

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

April 16, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, April 18
Third Sunday of Easter

Guest Pastor: Rev. Libby Shannon
Scripture: [1 John 3:1-7](#), [Luke 24:36-48](#)

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.

Please remember in prayer: Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Sarah Fechter, Teresa Gasper, Margo Hart, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ & Connie Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Alisa Keys, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone,



Nancy McLaughlin, Peter Pav, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Judy Smith



Joined the Church Triumphant

Jean Reed
April 9, 2021

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.



**NEXT SUNDAY (4/25), WE WILL RETURN TO
IN-PERSON WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY AT 10 AM!**

The time has come for us to welcome you back safely! For those who feel comfortable worshipping in person, please join us next Sunday, April 25, at 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary!

We are asking that you make a reservation to attend in-person worship services, starting with the April 25 service. There are two ways to register:

1) **Go online!** Every Monday morning, you will receive an email with a link to click to RSVP for the upcoming Sunday. You will also find the RSVP button on the main page of our website, or you can go directly to fpcstpete.com/rsvpforsunday (*this link will go "live" on Monday, 4/19*). Please complete ALL boxes, then click the "Submit" button at the bottom.

OR

(2) Call the Church Office (727-822-2031) before Friday at noon.

If you plan to attend in-person on Sundays, PLEASE NOTE:

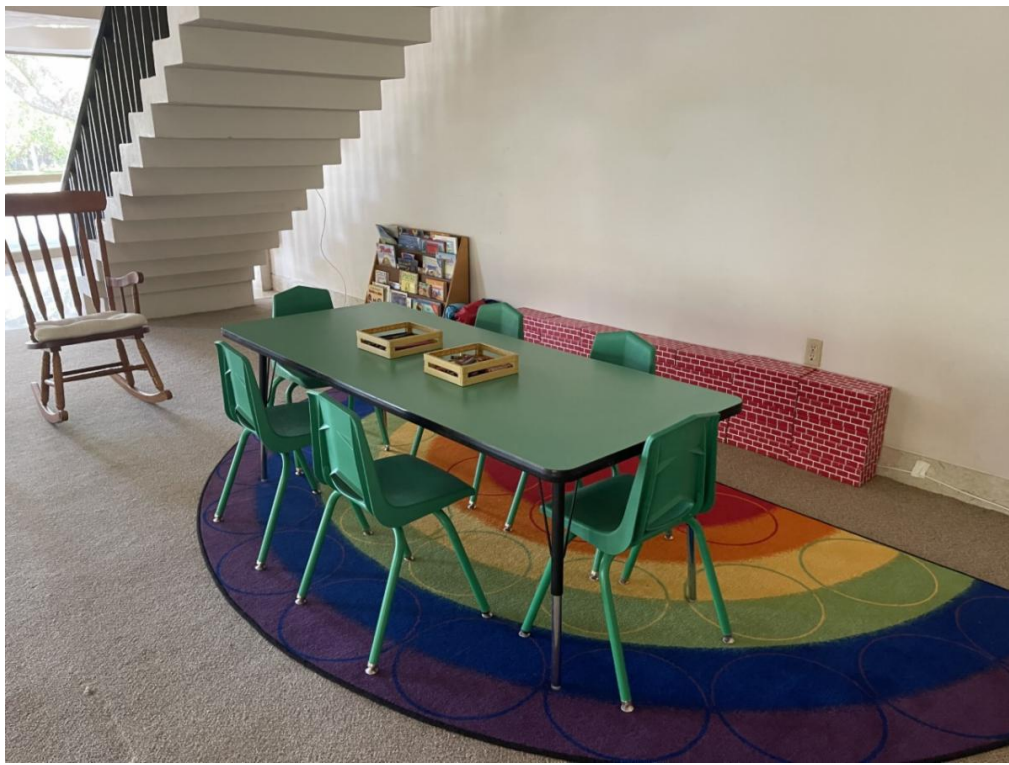
- If you have had a fever, cough, above normal temperature, runny nose,

sore throat, shortness of breath, reduction of sense of smell, or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days, we ask that you stay home and watch the service online.

- Masks will be required.
- Seating will be limited to ensure social distancing.
- For your safety, prior to service, you will check in at the front doors, and be seated by ushers at a safe social distance.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in several easy-to-access spots.
- Our elevator will NOT be accessible.
- The Sanctuary will have one entrance and one exit only. Signs will point you in the right direction.
- We ask that you do not congregate in the Sanctuary at all after the service. If you wish to stop and visit with friends, please make your way out of the Sanctuary first and visit outside.

Thank you in advance for your patience with these safety procedures.

We look forward to seeing you in-person next Sunday!



FPC Kids' Korner

As we return to worship in our Sanctuary, we welcome children of all ages (or children at heart) to come and use our Kids' Korner! We invite your kids to wiggle, play, and draw here during worship in this "pray-ground." Now the whole family can worship together!

Join us for a Fellowship Hour after the 10 AM Service on April 25

We are very excited to be opening our doors for worship on April 25th for the first time in 2021! Immediately following the service, we will be having Fellowship Hour outside, in the back parking lot area of campus. (*Socially distant & responsible, of course!*)

Come and catch up with your FPC friends, family, & guests and enjoy LIVE music from the FPC Praise Band. We hope to see you then!



FPC Praise Band LIVE!



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE -- ONLINE EDITION --

Everyone is welcome to join; feel free to send the links to friends and family!

7:00-8:00 PM

Social Justice - A series of talks and panel discussions are being arranged on issues of social justice. Join us next Wednesday, April 21, as Ivy Lopedito from the UN Council on Status of Women joins in our discussion.

[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

If you missed earlier weeks' discussions, you can see the recorded version [HERE](#). Future speakers and programs will be announced as the dates approach.

Peaceful and Powerful Parenting Workshops are on Mondays at noon!

Each session includes practice of building skills interactively, as well as a short Q & A problem-solving discussion at the end. The class is taking a break next Monday, April 19, but will resume the following week (April 26).

[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

Small Group Opportunities

In this time of COVID life, would you be interested in being a part of a small group study? What topic(s) interest you? We often find that small group ministry is a wonderful opportunity to meet with others who share the same interest, want to deepen their faith and/or explore new topics.

Opportunities

Lynn Kiehne would love to hear from you as to what interests you and we will see if we can create groups of like-minded members/friends of members to enjoy this type of fellowship. As we are currently exercising extreme caution, these groups will more than likely meet online unless the membership of the group wishes to gather safely in person. Email Lynn (lkiehne@gmail.com) or call the Church Office (727-822-2031) to express your interest.



Devotionals Available!

Copies of the April/May/June edition of "These Days" and "Our Daily Bread" large-print devotionals are still available for pick-up from the Church Office during normal business hours.

If you have concerns about social distancing, just call ahead, and a copy can be left outside for you.



Grieving? Know someone who is? Join our GriefShare group on Sundays at 4 PM (via Zoom)

Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, you will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend.

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The 13-week DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. This is a great opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Need more information? Want to sign up? Call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.

Below is the lament that PW Circles will be using in April:

A Lament in Search of Comfort

--by Sarah Fechter, March 2021

O Jesus, it has been more than a year
do you know how sad life has been —
so many desperately ill loved ones
dying before their time?

Do you care that we are lonely
missing hugs from family and friends
stuck at home, unable to work or play
or even to worship in your house?

In the midst of this pandemic I confess
how often I have failed to obey you
ignored your commandment that
we love one another

I have hurt you and those around me
been ungrateful for your care
yet never have you failed me
your forgiveness exceeds my worth

I bow down and you lift me up
always sharing my pain
comforting me with your love
and now promising hope for better times

soon to be.

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: 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 April 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](#). Starting April 25, the class will meet in-person at 8:30 a.m. in Room S-202.
- **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).
- **Sundays, 4 PM**, GriefShare. For Zoom sign-in information, email Petra Garnett (petra.garnett@gmail.com)
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Online Devotional with Pastor Dawn. Click [HERE](#) to join. If you are prompted, use "prayer" a password.

- **Mondays, 12 PM**, "Peaceful and Powerful Parenting" Workshops via Zoom (taking a break on April 19)
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Weekly Meditation, virtual. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- **Wednesdays, online, 7 - 8 PM** - Wednesday Night Live! (Social Justice)
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, in person in Room N-123.

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- **Friday, April 16**, Church Office will be closed
 - **Sunday, April 25**, FPC re-opens for in-person worship services in the Sanctuary, 10 AM, followed by a social hour with live music from the FPC Praise Band in the back parking lot.

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.

