

FIRST NEWS



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

February 19, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, February 21
1st Sunday in Lent

This Sunday's Sermon:
"Do Not Be Envious of One Another"
Current Sermon Series - *One Anothering: Nurturing God's Beloved Community*
Pastor Dawn Conti
Scripture: [Psalm 119:105-112](#), [Genesis 4:1-9](#)

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

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

If the 10 AM 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!

The online service link may also be found on the home page of the church's website (www.fpcstpete.com), as well as on the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel.



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

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.

We Remember....Ron Hall

A big smile, a big laugh that was Ron Hall. He was a member of FPC for 40 years and during that time he served in many, many areas of our church. Our church was blessed by his work as an Elder, Sunday School teacher, Chairman of the Ushers, Fellowship Committee member, and server of meals for the Wednesday Night Live dinners. Ron enjoyed all of these areas of service, but what he loved the most of all was the Friday Morning Men's Bible Study. We are very grateful for Ron's service to our church. A big man with a big heart!

Ron enjoyed serving as a Green Beret with the Reserves and his time coaching soccer at FSU and Baylor University.

Psalm 121 1-2 : *I will lift my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord , the Maker of heaven and earth.*

Entered the Church Triumphant...January 4th, 2021



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE -- 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. **Next week's speaker will be Jim Nixon, LGBTQ Liaison, City of St. Petersburg, FL and Manager of Metro LGBTQ Welcome Center** (for Jim's full biography, click [HERE](#)).

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



[CLICK HERE](#) for Zoom Meeting Link

Or go to [Zoom.com](https://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

PLEASE NOTE: our original 5:00-6:00 WNL offering of Peaceful Parenting is moving to Mondays at noon!

Peaceful and Powerful Parenting Workshops

- Help children understand and express their most uncomfortable emotions in safe and healthy ways.
- Learn new ways to approach challenging child behavior with confidence
- Gather discipline ideas for your unique family needs
- Bolster resilience during these trying times.

For each session, we will practice building these skills interactively, and will have a short Q & A problem-solving discussion at the end

[CLICK HERE](#) for Zoom Meeting Link

Or go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) and enter the Meeting ID: 871 8995 8365 and Passcode: peace

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

Meeting ID: 871 8995 8365, Passcode: 691341

Mission Spotlight: Beth-El Farmworker Ministry

Located on a 27-acre parcel of land on U.S. Highway 301 about 20 miles south of Tampa, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry serves migrant farm workers and their families. Migrant workers are amongst the poorest of the working poor who often battle with nutrition-related illnesses while struggling to feed, house, and educate their families.

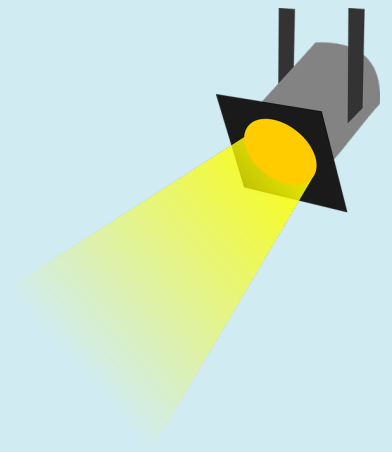
Beth-El serves the farm worker community by providing opportunities for hunger relief, education, healthcare, and spiritual growth. This year, Beth-El will focus efforts toward building personal health as our nation works to heal from the pandemic. Emphasis will be on fresh and healthy foods and acquiring a larger refrigerator so that the food pantry can be expanded.

First Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg continues to support Beth-El Ministry with financial contributions. What else can you do?

1. Pray for all essential workers, especially agricultural workers.
2. Visit and Share about local food charities by clicking [HERE](#).
3. Volunteer at Beth-El in person or virtually by contacting Angel Santos at angel@beth-el.org.

Learn more about Beth-El through this [video](#) or their [website](#).

"You provided access to food to farm working families during the pandemic! Your contribution produced sighs of relief from our clients, when they learned that we were open and distributing their needed grocery bags. We adjusted our procedures to maintain a high level of safety for our staff, few volunteers, and clients. This is life-transforming work, and we are so thankful that you chose us, among many worthy ministries, as your partners!"





Sharing the Love

Carol Lee Wathen has been a pen pal to three third graders at Country Day School in Largo for some time now. The children are learning how to write letters and have been corresponding back and forth with Carol Lee, telling her about their likes and dislikes, their pets, and their families. Carol Lee sends them a letter each time they write to her. On Thursday, Feb. 11, she took them a Valentine's Day card and finally got to meet them in person. They were all so thrilled and excited to finally meet who was behind the letters.

Valentine's Day is an opportunity to let others know that we care, especially those who have lost someone this past year or are homebound. Carol Lee finds ways to do that all year round. We should all try to be a little more like Carol Lee this year!

--Submitted by Kathy Bardin

Deacons' Corner

-Submitted by Marilyn Mulcahy

If you loved seeing some of our Deacons last week, here are some more! So far this year, we have 12 Deacons, a wonderful Deacons' helper, and the need for one more Deacon.

Please feel comfortable contacting your Deacon whenever you have a question or prayer request. Have a need? Try us! We are here to help and keep us all connected. Don't know who your Deacon is? Please contact Linda Santoro at 727-897-9543 or Marilyn Mulcahy at 714-580-5619.



Debbie Factor



Eva Popovich

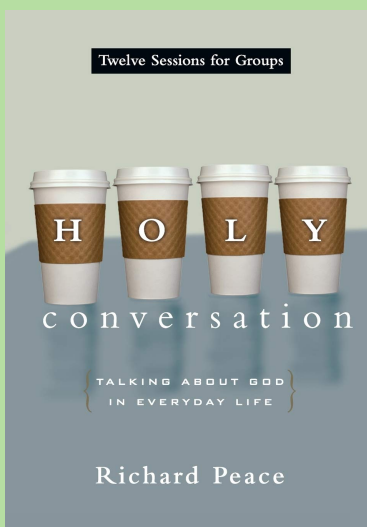


Rue Ann Porter



Jill Whelpley

Lent Small Group Study *Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life*



If you'd like to be in fellowship with a small group of Christians (no more than 12) who will learn about talking about God in everyday life, you are invited to participate in the Lenten Study: *Holy Conversation*.

This study is about equipping us to be more conversational and comfortable in sharing our faith with friends, family, and colleagues. We know that Jesus wants us to share the Good News. But how do we do it?

The first Zoom meeting will take place next **Monday, February 22nd at 2 p.m.** and will meet weekly. This study is based on the book *Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life*, by Richard Pearce. Learning happens in the study through a weekly group time of study, reading the book (about 10 minutes per session), and practicing what you've learned with a conversation partner which can take as much or little time as you set aside for it. This study will be facilitated by Ruling Elder, Lynn Kiehne, Pastor Dawn, and Pastor Megan.

- To register for this study, please call (727-822-2031) or [email](#) Amy in the Church Office. She will send you the necessary Zoom information.
- Please be sure to purchase your book ahead of time.
- If you would prefer an evening meeting time, please let Amy know; additional classes will be offered as needed.



**Grieving? Know someone who is?
GriefShare begins March 7 at 4 PM
(meeting 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.

Below is the lament that the PW circles will be using in February:

A Lament for Our City

--by Sarah Fechter, January 2021

It's twilight
in our Sunshine City.

O God, all through the spring
summer and fall
we watched clouds
hover over our city
over our land,
over all the world
the thunderclouds from the virus
make each day more frightening
than the day before.

What have we done to deserve
this darkness enveloping us?
We humbly ask that you save
our city and our people.

Winter is upon us
with less and less light
we can only hibernate
pray
wait out the night
'til dawn peeks through the shadows
and throws off this dark pandemic blanket.

Thank you, Lord,
for your promise of a new day
in our city, our land, the world
when there will be no more death
no more tears
And darkness shall cover our land no more.



APPLY NOW

College Scholarship Applications

We will be accepting applications for college scholarships **February 1st through**

March 3rd. These scholarships include the D T Michael Scholarship and the Ohrns Scholarship for undergraduates and the Osborne Scholarship for Theology students.

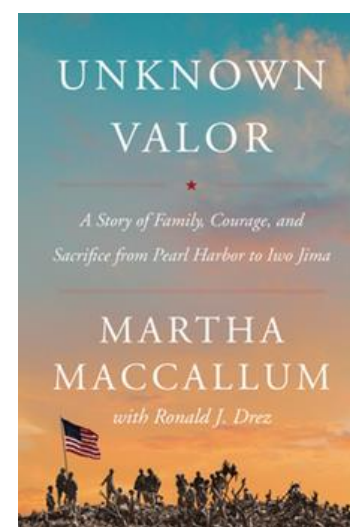
For further details about these scholarships, please contact the Church Office. To apply for any of these scholarships, you will need to include: 1) a completed application form (found [HERE](#)); 2) a copy of your most recent high school or college transcript; 3) a 500-word essay describing your involvement in church-related activities as well as extra-curricular and community involvement activities, why you want this grant, and what you expect to do following the completion of your education.

The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and the Session will approve the

final awards. Successful applicants will be asked to provide proof of enrollment and acceptance by their educational institution. Funds for the scholarship will be sent directly to the institution so be sure to give the proper name and address to which the funds are to be sent.

Faith and Fiction

Our next read will be: *Unknown Valor* by Martha MacCallum. This is our first non-fiction read for this year and relates a story of family, courage, and sacrifice from Pearl Harbor to Iwo Jima. The discussion will be held via Zoom on **Monday, March 1st at 7:30 p.m.** Please call Linda Santoro if you would like the link to join this meeting (727-897-9543).



Stay
CONNECTED

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: 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.*
- [Click HERE](#) for February 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, 9 AM**, Faith Journey Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, contact the Church Office.
- **Sundays, 10 AM**, Worship Service [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).
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Online Devotional with Pastor Dawn. Click [HERE](#) to join. If you are prompted, use "prayer" as a password.
- **Mondays, 2 PM** (starting Feb. 22), Lenten study: *Holy Conversations* via Zoom.
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Weekly Meditation, virtual. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- **Wednesdays, online, 12 PM** (Feb. 24 through Mar. 24), Taizé Worship Service
- **Wednesdays, online, 7 - 8 PM** - Wednesday Night Live! (Social Justice)
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, **in person** in Room N-123.
- **Monday, Feb. 22, 7 PM**, Stated Session Meeting via Zoom

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

