

# FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News  
from First Presbyterian Church  
St. Petersburg

May 22, 2020

## Seventh Sunday of Easter

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service this Sunday, May 24!

The sermon for this Sunday: "While We Wait"

Pastor Dawn Conti

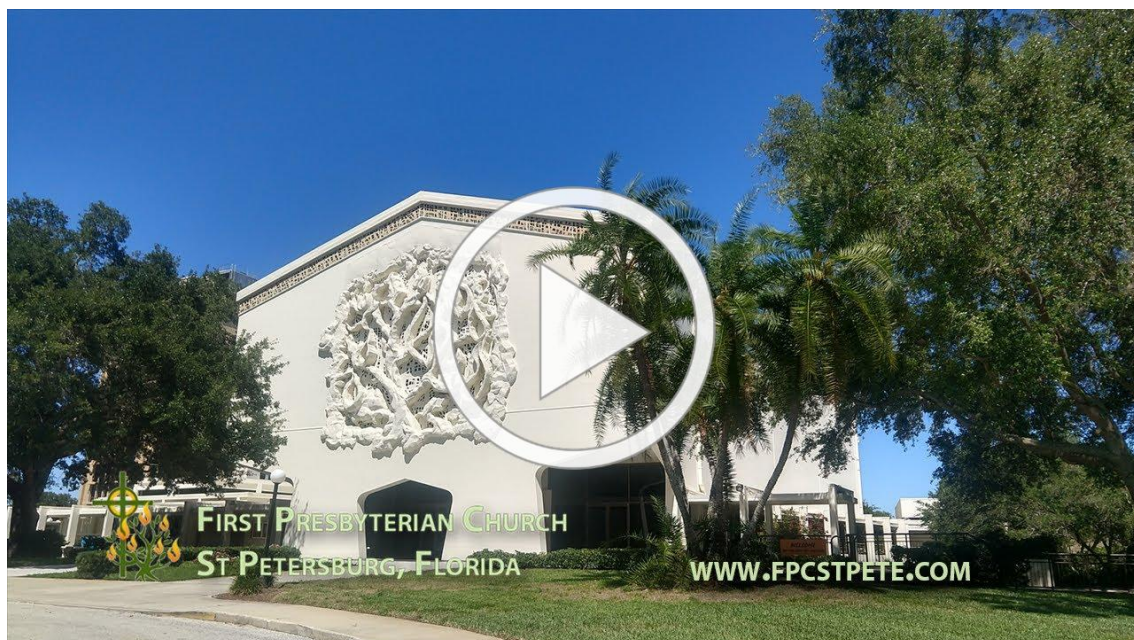
Scripture: [Psalm 47](#), [Acts 1:1-11](#)

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



## Prayer Concerns



Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Katy Churchil, Kat Cline, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Teresa Gasper, James Gonzales, Nancy Grandoff, Ilda Hall-Littell, 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, Gretchen Letterman, Taffey Lichter, Tom and Marie Machuga, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauer, Nancy McLaughlin, Camille Moran-Styles, Howard Moser, Tamara Murphy, Nancy Ogden, Peter Pav, Alan Pfeider, Del and Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Lil Reid, Jean Schultz, Jane Snoke, Gwen Tuthill. 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, deletions, or updates to the weekly prayer concerns, please contact Amy Grossenbacher at [amyg@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org).



The FPC Mission Committee can hardly wait to reveal the person selected by the congregation to receive the 2020 Missioner of the Year award. Thanks to all of you who took time to nominate so many deserving volunteers. Join us for our online church service next Sunday, May 31, to find out who received the most nominations!

## Pentecost Special Offering (collected May 31)

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.



To donate to this special offering, you can mail a check to the Church Office (701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701) or donate online [HERE](#). Be sure to put "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line.

We would like to update our church records to include all men and women from our congregation who are currently serving or who have served in any branch of the military, including the National Guard. Most of us are unaware of the

men and women who have served in this capacity for whatever the reason, and we would like to be able to acknowledge and honor all of you during this November's Veterans Day.

Please email or call Amy in the Church Office ([amyg@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org), 727-828-3795) with your branch of service, years of service, rank, and where you served. We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your service!!!



## Oh! The Places We Have Been! *Meet Our Members*

World War II, Luzon, Korea, and Vietnam--do you have any memories of these? Well, if you want to hear more, you might enjoy talking to Clint Hanks. He joined the Army and served our country for over 33 years until he retired as a Colonel.

Clint has been a member of our church for over 20 years. He attends the 11:00 service and is active in a Bible Study. His late wife, Ginna (Albertson) served as a Director of Christian Education for many years in our church. Clint has been a woodworker, served in the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps), and built houses for Habitat for Humanity for many years.

Clint was raised as a "hard-shell Baptist" which, according to Clint, means "you can't shoot marbles on Sunday!" He has been a Baptist, a Catholic and a Presbyterian, and he says, "One of these days I'm going to find something I like!"

Thank you Clint for your service to our country, our community, and our church. If you are ever in the mood for some war stories, look up Clint. He is a delight!

Submitted by Diane Zuercher



## Thank You For Helping Us Be Vigilant From Westminster Shores

As we slowly closed church sanctuaries and reduced group sizes to 10, we scrambled to find masks. New guidelines were coming out daily and suddenly social distancing was critical. First Pres helped us have enough masks for all our staff who work in our assisted

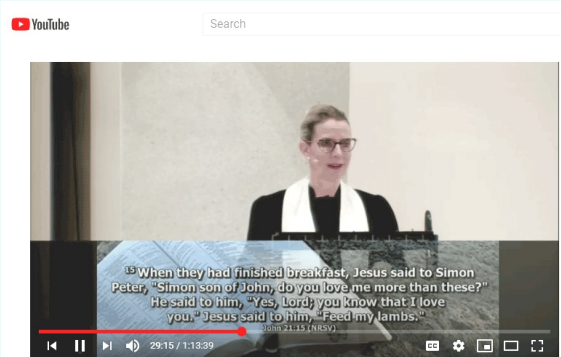
living, which was our priority. Then new guidelines said they must wear a certain type of mask (still hard to get); and we started a plan to make sure every one of our over 300 residents had a mask, and that each employee in our staff of over 100 had a mask as well.

Now with the contributions from First Presbyterian and other volunteers, we are able to supply a second mask to residents and staff who would like them. Thank you for helping us be vigilant about not spreading germs as we strive to stay free of COVID-19.

Lin Ferrol, our Executive Director, said, "The kindness that I see happening is overwhelming and I am so very moved by the outpouring of care! God bless these volunteers for their work of mercy!" We couldn't do it without you! Hope & joy persists.

Submitted by Rev. Jan Banker, Chaplain, Westminster Shores





## Are you watching First Pres worship on YouTube?

If you are, great! If you haven't already done so, **consider subscribing to our YouTube channel.**

Why? By subscribing, you will be notified when we push out new videos, devotions, and of course Sunday morning worship. More subscribers will also translate to more people trusting the First Pres channel and viewing our content. This translates into an increased virtual presence and improves the chances of bringing people back to our channel. Go to YouTube now and subscribe! [Here are directions.](#)

Don't forget to click the LIKE (thumbs up) button whenever you watch a video and leave a few words of encouragement in the comments section. Thanks!

## Summer Reruns

Has anyone binge-watched some old shows lately? There is a good chance you have. This past spring, FPC had a fun group at Wednesday Night Live. Some of you enjoyed it, and others had to miss it. The good news is that I've recorded the two series of talks, and the links will be available on the church's website [HERE](#) and YouTube channel (see below list of links). Be sure to tune in!

"Astronomy in the Bible" is available to view now on our "Christian Education" playlist (click [HERE](#) to view). It is a four-part video series detailing the imagery and poetry associated with the stars as well as an analysis of the historical events.

- [Part 1](#) - Creation and the Calendar
- [Part 2](#) - Old Testament Astronomy
- [Part 3](#) - The Star of Bethlehem
- [Part 4](#) - New Testament Astronomy

The second series titled "Heritage and Hope," is a history of the Presbyterian Church in Florida. This should be posted on our YouTube channel soon - stay tuned!

- Part 1 - Settlement through 1860
- Part 2 - 1861 to 1940
- Part 3 – Post-WWII to Modern Time

From Kyle Brinkman

## Virtual Meditation

Paraphrasing Fr. John Main

*There are no experts with meditation. Every time we make time to meditate, we're all beginners...whether we've been practicing one month or 25 years.*

While in self-isolation, our Virtual Meditation group has decided to meet weekly, rather than every other week. Meetings are on Tuesday evenings at 7 PM. Though apart physically, we'll be connected by that most trusted of forces—God's healing Spirit Jesus: "When two or three of you are gathered..."

We'll meditate for 20 minutes, using the word or phrase you have chosen. We'll also close as we did when we were together in person. Stand up after our time of meditation, and put our hands out left as right as though we're forming a circle with our neighboring meditators. Then we'll close by saying our Lord's Prayer aloud.

Feel free to join any Tuesday evening. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com))



## GriefShare Support Groups

GriefShare groups, which are for anyone grieving the loss of a family member or friend, will meet **Sunday afternoons from 4:00–5:30 PM** and starting June 2. A second session will meet **Tuesday mornings from 10:00–11:30 AM**. Both groups will be

meeting virtually using Zoom.

Please join us for any or all of our meetings to learn about this journey "from mourning to joy." For more information on GriefShare or how to join a session, please contact Amy in the Church Office (727-822-2031, [amyg@fpc-stpete.org](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org)).

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

**Online time of devotion, discussion and prayer, Monday mornings, 10-11 AM.** Connect with God and each other as we read and discuss the sermon text that will be preached the following Sunday. To connect, **click [HERE](#)** (please note that you will need a device with a camera and microphone to use this link).

Or, 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.

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!



- [Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online.
- [May Birthdays](#)
- The Church Office will be closed on **Friday, May 22** and **Monday, May 25** for the Memorial Day holiday.
- Until further notice, no groups will be meeting at the church. We will keep everyone posted on any changes. *Since groups are not currently meeting on campus, they 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.*
- 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.

