

FIRST NEWS



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

April 30, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
for an In-Person Worship Service
this Sunday, May 2
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Psalm 22:25-31](#), [1 John 4:7-21](#), [John 15:1-8](#)

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

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

- If you are worshipping with us in person, here's what to expect: When you check in on Sunday morning, you will receive small pre-packaged communion kit. Take it with you to your seat. At the correct time in the service, remove the clear plastic top, revealing the wafer. Later, you will remove the second top and drink the juice. After the service, make sure to dispose of the remains in the garbage cans at the exit.



- If you are worshipping with 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.

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



Please remember in prayer: Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Sarah Fechter, Teresa Gasper, Margo Hart, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ & Connie Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Peter Pav, Richard Pfeider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Judy Smith

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 Julia', 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 Grossenbacher at amyg@fpc-stpete.org.

A memorial service for long-time FPC member Jean Reed will be tomorrow, (May 1) at 11 AM in the Sanctuary. Pastor Dawn and the Rev. Ken Young will be officiating.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY SUNDAYS AT 10 AM!

We are asking you to make a reservation every week to attend in-person worship services. There are two ways to register:

1) **Go online!** Every Monday morning, you will receive an email with a link to click to RSVP for the upcoming Sunday. You will also find the RSVP button on the main page of our website. Please remember to complete ALL boxes, then click the "Submit" button at the bottom. We will take reservations for Sunday until noon on Friday.

OR

(2) Call the Church Office (727-822-2031) before Friday at noon.

If you plan to attend in-person on Sundays, PLEASE NOTE:

- *If you have had a fever, cough, above normal temperature, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, reduction of sense of smell, or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days, we ask that you stay home and watch the service online.*
- **Masks will be required.**
- Seating will be limited to ensure social distancing.
- For your safety, prior to service, you will check in at the front doors, and be seated by ushers at a safe social distance.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in several easy-to-access spots.
- **Our elevator will NOT be accessible.**
- The Sanctuary will have **one entrance and one exit** only. Signs will point you in the right direction.
- We ask that you do not congregate in the Sanctuary at all after the service. If you wish to stop and visit with friends, please make your way out of the Sanctuary first and visit outside.

Thank you in advance for your patience with these safety procedures.
We look forward to seeing you in-person on Sunday morning!

Sunday's Town Hall Meeting – Change in Plans

In case you missed yesterday's email, please note that there has been a change of plans for this upcoming Sunday. In lieu of the previously scheduled Town Hall meeting, we are asking everyone - in-person and online! - to stay after worship to see a short video presentation created by the members of the Visioning Team and Financial Planning Task Force. If you are unable to join us Sunday, please note that these video presentations will be available on our YouTube channel for viewing later.

Also, please note Jay Wittmeyer, Executive Director of the [Lombard Mennonite Peace Center](#) (click [HERE](#) to see Jay's credentials), was scheduled to introduce a mediation process to help us work through the conflict in our church this upcoming Sunday. The session has decided to postpone this presentation to a later date when more members might be able to engage in this reconciliation effort.

Check out this encouraging news story about Lakewood Elementary!

St. Petersburg school defies the 'COVID slide' with a burst of success

Two years ago Lakewood Elementary was an F-rated school with high teacher turnover and some of the lowest test scores in Florida. A recent turnaround has brought new life to the school.

In a year when many schools are seeing students suffer the "COVID slide," the children at Lakewood are showing impressive gains in reading and math.

The school is doing so well that it wants a new state grade, even though Florida isn't really giving them out this year.

Read more about Lakewood's transformation [HERE](#).



-- ONLINE EDITION --

Everyone is welcome to join; feel free to send the links to friends and family!

7:00-8:00 PM

Social Justice - A series of talks and panel discussions are being arranged on issues of social justice. We invite you to next Wednesday's discussion (May 5) as we are joined by Charlie Justice from the Pinellas County Commissioner's Office (rescheduled from April 7).

[CLICK HERE](#) for Zoom Meeting Link

Or go to [Zoom.com](https://www.zoom.us) and enter the Meeting ID: 851 4775 5193 and Passcode: justice

Or dial in by phone: 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 851 4775 5193, Passcode: 0664377

If you missed earlier weeks' discussions, you can see the recorded version [HERE](#). Future speakers and programs will be announced as the dates approach.

Why I love being a member at FPC St. Pete

submitted by Karen Kisten

Dear FPC Friends and Church Family,

It is my honor to be a fellow member of 1st Presbyterian Church in St. Petersburg, Florida. We are most fortunate to be a community of faith-based saints sharing our journey together as we witness for our Lord Jesus Christ.

We form a loving and intentional group as we go about accomplishing many honorable projects and showing our concern for each other...

PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#) TO CONTINUE READING THE COMPLETE LETTER

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients!

We are pleased to announce that the Church Scholarship Committee awarded grants totaling \$24,000 to Henry Zuercher (University of North Florida), Emma Zuercher (University of Florida), Eric Wilson (Rowan University), and Jacob Conyers-Holifield (Eckerd College) from the Michael, Ohrns, and Church Family Scholarship Funds.

We wish all of the students success in their future endeavors!



**Grieving? Know someone who is?
Join our GriefShare group on Sundays at
4 PM (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.

All of us at First Presbyterian are working to stay as connected as possible during this time of social distancing.



- 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 during this time.
- Help us stay connected by sending us your pictures and prayer requests!



Pastor Dawn invites you to join us for a time of devotion, discussion, and prayer where we connect online with God and each other as we read and discuss the sermon text that will be

preached the following Sunday. All are welcome!

For sign-in information to the Zoom call, please contact the Church Office at 727-822-2031 or click [HERE](#) to join. PLEASE NOTE: If Zoom prompts you to enter a password, the password for Monday devotionals moving forward will be "prayer."

During this season when we are physically apart, 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 May Birthdays



Most 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, Room S-202.
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, In-Person Worship Service, Sanctuary or [Online](#).
- **Sundays, 11:15 AM**, Contemporary Faith Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, email Lynn Kiehne (lkiehne@gmail.com).
- **Sundays, 11:15 AM**, Westminster Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, email Jim Garnett (jim.garnett237@gmail.com).
- **Sundays, 4 PM**, GriefShare. For Zoom sign-in information, email Petra Garnett (petra.garnett@gmail.com).

- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Online Devotional with Pastor Dawn. Click [HERE](#) to join. If you are prompted, use "prayer" a password.

- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Weekly Meditation, virtual. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).

- **Wednesdays, online, 7 - 8 PM** - Wednesday Night Live! (Social Justice).

- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, in person in Room N-123.

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 Grossenbacher](#).

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[Contact Us](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTUBE](#)

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

