

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

August 28, 2020

Online Worship This Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, August 30!
22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's Sermon: "It Takes a Village"
Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [2 Corinthians 5:17-21](#), [Mark 2:1-12](#)

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 - "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!

Blessing of the
Backpacks



As kids return 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!

This 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

Prayer Concerns

Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Phoebe Catlin, Gordon Crane, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Ron Hall, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Walter & Marie Huber, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Margie Laughlin, Kathie Mayhall, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Howard Moser, Nancy Ogden, Peter Pav, Alan Pfeider, Richard Pfeider, Del & Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Jean Schultz, 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 a quick end to this situation.

Please also keep in prayer everyone who has been affected by Hurricane Laura.

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.

Pastor Ruth Will Assist With Pastoral Care Ministry

Dear Friends,

I was so happy when Pastor Dawn called me to ask if I could help with pastoral care ministry during these strange and difficult times – times when most of us are spending our days at home. Since my ministry will be on the phone and computer only, I was delighted to be able to say yes. I know that Rev. Ken Young has been making calls recently; I also know that he has offered much comfort and wisdom to those of you he has talked with over the past months. Pastor Dawn and I will be continuing with our regular phone calls to all of our senior members, and to anyone who is unwell or feeling isolated and lonely. Our goal is to call each senior member about every three weeks. However, you do not need to wait for us to call if you would like to talk, or if you have a specific need. You may call the church office, or you may call me at 352-278-0757.



(The letter continues. Please click [here](#) to read the entire letter.)

When Can We Return?

The Return to Church subcommittee continues to track COVID-19 data, updated CDC guidelines, and the plans of other churches to determine the safest protocol for worshipping and gathering at FPC in person again. Please watch for a detailed update in *First News* soon!

Submitted by Gretchen Letterman

Congratulations Scholarship Recipients



We are pleased to announce that the Church Scholarship Committee awarded grants totaling \$14,000 to Henry Zuercher (University of North Florida) and Jacob Conyers-Holifield (Eckerd College) from the Michael and Ohrns Scholarships.

The Osborn Scholarship Committee, which provides financial aid for degrees in theology and/or religious studies through the Carl B. Osborn Theological Education Scholarship Fund awarded grants totaling \$30,000 to Ryan Smith (Drew University) and Julianne Michael (Columbia International University).

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



Benny Mossman loves the Lord and watches FPC St Pete worship online

Who Are These Masked Missioners?

Members of our congregation Ronn Johnson, Debbie Factor, Rue Ann Porter, and Chris Agee were "snapped" as they performed more good deeds in the community. Last week they were spotted volunteering at the St. Petersburg Free Clinic's food distribution warehouse where food donations are stored and sorted for local food pantries.



We are proud of your dedication, even in the midst of a pandemic!



"Help us to learn, through prayer and praise,
To count our blessings all our days."

I will be honest that as a deacon and a Stephen Minister, after five months of self-isolation, there are days or spells where I have to remind myself to count my many blessings. God has been good to me, but I am human. When a depression sets in, whether short-term or long-term, I hope you will be like me and reach out for a Stephen Minister.

A Stephen Minister is a trained person who can walk alongside you while you journey through those days of loneliness and negative thoughts. Sometimes we don't want to share our deepest feelings of anxiety and despair with our family or friends, but don't think we need a therapist. God has a Stephen Minister ready to listen. To pray with us. To be present. But not to judge us or betray our confidences.

Why not call one of our Stephen Minister leaders, Ginger McCoy at 727-804-2494 or Terry Schoenberg at 727-667-1023 for more information? It's a small step, but it is a step forward.

Submitted by Marilyn Mulcahy



In past years, our congregation has donated to Operation Attack's July school drive by providing school uniforms, underwear, and cash to help purchase needed school items for kids in south St. Petersburg. This year, Operation Attack has been closed due to the pandemic. Fortunately, we have another opportunity to help families served by this organization via a food distribution drive-thru which will take place at Lakeview Presbyterian Church on September 12.

Here are several ways in which we can donate:

1. Write a check, payable to Operation Attack (with "Op Attack" on the memo line). Mail your check to: **Lakeview Presbyterian Church, 1310 22nd Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33705**

(Please mail your check ASAP so that it arrives no later than September 9, keeping in mind that September 7 is Labor Day and mail delivery may be slow.) Operation Attack staff will shop for food on the 10th or 11th.

2. Drop off food stuffs to Vivian at the Lakeview Church Office from 10:30 AM until 3:00 PM on Wednesdays.

3. Volunteer to help distribute food at the food drive on the 12th by calling the Lakeview Church Office at 727-822-0784.

4. Pray for all those who are helping and for the families who will receive food. Thank you!

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!



The Greene Family Stays Connected

Lyn and George Greene have found a way to stay connected with their family during this trying time. They "ZOOM" with their children and grandchildren each Sunday at 1:00 PM. There have been 15 smiling faces on the call some Sundays. While the topics of conversation may not be earth-shaking...gardens, pets, school, outdoor recreation, lunch

menus...STAYING CONNECTED with loved ones is what matters.

Submitted by Kay Greene Tremblay

Meet FPC Member, Larry Heath

When asked where and when he was born, Larry replied, "I was born one day before Hitler came into power, and I was born in New Hampshire." Living in New Hampshire for 69 years, 8 months, and 29 days, Larry went on to graduate from the New England Theological Seminary in 1956. The seminary is located in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire.



Larry served 29 years at the Advent Christian Church in Wolfeboro and he eventually became ordained by the Baptist denomination. He also taught high school English for 33 years...Wow! Larry was a very busy man.

"I wanted to get out of the cold, so I headed to Florida." He has been a member of FPC since 1999. Since that time, he has taught Adult Sunday School classes, been an active choir member, served as an Elder, and "filled in at the pulpit" when needed. Larry is a skilled woodworker and several of his beautiful pieces are used in the choir room. He proudly built his own home, where he has a full woodworking shop.

"Diane and I have had a happy life, and we are good for each other. We look forward to many more years."

Submitted By Diane Zuercher



Devotionals Are Available For Pick-Up

Copies of the October/November/December edition of "Our Daily Bread" devotionals are available for pick-up from the Church Office during normal business hours. If you have concerns about social distancing, call ahead, and a copy can be left outside for you.



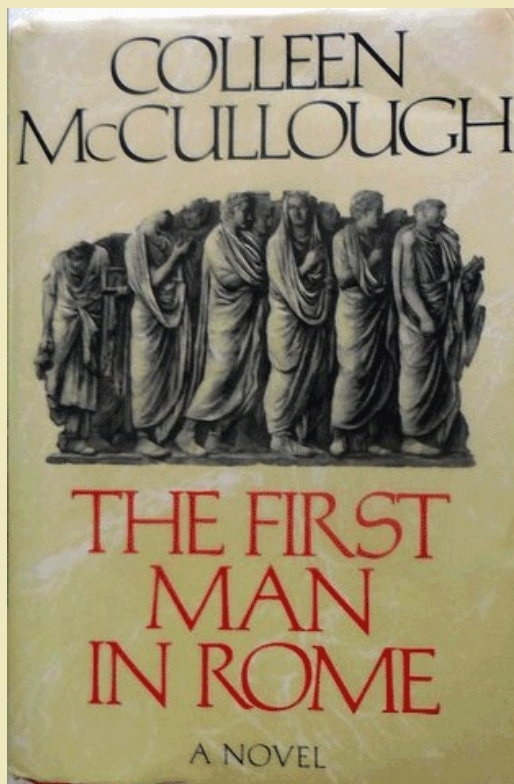
When a hurricane threatens and an evacuation is ordered, church members living in evacuation areas have options such as a hotel/motel, or they can evacuate out of town if they leave soon enough. The best choice is to evacuate to a friend or family's home in a non-evacuation area of our community.

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 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



My reading list is not usually "best sellers" or "hot books of the month." I frequent used book stores and thrift shops. My latest find is THE FIRST MAN IN ROME by Colleen McCullough, whose 1983 book THE THORNBIRDS mesmerized a generation. I chose this book because I like historical novels and McCullough reeled me in.

This story, which takes place in 110 B.C., deals with the lives of two men, Marius and Sulla. They were opposites who became friends, brothers-in-law, and trusted companions. Their histories and inner goals for life and career support each other toward a remarkable end.

This part of history in Rome was the foundation of Democracy. The struggles and political combat are the foundation of what we know today. It was interesting to read about the political maneuvers and compare to politics today. Many of the stories, with just a few name changes, could be items we would read in today's newspapers.

The military strategies were amazing and opened my eyes to a world I would never have believed possible. Their everyday lives, and why we do what we do today, are exhibited in their daily lives. This book is one of the best history lessons I have ever experienced.

It is a long book and I need a break before taking on part 2, THE GRASS CROWN. But I find myself anxious to continue the saga.

Submitted by Ronn Johnson

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).



Summer Worship Service Soloists

Last Sunday's special music selection, "He Touched Me," was presented by The Ambassadors Gospel Quartet (Roger Copp, Wes Cull, Jeff Traster, Bob Coates)



MONDAY DEVOTION

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:** 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."



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.*
- [September 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).
- 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).

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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