

# FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News  
from First Presbyterian Church  
St. Petersburg

April 24, 2020

## Third Sunday in Easter

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service this Sunday, April 26!

The sermon for this Sunday: "Tell Me One More Time"

Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [1 John 3:1-7](#), [Luke 24:33-43](#)

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](http://www.fpcstpete.com)) 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!

## Special Video Message from Pastor Dawn



# Online Devotion, Discussion, and Prayer Mondays at 10 AM

Pastor Dawn invites you to join in an online time of devotion, discussion, and prayer **Monday mornings from 10:00-11:00 AM**. Connect with God and each other as we read and discuss the sermon text that will be preached the following Sunday. All are welcome!

To join on Monday mornings, click [HERE](#) (please note that you will need a device with a camera and microphone to use this link).

Or, you can join by phone (you will be able to hear, but not see, other participants). Dial +1 929-205-6099. The meeting ID is 542 281 573 You will automatically be muted. You can press \*6 to unmute/mute yourself during the conversation.



## Associate Pastor Search Update

Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee continues to meet virtually, virtually every week. That means we are meeting virtually via Zoom almost every week. In addition, emails, phone calls, and other means of communication among members occur almost every day. Where things stand:

1. We have reviewed several dozen resumes, seeing which potential candidates best meet the 14 position performance criteria we established at the beginning of our search process. More applications continue to come in through the PCUSA employment search system. We have also contacted seven Presbyterian seminaries encouraging applications from their graduates. Church members and friends continue to suggest names to consider. Keep suggestions coming. They are valuable.

2. Thus far we have interviewed three promising candidates to assess their capability to serve our church and their willingness to come here.

3. At our last meeting on April 14th, as a group we systematically assessed these three candidates on our 14 position-related criteria in light of new information from the interviews. This robust discussion further illuminated candidate strengths, shortcomings, and areas to probe in a follow-up round of Zoom interviews. That round will occur after the Committee receives the report of the Revitalization consultant so we can factor important information relating to our church's direction into our search process.

We continue to need your suggestions, support, and prayers as we search for the right Associate Pastor for our church.

Al May, Chair; Bill Burtchaell; Jim Garnett; April Hussung; Taina Specie; Eric Wilson; and Don Zegel

**Thank you to these committee members for their devotion.**

### Financial Snapshot

#### March 2020

|               | Month       | YTD         |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Gifts         | \$ 54,616   | \$ 575,790  |
| Other Income  | 7,133       | 80,901      |
| Total Income  | 61,749      | 656,691     |
| Expenses      | 80,493      | 733,457     |
| Income (Loss) | \$ (18,744) | \$ (76,766) |

Pledges and non-pledges gifts are \$33,300 under budget YTD.

THANK YOU for your gifts online, by mail, or dropping at office! Normal church services were only held on the first two of the five Sundays this month due to coronavirus restrictions.

## Prayer Concerns

**Please remember in prayer:** Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Katy Churchil, Kat Cline, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Teresa Gasper, James Gonzales, Nancy Grandoff, Ron Hall, Larry and Diane Heath, Ann Holifield, Jean Howie, Walter & Marie Huber, Gary Hunt, Bonnie Jackson, Shirnice Johnson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Lynn Kiehne's father Merle, Taffey Lichter, Tom and Marie Machuga, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauger, Gayle Moore, Camille Moran-Styles, Howard Moser, Tamara Murphy, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider, Del and Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Lil Reid, Jean Schultz, Jane Snoke. 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 pray for our family and friends serving in the military:** Brian Herzik, USA; James Loeblein, USN; CPT. Taina Specie, USA; 1st LT. Liam Shelton, USA; 2nd LT. Mallory Wasik, USMC; CPT. Robert Wilson, USAF. Lt Cdr Charlotte Symonds, USNS Hospital Ship Mercy. *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 or deletions to the weekly prayer concerns, please contact Amy Grossenbacher at [amyg@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org).

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 let us know by calling the Church Office at 727-822-2031! Our staff and volunteers are happy to help during this time.
- Help us stay connected by sending pictures!



Do not be anxious about anything,  
but in everything, by prayer and  
petition, with thanksgiving, present  
your requests to God.  
-Philippians 4:6

If you would like information  
on having a Stephen Minister,  
call Ginger McCoy  
(727) 804-2494 or Terry  
Schoenberg (727) 667-1023.

## Lakewood Elementary School Donation Drive



Have you been looking for ways to help others during the Coronavirus outbreak? If so, a new opportunity has come to the church's attention. Lakewood Elementary School now has an Amazon "Wish List" to support students and families during this time. Items include games, household items, and non-perishable foods. Simply use this link to access the wish list:

[Amazon Wishlist for Lakewood Elementary](#)

or go to: [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XHID92GHM29P?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XHID92GHM29P?ref=wl_share)

Once purchased, items will be shipped directly to Principal Stephanie Woodford. She, in turn, will distribute them to families who may lack technology and other resources that the school might otherwise provide. Dates of the drive are May 1-15.

Thank you again for your ongoing and extravagant generosity.

**Special Thanks To The Two Groups of Musicians  
Who Participate In Our 10 AM Online Sunday Service**

## The Chamber Singers

### Left Column

Ann Murray  
Linda Holloway  
Lauren Brautigam-Cattell  
Victoria Stout

### Right Column

Matt Clear  
Christopher Holloway  
Mike Hurtubise  
Gerald Arnold



## The FPC Praise Band



Left to right: Geoffrey Proud, Dick Lange, Burt Rushing, Kevin Clark, & Bob Powers

## News From St. Pete Free Clinic

### Drive-Up Food Pantry

There has been a 331% increase over the last month in families assisted by the We Help Food Pantry. The number of families with children has more than doubled. The pantry expects to exceed the 11.3 million pounds of food given last year as the shut down continues.

Any Pinellas County resident may access the drive-through food pantry once per month. All that is needed is a valid Pinellas County driver's license. Food will be loaded right into your vehicle. The address is 863 3rd Avenue North St. Petersburg 33701.

Hours are: Mon., Tue & Wed, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM; Thur. 8:30 AM - 7:30 PM; Friday - 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM; Sat.& Sun. - Closed

### Some Ways You Can Help

Dozens of men and women and 11 families currently live in the Free Clinic's residential centers. Many have lost their jobs. An encouraging word in the form of a note, a child's drawing, or even a gift card could go a long way to lift their spirits. You can mail notes to the Free Clinic for distribution to the residents at this address: St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Attn: Encouraging Words, 863 3rd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33701

**Dino the Dog Teaches "The Five Finger Prayer"**  
During Last Sunday's Children's Sermon



## Lillian Harris Celebrates Her 93rd Birthday In Style



Lillian Harris has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 1956 when her husband, Don Mathis, became the choir director. She raised all four of her children in the church while teaching Sunday school classes and singing in the choir. She has a "giver's heart" and believes it is "better to give than to receive." Lillian's second marriage to Jack Harris was a blessed one. Together they built and maintained a printing company. Upon her retirement, she continued to devote her time to serving others.

Lillian volunteers in the Church Office, proofing the Order of Worship and double-checking the references for the pastors' sermons; she maintains the card ministry, sending birthday cards, Christmas cards, and many other cards to all members of our congregation in her beautiful handwritten calligraphy; she also helps deliver Meals of Wheels. In addition to serving on almost every church committee, Lillian has been a constant helper with Vacation Bible School, Eggstravaganza, Trunk or Treat, and the Creche.

"Distancing" is something that is hard for Lillian. So, for her 93rd birthday, her family decided that they wanted to let her know how much she is loved. Together with a few friends they decided to serenade her with a parade. A local NBC affiliate reporter heard about the event and documented it ([click here to see](#) the segment). Lillian was given a tiara and birthday sash and seated on her front lawn as more than 40 cars drove past her house with horns, banners, balloons, songs, and lots and lots of love.

So, Lillian, in the immortal words of Elton John "I hope you don't mind that I put down in words how wonderful life is while you're in the world."

Tribute to Lillian provided by Kathy Bardin



Kathy Bardin  
& Claire Aucremann



The Doddridges



The Wilsons

## Celebrating Easter With Sandy Davenport



## Love Offering for Rev. Ruth

Parish Associate Rev. Ruth Elwood's time at FPC officially came to an end on April 12. She has served our congregation so well and we have been truly blessed by her kind and gracious spirit.

If you would like to contribute toward a "love offering" for Ruth, please mail your donation (with Ruth's name on a note or on the memo line of your check) to the church, or use the on-line giving feature found at the church's website: [fpcstpete.com](http://fpcstpete.com). Click on the "Resources" tab and then on "Give." You will be able to give your gift through the end of April.



## Masks For Westminster

Members of Westminster Shores Housekeeping Staff are thankful for masks made by FPC members.

Our friends at Westminster are still in great need of masks. If you are willing and able to sew masks, please consider donating to Westminster. For more information, please call the Church Office or contact Jan Banker ([jbanker@wservices.org](mailto:jbanker@wservices.org)).

## "Missioner Of The Year" Nomination

The mission committee is happy to launch our new "Missioner of the Year" nomination form. We will be taking nominations for the 2020 award until April 30th. Since we are currently unable to deliver the form in the bulletin, please take a look at it ([click here](#)). If you would like to nominate someone, just send an email containing all of the pertinent information to Gay Wasik-Zegel at [gwzegel@gmail.com](mailto:gwzegel@gmail.com).

The committee will compile a list of nominees from the emails we receive.

## Virtual Meditation

*Contemplation is meeting as much reality as we can handle in its most simple and*

*immediate form—without filters, judgments, or commentaries.* --Richard Rohr

If you care to join in, we'll have another virtual meditation meeting on Tuesday April 28 at 7 PM. We'll meditate for 20 minutes. Anyone is invited, and please let anyone who might be interested in joining us know. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).



## Have you friended us on Facebook or Instagram?

If you haven't, please do so! Also, be sure to SHARE our Facebook and Instagram posts as much as you can! That can help us increase numbers of followers of the church Facebook and Instagram pages. Thank you for helping us be more visible!

## FPC Calendar At A Glance

- [Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online.
- [April Birthdays](#)
- Until further notice, no groups will be meeting at the church. We will keep everyone posted on any changes.
- If anyone needs 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 for more information.

## 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](#).

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

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

