

# FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from  
First Presbyterian Church  
St. Petersburg

August 21, 2020

## Online Worship This Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service  
this Sunday, August 23!  
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's Sermon: "Sent to Shine"  
Pastor Dawn Conti  
Scripture: [Psalm 23](#), [John 9:1-41](#)

Click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

This link may also be found on the home page of the church's website ([www.fpcstpete.com](http://www.fpcstpete.com)) - "Click Here to Watch Sunday Services") as well as on the church's Facebook page.

If the 10:00 hour on Sundays does not fit your schedule, the service is available for viewing on our YouTube channel throughout the week. Feel free to share the link with family and friends!

## Prayer Concerns

Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Phoebe Catlin, Katy Churchil, Kat Cline, Gordon Crane, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, James Gonzales, Ron Hall, Larry and Diane Heath, Margaret Hewitt, Walter & Marie Huber, Gary Hunt, Bonnie Jackson, Shirnice Johnson,

Jim and Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Margie Laughlin, Tom and Marie Machuga, Kathie Mayhall, Dave and Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Camille Moran-Styles, Howard Moser, Tamara Murphy, Nancy Ogden, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Del and Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Jean Schultz, 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 a quick end to this situation.



Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: James Loeblein, USN; CPT. Taina Specie, USA; 1st LT. Liam Shelton, USA; 2nd 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](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org).

### Financial Snapshot July 2020

	Month	YTD
Gifts	\$ 40,068	\$ 363,670
Other Income	2,606	55,648
Total Income	42,674	419,318
Expenses	77,313	546,968
Income (Loss)	\$ (34,639)	\$ (127,650)

Gifts were \$27,900 under budget this month and \$37,300 under YTD. Expenses were as budgeted this month and \$30,800 under YTD.

THANK YOU for your gifts online, by mail, or dropping at office!

## Pastoral Care During COVID

Reverend Kenneth H. Young stepped in to help Pastor Dawn with pastoral care back in April. He has done a great job keeping in touch with our members and helping those who may be struggling during these difficult times. However, after faithfully serving in this crucial role for over four months, Ken has tendered his resignation from these duties effective Friday, August 14. He has been a wonderful asset to our team throughout this pandemic season.

From Ken: *I have enjoyed the opportunity of continuing my ministry in this capacity and will continue in the volunteer opportunities I have led in the past.*

*It has been my experience that there are many in our congregation that have a firm foundation of faith in our Lord Jesus, a history of service to His Kingdom on earth, and who enjoy worshiping, however they can, to the enjoyment of God our Father.*

*As the need may arise in the future, I will continue to be available to the best of my ability as an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church USA.*

The search for a new Associate Pastor is still under way, but in the meantime, Rev. Ruth Elswood has agreed to resume her role as Interim Parish Associate, working remotely from

her home in Gainesville. She will continue helping us reach out to our members during this season of isolation.

Please join us in thanking Ken for his service, and in welcoming Ruth back!

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!

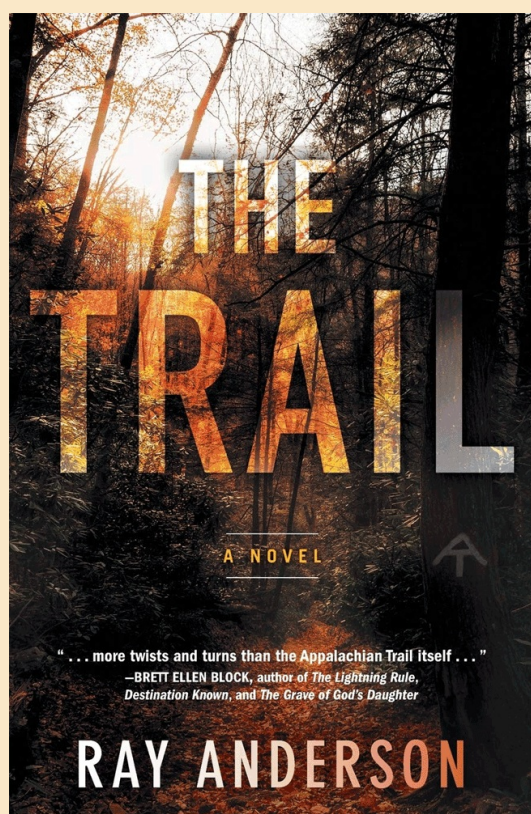


When a hurricane threatens and an evacuation is ordered, church members living in evacuation areas have options such as a hotel/motel, or they can evacuate out of town if they leave soon enough. The best choice is to evacuate to a friend or family's home in a non-evacuation area of our community.

We would like to create a volunteer Host Homes program for those who will need to move to a non-evacuation area, may have pets (members can offer if they are willing to take pets), or have other needs that will require special consideration.

If you are interested in becoming a Host Home or are someone who would need to move to a non-evacuation location, please email Lynn Kiehne at [lkiehne@gmail.com](mailto:lkiehne@gmail.com) or call the Church Office at 727- 821-2031, and we will get the right form to you. Once these are completed, we will work to match hosts and guests, and, of course, there will be an opportunity to speak to each other to see if this match would work. We will also keep the information on file at the church via a spreadsheet and we will update the following year as needed.

## MY FAVORITE QUARANTINE READ



I would like to recommend a trilogy of hiking thrillers with a very personal connection. My college roommate married a fellow who spent most of his life working in sales, but in retirement turned to writing. It is a long path for all new writers, but Ray Anderson has had success. As they suggest writing about what you know best, Ray developed this trilogy by focusing on his love of hiking and spun his tales along the trail.

In the first book, *The Trail*, the protagonist hikes the Appalachian Trail in the East from start to finish, with amazing things happening along the way. In Ray's second book, *Sierra*, Awol and his dog, Blazer, hike the Pacific Coast Trail from Mexico to Canada, again finding mystery and adventure along the trail. His third book, which is due to be released in August, finds Awol completing the series of major trails to hike in the United States. This time he is on the Continental Divide - no qualifiers needed. You know there will be trouble, and Awol will be there to help resolve it.

Yes, I did get advance copies of his books, as all authors need devoted friends to read and report back to them. What an honor to be asked to do something like this! Even more than

the adventure story, I have just loved learning about hiking - how to plan and prepare for a major hike, what to bring, how to survive, trail names, and so much more. I know big major hikes are not for me at this stage of life! But, reading about it is a very pleasant way to spend a summer day!

Ray usually comes to visit us every winter as he spends the winter months writing on the east coast of Florida. I'm hoping that he'll be able to come next winter and talk to us about his newest book. This is it, though, I think for Awol and his thrillers. Ray has moved on to Sci Fi! No details yet, but Ray is in talks with major networks about turning these trail books into a made-for-TV series!

Submitted by Linda Santoro

Please let us know about your "Favorite Quarantine Read" by submitting a short paragraph describing the book. Not only will this be intriguing to *First News* readers, but it will help all of us know the interests of others in the church. Join in the fun by sending your Favorite Read to Mary Johnson ([mgsjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:mgsjohnson@gmail.com)).



## Blessing of the Backpacks

As kids are preparing to go back to school (whether virtual or in the school building or maybe a combination of both!), we would like to send them off to the new school year with a blessing!

On **Sunday, August 30**, Pastor Dawn will be blessing backpacks as a part of the Children's Message. So be sure to encourage the kids in your life to tune in to our online service August 30!

## Summer Worship Service Soloist



Last Sunday's special music, Bach's "Sarabande," was presented by Nathan Mock, cellist



We would like to update our church records to include all men and women from our congregation who are currently serving or who have served in any branch of the military, including the National Guard. Most of us are unaware of the men and women who have served in this capacity for whatever the reason, and we would like to be able to acknowledge and honor all of you during this November's Veterans Day.

Please email or call Amy in the Church Office ([amyg@fpcstpete.org](mailto:amyg@fpcstpete.org), 727-828-3795) with your branch of service, years of service, rank, and where you served. We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your service!!!

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!



## MONDAY DEVOTION

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



## Online Giving

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.*
- [August Birthdays](#)

**All groups are currently 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.

- Sundays, 9 AM, Faith Journey Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, contact the Church Office.
- Sundays, 10 AM, [Online Worship Service](#).
- Sundays, 11:15 AM, Contemporary Faith Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, email Lynn Kiehne ([lkiehne@gmail.com](mailto:lkiehne@gmail.com)).
- Mondays, 10 AM, Online Devotional with Pastor Dawn. Click [HERE](#) to join. If you are prompted, use "prayer" as a password.
- Tuesdays, 7 PM, Weekly Virtual Meditation, online. For sign-in information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).

## 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.

