

FIRST NEWS



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

January 22, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, January 24
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

This Sunday's Sermon: "Be Kind & Compassionate To One Another"
Current Sermon Series - *One Anothering: Nurturing God's Beloved Community*
Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Deuteronomy 30:9-14](#), [Psalm 25:1-10](#), [Luke 10:25-37](#)

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.

Sonshine City Podcast

Take a listen to this week's Sonshine City Podcast [HERE](#) as Pastors Dawn and Megan introduce and chat about the scripture on which Sunday's sermon



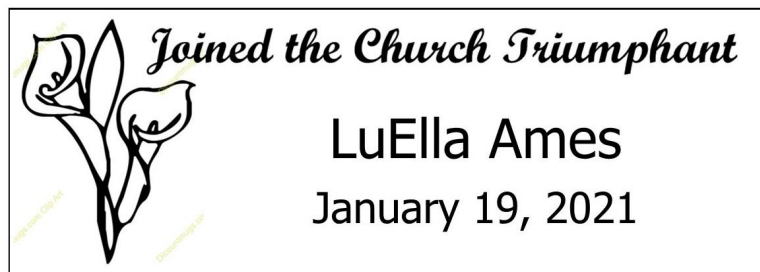
is based.

Sonshine City Podcast will appear weekly in First News to shine the light of Christ's love into your day.



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, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Alisa Keys, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Peter Pav, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Judy Smith, Hildegard & Will Sondermann.

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...

Clint Hanks was a member of our church for over 20 years. He enjoyed attending the 11:00 service and his Bible Study. He served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam and retired as a Colonel after 33 years of service to our country.

Clint lived by the motto: " I would rather give than to get."

Well done, good and faithful servant! Matthew 25:23

Entered the Church Triumphant January 10, 2021

-Submitted by Diane Zuercher

Becky Higman is Getting Ordained!

Please join us for the ordination service of Rebecca (Becky) Higman via YouTube on **Sunday, January 24th at 4 PM.**

<https://youtu.be/gwenTOUOSYc>





A Lenten Devotional

We would like to compile a Lenten Devotional for our community here at First Presbyterian Church and make it available during the Lenten season for daily reflection and prayer. **WE WANT YOU**, friends of FPC, to contribute to this

devotional. It is our hope that those of you led by the Spirit to do so will prepare a short devotional for one (or more than one!) day of the Lenten season, to begin Ash Wednesday and continue all the way through Easter.

You may choose your own scripture to reflect on, or you can choose a scripture from the daily lectionary. It can be a very short reflection on anything that comes to mind for your chosen scripture. It can include a poem, a hymn, a story, or a piece of art. Accompanying your contribution in our devotional will be a coloring page illustrated by children from the Day School!

Please include: the scripture, your devotional, any file/photo/art you'd like to go along with it, and a prayer at the end. Each devotional is subject to review by Pastor Dawn and Pastor Megan. **Please limit your submissions to 250 words and please send them to Pastor Megan by January 31.**

To **sign up** for a day or two (or even three!!) click [HERE](#) to do so via Sign Up Genius on the day you choose. If you have any questions, concerns, need further information, or have any issues signing up, please contact Pastor Megan at meganm@fpc-stpete.org.

Join This Vaccination Education Campaign and Wear These Buttons with Pride!

The Zonta Club of Concord, NH is a group of professional women dedicated to improving the community. The group is now working to educate people about the COVID-19 vaccine and has created pins to help spread awareness.



These pins are a wonderful way to do this! A batch of pins have been ordered and will be available to FPC Members and Friends in boxes outside the door of the Church Office starting **Monday, January 25**. No need to even go inside! Just help yourself to the buttons, wear the appropriate one, and help spread the word! If we want to get back to our normal lives, this is a huge step in creating herd immunity.

For more information, visit their website [HERE](#).

-Submitted by Linda Santoro

Donations Collected from 2020's Virtual "Many Moods" Concert

The total amount of money received by St. Petersburg Free Clinic from December's "Many Moods of Christmas" virtual concert was \$14,515 (which includes a \$7,500 gift

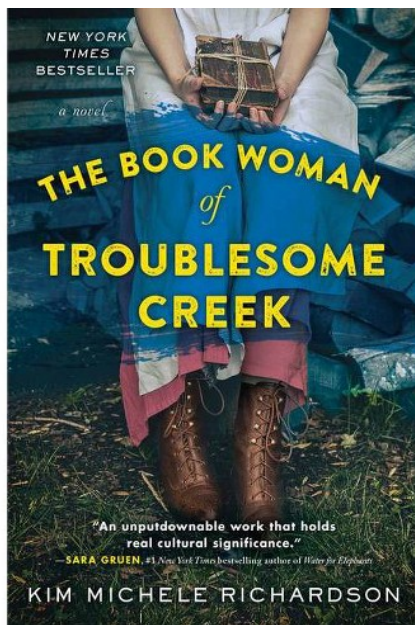
from the Mission Committee of First Presbyterian). Thank you to all who donated!

Thanks to All Who Participated in the Day School's/ Daystar's Angel Tree!

From Debbie Estes at the Day School: "The gifts from the Angel Tree were so appreciated! I hope your family felt the warmth and happiness as you shopped, wrapped, and shared the joy of giving. [CLICK HERE](#) to see hand-written thank-you notes from the Daystar clients that received gifts for their children. Please share these wonderful notes of kindness with your family.



As we move into February and Valentine's Day, please consider donating non-perishable food or personal hygiene items to Daystar. Daystar has provided an [Amazon Wish List](#) with items they need, and we will have collection boxes starting on Monday, January 25."



FAITH & FICTION

We will meet again on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

This month we are reading and discussing *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson. Set in Appalachian Kentucky in the 1930's, traveling pack horse librarians bring books, stories, and knowledge to Kentucky. The story features one of these librarians who happens to be one of the last 'blue people' in the area. Debbie Factor will lead our discussion.

Contact Linda Santoro at lindajsantoro@gmail.com if you would like the Zoom link for this meeting.

Church Membership: How to Become A Part of Our Church Family

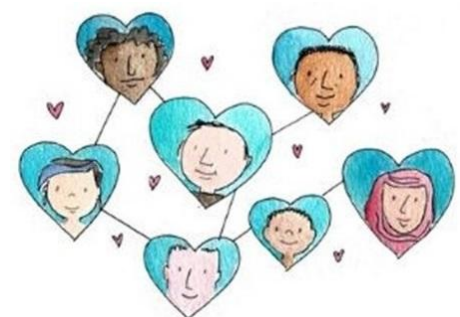
Even during a pandemic, you can't argue that church membership helps keep us accountable. When we join, we offer ourselves to worship regularly (online during a pandemic). We offer ourselves to each other to be encouraged (even if it's virtually). We offer ourselves to serve God (on various church committees or as Elder or Deacon), and to be served by others in times of need. Your church and God will help you if you are in need.

FPC St. Pete is a warm, inclusive, welcoming body of Christians who would welcome your membership, even during a pandemic! All you need to do is contact Karen Mossman at FpcNewMembers@gmail.com and say you're interested!

We invite YOU to be a part of our awesome church family this new year!

Staying Connected With the Psalms

In this time where we are gathering virtually instead of in the sanctuary, the Return to In-Person Worship and Ministries Team wants to stay in touch with you. If you haven't seen it already, a video greeting from a team member, which includes comfort from the book of Psalms,



will land in your inbox once a week through the end of February.

In case you missed this week's edition, you can find it [HERE](#).

Help Needed For First News

If you are (or know) someone who is computer-savvy and would be willing to help us with the publishing of the vital church communication that is our weekly *First News*, please contact Amy in the Church Office at 727-822-2031.

Devotionals Available in the Church Office

Copies of the January/February/March edition of "These Days" large-print devotionals are now available for pick-up from the Church Office during normal business hours (the "Our Daily Bread" devotionals are also still available).

If you have concerns about social distancing, just call ahead and a copy can be left outside for 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!

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 January 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.
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM, Weekly Meditation, virtual.** For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- **Friday Men's Bible Study, 7:30 AM, in person** in Room N-123.
- **Monday, January 25, Stated Session Meeting, 7:00 PM**

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](#).

First Presbyterian Church
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 822-2031

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

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

