

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from First Presbyterian Church St. Petersburg

January 29, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, January 31
4th Sunday after Epiphany

This Sunday's Sermon: "Reconciling with One Another"
Current Sermon Series - *One Anothering: Nurturing God's Beloved Community*
Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Psalm 149](#), [Romans 13:8-14](#), [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

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, Agnes Ingles, Russ & Connie Johnson, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Alisa Keys, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Peter Pav, Richard Pfleider, 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...

LuElla Ames was a member of FPC since the late 1940's. She was an active and beloved member of the Highlander Class for well over 50 years. However, it was her love of children that lead her to teach Kindergarten Sunday School at the "Old Red Brick church."

I would like to share a brief story about how LuElla changed the life of a young teenage girl.

After church one day LuElla asked this young girl if she could help with the class, as there were so many children. The girl was eager to help and discovered that this was where she needed to be. The weeks became months and then into years. The girl graduated from high school and then college with a degree in Early Childhood. At the end of a 45-year career in teaching, she retired. Because of LuElla, a life was changed.

LuElla's life is reflected in the following verse of "Blessed Assurance":

*This is my story, this is my song
Praising my Savior all the day long.*

Entered the Church Triumphant January 19, 2021.

--Submitted by Diane Zuercher

Deacons' Corner

It's 2021 and your deacons are busy contacting each of you, to let you know that we are all family here at First Presbyterian. How you are doing or feeling is important to all of us, your church family.

Let's stay in touch with one another as this

pandemic drags on and keeps us apart physically. If you have any questions or concerns



about the church, or prayer requests, please call your deacon. We are here to pray for you and with you. Whatever you need.

This year, Marilyn Mulcahy (714-580-5619) and Linda Santoro (727-897-9543) are the co-moderators of the deacons, and if you don't know the name of your "Shepherd," please call either of them. Stay safe. Go Bucs!

--Submitted by Marilyn Mulcahy



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.

Wednesday Night LIVE!

Wednesday Night Live
-- online edition --
starts next week
on February 3rd!

Two programs will be available over Zoom, and are open to all (feel free to send the links to friends and family!):

5:00-6:00 PM

Peaceful Parenting will be taught by Julie Menke MS, Licensed Mental Health Counselor at the Suncoast Center. The classes will cover important topics in child-raising, including discipline basics and emotional coaching. [HERE](#) is a flyer with more info!

[CLICK HERE](#) for Zoom Meeting Link

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

7:00-8:00 PM

Social Justice - A series of talks and panel discussions are being arranged on issues of social justice. The first two are a lecture on the *History of the Black Community in St. Petersburg* by Ray Arsenault. Ray is a historian, professor, author, and board member of the Woodson African American Museum. The second is a panel discussion of the book *Being the Bridge*. This will be led by our own Lynn Kiehne. Other speakers and programs will be announced as the dates approach.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Zoom Meeting Link

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

Applications for **summer camp and mission trip financial assistance for youth** are available now. The application process will end on February 17th. Interested youth and families need to contact [Dave Aumack](#) for details.



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.

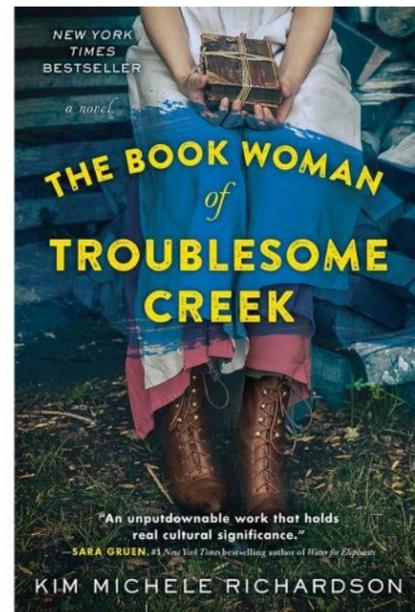
For further details about these scholarships, please contact the Church Office. To apply for any of these scholarships, you will need to include: 1) a completed application form (found [HERE](#)); 2) a copy of your most recent high school or college transcript; 3) a 500-word essay describing your involvement 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 & 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.



Share the Love

Although this year we cannot gather again for a "Lasagna Love Lunch" on Valentine's Day/"Share the Love" Sunday, we can still reach out and share the love of God. We can share our love with those we know and love and with those we don't know and who are different than us.

Beginning the first week of February, in the spirit of God's love, we encourage you to reach out to others with a phone

call, text, email, or card. If you have an interest in reaching out to a member of our church who is homebound or has been in your thoughts lately, please call Amy in the Church Office if you need their contact information.

Perhaps you might even - in a safe, spontaneous socially distanced way, and only if you are comfortable and not high-risk - have a face-to-face conversation or wave or smile at someone you do not know or perhaps someone who is different than you.

There are so many ways to show God's love to those around you, whether virtually or in person! All these things foster a more loving community and help us live out God's greatest commandment. Stay tuned for more messages of love from Pastors Dawn & Megan on Sundays. God bless you & enjoy sharing His love with kind words & actions!

--Submitted by Karen Mossman

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 working to educate people about the COVID-19 vaccine and has created pins to help spread awareness.



These pins are available - for free! - to FPC Members and Friends in boxes outside the door of the Church Office. 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 The Zonta Club's website: zontaclubofconcordnh.org.

-Submitted by Linda Santoro

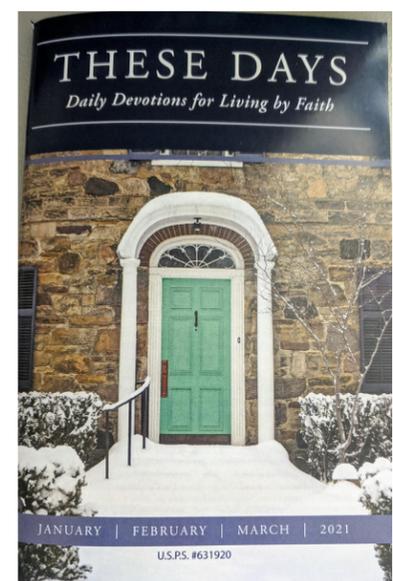
Help Needed For First News

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 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.

- 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.

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.

