contact Dick Luehrs at 727-866-7965 or dicklu@windstream.net.



Carolyn Hobbs, Betty Hayward and Helen Shaw of the Alumni Singers were part of Gibbs High School's class of 1957. The singers performed at the "Jesus is King" Christmas concert at Lakewood United Methodist in St. Petersburg on Dec. 8.

Newspaper Features Helen Shaw and Betty Hayward

Three Gibbs High School grads are still singing together after 60 years. A feature in the December 15 *Tampa Bay Times* details their musical journey.

Helen Shaw (and husband, Henry) have been FPC members for 20 years. Helen sang in the FPC choir for many years and even traveled abroad with the choir. Betty Hayward, also featured in the article, is the aunt of our Office Manager, Blanche Ganey.

Pictured left to right are: Carolyn Hobbs, Betty Hayward, and Helen Shaw.

Here's a [link](#) to the article.

With thanks to the *Tampa Bay Times*. Article appeared Sun., Dec. 15, 2019 in section 1B.

Church Staff Christmas Party



Back row (L-R): Bob Langley, David Aumack, Miko Coppard, Johnny Miller, Dawn Conti, Blanche Ganey, Stacey Ramirez
Middle row: Amy Grossenbacher
Front row (L-R): Ruth Elswood, Linda Champion, Carol Riley, Debbie Estes, Marina Itric-Hamilton, Shannon Grauer, Alayna Itric
Very front: Ashley Davis

Spectacular Many Moods Of Christmas Concert A Highlight of the Christmas Season

Thank you to Matt Clear and everyone else who worked hard to make this year's concert a wonderful success. Well over 1,000 people attended, and the concert raised over \$11,000 for St. Pete Free Clinic.





Eric Wilson, student musician and member of First Presbyterian Church, paid tribute to his experiences at First Pres and at Gibbs.



Michael Bice, Interim CEO of The Free Clinic, explained the outreach of his organization.



[Here](#) are details of the remaining performances in the Concert Series.

Icons in Transformation **Now in St. Petersburg, Florida**

This exciting exhibition of 150 works of art has toured cathedrals, churches, and museums in the United States and Europe since it's London launch in 2001 by Prince



Charles. More than 150,000 people in the United States have viewed these stunning works.

Over her long and distinguished career, inspired by Russian icons, artist Ludmila Pawlowska has created across a variety of genres, figurative and abstract; working with wood, fabric, paper, steel, copper, plywood, and Plexiglas, as well as found objects. Her work has earned praise for its originality and evocative

qualities, ranging from startling dramatic expression to ethereal contemplative beauty that draws the viewer in. Authentic Russian Icons are included in this exhibit.

Pawlowska was born in 1964 in exile in Kazakhstan, a former Soviet Republic. After her mother's death, she found comfort recalling the traditional icons she had seen in Russian monasteries and worked through her grief through her own inspired artwork.

FPC member Ronn Johnson is a volunteer docent for this exhibition. Ronn is organizing private tours of the exhibit for FPC members and groups, such as Circles, Choir, Sunday School Classes, family groups, office staff, etc. Please contact Ronn at (727) 822-5055 to indicate an interest, or for further information. FPC scheduled tours will be announced through First News. Tours are available now through February 9. Please share this information.

Tour hours are 10 AM to 2 PM Fridays, 12 to 4 PM Saturdays & Sundays, or by appointment. Exhibit is located at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 1200 Snell Isle Blvd. NE, St. Petersburg.



God Loves A Cheerful Giver And The IRS Will Reward You Too!

[CLICK HERE](#) to read how you can bless yourself and others by making a year-end contribution to FPC..

To see the deduction limits against your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), [click here](#).
Sources: Vanguard Charitable, Foremost Advice, Wall Street Journal

Financial Peace University Is Coming To FPC!

When: Wednesday nights, 6:00 - 7:30 PM, January 8 - March 11 (excluding Ash Wednesday)

Where: The Chapel @ FPC (701 Beach Drive NE)

Cost: SPECIAL FPC RATE of \$99 per individual or couple (cost covers printed class materials, plus 1 full year of online access to FPU)

Are you ready to take control of your money? Learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future. You will learn how to create (and stick to) a budget, save for emergencies, and make a plan for the future by using the step-by-step plan created by Dave Ramsey. This 9-week course is being offered at FPC, led by former FPC member, Craig Kilroy.

For more information or to register for this class, please call the Church Office or go online to <https://www.financialpeace.com/groups/1108629?c=ccf>.

FPC Calendar At A Glance

[Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online.

Coming up:

- [January Birthdays](#)
- [December Child Care Calendar](#)
- First Monday of each month, 7:30 - 8:30 PM, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123. [Here](#) is the Reading List.
- Faith Development Bible Study, S-100, 9:30 AM (Tuesdays)
- Yoga With Adam, 3 PM, Fellowship Hall (Sunday afternoons, refer to church calendar for any variation).
- Friday, December 20, Youth Lock-In, 5 PM
- Friday, December 20, Drive-Through Live Nativity, 6-8 PM
- Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Services, 4 PM (Fellowship Hall) and 7 PM (Sanctuary). Church Office closed.
- Wednesday, December 25, Merry Christmas! Church Office closed.
- Wednesday, January 1, Happy New Year! Church Office closed.
- Sunday, January 5 - GriefShare Support Group resumes meeting, Chapel (meets Sunday afternoons at 4 PM and Tuesdays at 10 AM; refer to church calendar for any variation)
- Monday, January 6, Security/Safety Organizational Meeting, 7 PM, N-123
- Tuesday, January 7, Meditation for Christians, 7 PM, Chapel
- Wednesday, January 8, Wednesday Live resumes, Children's Choir at 5 PM (Choir Room), Dinner at 5:30 (Fellowship Hall), and classes at 6:30 PM like Financial Peace University (Chapel) and Presbyterian History (Fellowship Hall; starts on January 15)
- Sunday, February 2, Congregational Meeting following 11 AM service

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 [Mary Johnson](#) and [Amy Grossenbacher](#).

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



First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg, Florida

