

September 22, 2020



## FIRST CHURCH Weekly News

God Is My \_\_\_\_\_

How would you fill in that blank? The Psalms are full of metaphors for God. The most famous is the Lord is my Shepherd (Psalm 23:1). There are eight metaphors for God in Psalm 18:2: The LORD is my Bedrock, my Castle, my Rescuer, my God, my Rock—I take refuge in him—my Shield, the Horn of my Salvation, my Granite Hide Out. (my translation)

Those ideas reflect a topographical, historical, and cultural setting far different from ours. What would your list be? God is my 911, my Everything, my Best Friend (BFF), my Soul Mate, my First Responder, my Love, my Reason for Being, my Liberator, my Healing Presence, the Air I Breathe, my Bodyguard, the One Who Listens to me... Write your own list of metaphors for God. If you want, send them to me: [swright@firstsrq.com](mailto:swright@firstsrq.com). I'd like to read them. Thanks.

Blessings,  
Dr. Sam

### Peggy Hite First Church Missions Chair



Peggy sees her role as the leader and primary supporter of First Church members who are involved in our many local and global mission projects. She notes, “*I love our church as it is full of love for others.*” She encourages everyone to learn about and support all of our missions which are being highlighted in newsletters plus there is a mission brochure available at church.

Church has always been a part of her life as has volunteering. Peggy was born and educated in Indiana before going to Colorado for her PhD in tax

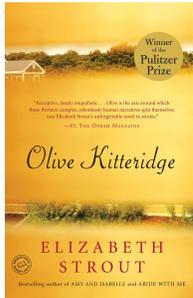
accounting and psychology. She worked in North Dakota, Arkansas, and Kansas then finished her career back in Indiana. Her other passions are tennis, golf, and praying for our country.

## MISSIONS - Goodwill

Goodwill, founded in 1902 by Methodist minister Rev. Edgar Helms, started with “a hand up, not a hand out.” They provide job training and employment placement by enhancing the dignity and quality of life of its clients by helping them with education, skills training, and the power of work. The international office in Rockville, Maryland, supports 157 regional locations. **Goodwill Manasota has 12 retail stores, 17 donation centers, 2 bargain barns, and 2 bookstores. Goodwill also has programs and services for veterans and their families.** Our own Rev. Don Roberts is the past President and CEO of Goodwill Manasota. *Our member Jo Rita Stevens (pictured) has been a part of Goodwill since 1964 .* Currently an Ambassador, she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the President of the U. S.



## First's Book Club



**Monday, September 28, at 10 a.m.  
Via Zoom**

***Olive Kitteridge*** by Elizabeth Stroud

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, ***Olive Kitteridge*** offers profound insights into the human condition – conflicts, tragedies, joys, and endurance.

Stern, patient, perceptive, in sad denial, Olive deplors the changes in Crosby, Maine, and the world, but doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her. As the townspeople grapple with their problems, Olive is brought to a deeper understanding of herself and her life – painfully but with ruthless honesty.

**To join the book club, contact  
Leah Pittard ([rockpitt2@verizon.net](mailto:rockpitt2@verizon.net); 941-586-0185).**

## REFUGE YOUTH GROUP



FUMC's **The Refuge Youth Group** is kicking off the fall with their 2020-2021 ***Mission Vision, an Attitude of Gratitude, Perseverance*** – exploring their personal Origin Story and making Connections. Be on the lookout for news from **The Refuge** plus learn how you can connect with our youth.

# Weekly Calendar

[Click here for Weekly Calendar of Events](#)