

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

October 16, 2020

Online Worship This Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, October 18!
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's Sermon: "Enduring Faithfulness"
Pastor Dawn Conti
Scripture: [Genesis 15:1-6](#), [Hebrews 11:1-3; 12:1-2](#)

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!

Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans,



Sandra Fay, Sarah Fechter, Teresa Gasper, Ron Hall, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Howard Moser, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Jean Schultz, 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; James Loeblein, USN; 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.

HALLELUJAH!

Praise be to God! By diligently working with data, science, and prayer, the Return to Church Team with Session approval has set a **target date** for worship to return to the sanctuary **November 15 at 10 a.m.**

Please note: The Team continues to meet every two weeks to monitor the COVID-19 statistics in Pinellas County and Tampa Bay, which means that, if circumstances change, the targeted reopening date may have to be moved further out to ensure the safety of our congregation.

We are optimistic about the Nov. 15 reopening and are confident our campus and procedures will be ready to welcome you back. Of course there will be new rules, as outlined in previous reports. **Stay tuned for details** about how to reserve a space in the sanctuary for worship (we have socially distanced seating marked off for 100 people) and a review of the "new normal." Of course we will continue to offer our service online at the same time, viewable at your convenience.

The Return to Church team thanks everyone for their prayers and encouragement. In Christ, *Karen Mossman, Karen Kisten, Tony McCoy, Eva Popovich, Peter Bardin, Don Zegel, Matt Clear, Kevin Clark, and Gretchen Letterman*





Chancel Choir News

The Chancel Choir is having fun in online rehearsals while we prepare for our next virtual choir anthem: "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" by Peter C. Lutkin. In this screenshot, the choir concluded our "Choose an Animal" game where the first letter of your animal is the last letter of the previous person's animal. We look forward to continuing our ministry as part of our online worship services.



Session Meeting Minutes

To enhance communication with the congregation, going forward, minutes of Session Meetings will come to you as a separate email in your inbox. Additionally, *First News* will provide a link to the full minutes.

If you missed the email earlier this week, you can [CLICK HERE](#) for the complete minutes from the September 28, 2020 meeting.

Team FPC Future

The first step in discerning God's direction for FPC is the formation of a small team of members who are committed and able to be part of the process and who bring valuable skills to the table.

If you believe this is you, please answer questions on this online form (<https://forms.gle/zrm7JzpnFhHt3JsC9>) by end of day today (Friday, Oct. 16), and we will reply to you soon. If you are not selected, never fear! There will be many ways to be involved in this ongoing venture. Thank you for considering this important work.



Note to readers: For many years, our church has given scholarships to students to enable them to attend Cedarkirk and to be part of the Honduras Team. In the next few weeks, several students share their experiences and how camp and Honduras have touched their lives.



Featuring Becky Aumack

Becky is a Senior at Boca Ciega VCh High (Virtual High School) and will graduate in May 2021. Currently she is taking Honors Biology, Comprehension One, American National History, and College Experience. She is also taking Spanish One and English College Prep on Florida Virtual School. She takes time out of her busy school day

to read, sing, or go sailing.

Becky has been fortunate enough to have lived in many different states. Before arriving in St. Pete, she lived in Delaware, Texas, Oklahoma, and California (her favorite). Becky attended public school until the sixth grade and has been home-schooled ever since. "I like the flexibility of home schooling...we can do school wherever we are."

Since their arrival in St. Pete, she and her family have been living on their boat, the "Rodina Cat." "We can go wherever we want...it is a little tight, but I have gotten used to it," said Becky.

Looking to the future, Becky is thinking about going into the film industry at some point. She has applied to Florida State University as a film production major. This would enable her to edit videos and produce films. At the present time, Becky is an intern at First United Methodist Church as a Worship Production intern.

In closing, Becky shared her favorite Bible verse with me... "I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2

Thanks Becky, that is a great verse to know during these difficult days.

Submitted by Diane Zuercher

A Safe Place

I have a picture in my mind of God, or Abba, as I call him here.

In my picture, Abba has a large and roomy rocking chair out on the porch. I can climb up, always with his help, and sit there, safe from what is happening "out there" but still hearing distantly the taunts I've faced, the hunger I felt in my belly, even the cries of my heart as I ran to this very chair. I sit there with Him, and he listens to my litany of sadness, confusion, and frustration. When I am finally spent of words and cries, then we sit there together, rocking.



Then the sounds of the world begin to come back to me, but now I know I am ready to climb down like a child and run back to play again, taking my healed heart out into the world and ready to help some other child of God who is hurting and needs a quiet presence to heal them.

Time has no limits on Abba's Porch, and there is room for anyone and everyone, and always room for me. Every time.

Submitted by Eva Popovich

Success of Hunger Free 2020

St. Petersburg Free Clinic's "Hunger Free 2020" initiative to feed the hungry in our area was a great success. With the help of so many, the Clinic was able to exceed its fundraising goal of \$200,000. Additionally, over 5,000 pounds of food was collected at the October

10th drive through event. A big THANK YOU to everyone who participated!

The Food Pantry at 863 3rd Ave N. welcomes your donations of non-perishable food items such as canned goods (pop tops preferred), canned meats and pastas, canned fruits, canned beans, cereals, various pastas, and rice. Donations can be dropped off from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. M-F.



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.

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."



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 October 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).
- Sundays, 11:15 AM, Westminster Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, email Jim Garnett (jim.garnett237@gmail.com).
- Sundays, 4 - 5:30 PM, GriefShare Support Group. For Zoom sign-in information, contact Petra Garnett (petra.garnett@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).
- Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study, meeting in person in Room S-100.

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.



