

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News
from First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

March 13, 2020

Third Sunday in Lent

8:15 AM Communion Worship, Chapel
9:00 AM Contemporary Worship, Fellowship Hall
11:00 AM Classic Worship with Chancel Choir, Sanctuary

The sermon for this Sunday:
"Coins that Betray" - Pastor Dawn Conti

[Psalm 31:9-16](#); [Matthew 26:14-25,47-50](#); [27:3-10](#)

[Click here](#) for Sunday's bulletin & announcements



Claudia Decker, Missions Speaker At 9 AM Service, March 15

Claudia Decker, who has been Director of the Operation PAR COSA Child Development & Family Guidance Center for 16 years, will provide the Minute for Mission at the 9 AM service on March 15. She has worked in the field of early childhood education for 36 years, has served as a teacher for 15 years, and as Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director of Happy Worker's Children's Center for 5 years.

The Mission Committee will host a coffee and cake fellowship time following the service to allow members to talk with Claudia.

Meditation For Christians

"Contemplation is meeting as much reality as we can handle in its most simple and immediate form—without filters, judgments, or commentaries."

--Richard Rohr

We'll meditate as a group again on Tuesday evening, March 17 at 7 PM in the Chapel. We'll listen to a homily from John Main, drawn from his talks called "Being on the Way." Then we'll meditate for 20 minutes. Everyone is invited.



Church Spring Spruce-Up Saturday, March 21

Calling all gardeners, helpers, and anyone who enjoys being outdoors in Florida in the Springtime! Starting at 8 AM on Saturday March 21, we will be sprucing up the exterior of our church. This will involve weeding, spreading mulch, and other general yard work around the church property.

The Property Committee will provide snacks and water, as well as mulch and some gardening tools. Bring your rakes, gloves, and happy spirit for a rewarding morning of light labor and sunshine. The spruce-up is scheduled to be finished no later than noon.

Come help put a nice face on FPC our upcoming events: Palm Sunday, Eggstravaganza, and of course, Easter Sunday!

A big THANK YOU to Dave Aumack and the Youth Group for planning to spend their Spring Break helping with other projects around the church grounds!

Considering Becoming A Church Member?

Prospective New Member Luncheon
Sunday, March 22



On Sunday, March 22 at 12:30 PM, plan to join Pastor Dawn and the New Member Commission in the Youth Center for a Prospective New Member Luncheon.

You will learn about our faith, what it means to be a Presbyterian, and how to join and be a part of downtown St. Pete's most welcoming church! Reserve a spot by calling the Church Office at (727) 822-2031. Call Karen Mossman (727) 400-5079 with questions.

*A wonderful weekend
with our consultant,
the Rev. Cameron Trimble*

FPC began its revitalization journey in earnest last weekend with the visit of the Rev. Cameron Trimble, CEO of Convergence, a church consulting firm based in Atlanta that has helped dozens of congregations across the globe assess their health and discern what God

is calling them to do next in our changing world.

To get to know us: On Friday Rev. Trimble toured St. Petersburg (paradise, she says!) and talked with members of the staff. Saturday was spent meeting 37 members in groups of twos and threes to learn what keeps people at FPC, and hear their concerns, hopes, and dreams for the future of the church. On Sunday she attended all three services and made two presentations to the congregation based on her observations and research of mainline churches and the results of the more than 200 surveys (a great response, she said) that our congregation completed. (There is still time to complete a survey at [this link](#), or you may pick a printed copy up in the worship spaces or church office and return it to the office.)

Who did she talk with? All members had the opportunity to take the survey provided in advance by Convergence, and to attend the question and answer sessions after worship on Sunday. To offer Rev. Trimble a diverse and balanced variety of members to speak with in the limited number of time slots available, members of the Revitalization Team prayerfully considered these categories:

- Length of membership: new and long-time
- Age: wise and younger
- Representation of church groups: choir, Presbyterian Women, Stephen Ministries, Deacons, Men's Ministry, etc.
- Leadership: Cameron asked to meet with all session members

Next steps: Rev. Trimble praised FPC at the meetings Sunday as "an extraordinary" church. She will write a detailed report for the session based on her first weekend. That report will be shared with the congregation (stay tuned). She will conduct weekly "coaching" calls with Pastor Dawn and/or the Revitalization Team for at least the next 12 months. She will also return at a later date for leadership training with the Session.



You Take the Cake!

Lakewood Elementary School is having a spring festival and would like our congregation's help with the "cake walk." They need purchased (not homemade) baked goods.

If you can help, please bring packaged cookies, cake, or brownies to church on Sunday, March 22. There will be tables in each service where you can drop your items off. We will make sure that the goodies get to Lakewood in plenty of time for the festivities which will take place on the evening of March 26.

Thanks in advance for all that you do to spread joy to those in the Lakewood Elementary community.

Technology Update

FPC staff emails should be back up and running once again. Thank you for your patience as the office transitioned to a new I.T. company last week. We apologize again for any inconvenience this may have caused!

Easter Lily Dedications

Share the beauty of Easter
by sponsoring a lily or lilies to be used as decoration in the
Sanctuary.

Easter lilies can be given in memory of a loved one or to honor family and friends. All dedications will be printed in the bulletin



on Easter Sunday. Suggested donation is \$15.

If you would like to dedicate an Easter lily, please phone the church office (727) 822-2031.



One Combined Service At 10 AM on Palm Sunday With Lunch To Follow

Celebrate Palm Sunday on April 5 at one combined service in the Sanctuary. Children from the Day School will sing.

A delicious lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

Be sure to ask a friend to join you in church on Palm Sunday.



The annual Eggstravaganza is one of FPC's most exciting events.

Everyone is invited to share in the fun on Saturday, April 11 at 10 AM.

You can help two ways:

- We are collecting plastic eggs and individually-wrapped candy as well as eggs that are already stuffed (available this year at the stores!). Place your donations in the collection baskets located by the entrance to the Sanctuary and entrance to the Fellowship Hall.
- Please volunteer to help with this event. If you can help in any capacity, please contact the Church Office at (727) 822-2031 or Carol Riley, criley@fpc-stpete.org.

Security Committee Report

Monday, March 2, 2020, 7 PM

Members present: Dick Luehrs, MJ Davidson, Al May, Tony McCoy, Frank Robinson, Dick Luehrs, Susan Luehrs. New Member: Andrew Lehman, former Marine MP.

Dick Luehrs, Chairman, opened with a prayer.

Old Business Report

incomplete Security Committee Recommendations to the Session [as of 3/7/20]

1. Use cell phones, not radios: less expensive, easier to speed dial, no interference
Designated person in each service with a phone to communicate with pastor, if needed.
2. Purchase extra wheelchairs [number TBD] for fast egress of people with walkers during emergency [fire or other]
3. Hire 1-2 uniformed police with cruiser for Sunday 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
4. Lock several doors [TBD] 5 minutes after each service starts, have sign on door to direct people to unlocked doors.
5. Put numbers on all [TBD] doors

6. Install additional cameras [number TBD] throughout campus and monitoring computer station, place "We have cameras " signs on walls
7. Conduct emergency training for appropriate groups [TBD]

New Business

Evaluation: Training schools; Cell phone ear pieces [silent communication]
Surveillance cameras

Next meeting: Monday, March 16, Room 123 N

Westminster Communities Limit Outside Visitation

Chaplain Steve from the Westminster Palms community let us know that, due to the threat of the coronavirus, they will be limiting outside visitation (no walk-in visitors) to all Westminster communities until further notice.



Below is the list of open positions at FPC:

- Associate Minister (full-time)
- Receptionist/Office Admin. (part-time)
- Office Admin. (full-time)

If you know of someone seeking employment, please direct them to our website:
www.fpcstpete.com/fpc-hiring-2020.



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!

APRIL 27 & 28

SAVE THE DATE FOR CEDARKIRK CHURCH-WIDE RETREAT



Cedarkirk *A place apart to build up
the body of Christ in love.*
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER

FPC Calendar At A Glance

[Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online.

Coming up:

- [March Childcare Parent Calendar](#)
- [March Birthdays](#)
- First Monday of each month, 7:30 - 8:30 PM, Faith & Fiction, Room N-123. [Here](#) is the Reading List.
- Faith Development Bible Study, S-100, 9:30 AM, Tuesdays

- Beth Moore Bible Study, 9:15 AM or 6:30 PM, Youth Center, Tuesdays
- Men's Community Bible Study, Fridays at 7:30 AM, N-123
- Yoga With Adam, 3 PM, Fellowship Hall (Sunday afternoons, refer to church calendar for any variation).
- GriefShare Support Group, Chapel (meets Sunday afternoons at 4 PM and Tuesdays at 10 AM; refer to church calendar for any variation)
- Tuesday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day
- Tuesday, March 17, Meditation for Christians, 7 PM, Chapel
- Saturday, March 21, Church Spring Spruce-Up, 8 AM
- Sunday, March 22, Prospective New Member Luncheon, 12:30 PM, Youth Center
- Sunday, April 5, Palm Sunday, Combined Worship Service, 10 AM, Sanctuary. Fellowship Brunch following the Palm Sunday service, Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, April 11, Eggstravaganza, 10 AM
- Sunday, April 12, Easter Sunday

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

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

