

FIRST NEWS



MERRY
Christmas

Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

December 25, 2020

Merry Christmas from the FPC Staff!



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, December 27
First Sunday of Christmas

This Sunday's Sermon: "Prophecy from the Margins"
Rev. Ruth Elswood

As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM, so whether you plan to attend in person or online, please join us a few minutes early! When the organ music starts, please observe respectful quiet as those around you use the time for prayer and preparation for worship.

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 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!

Reminder: Returning to Online-Only Worship

Starting with last night's Christmas Eve services, First Presbyterian Church will return to worshipping online only through the months of January and February.

The Worship and Music Committee and its Return to In-Person Worship and Ministries Subcommittee met together last week to consider safety and other concerns involved in producing simultaneous in-person and online services. With prayerful deliberation, they determined a number of factors point to closing the sanctuary again, for the time being, continuing our vibrant online services.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.



Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Ron Hall, Margo Hart, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Alisa Keys, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Howard Moser, Eleanor Nicholas, Peter Pav, 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; 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.

Christmas Decorations In Our Sanctuary



Special thanks to the Sanctuary Guild for the lovely Christmas decorations

Resting Elders Invited To Join "Transforming Church Conflict" Seminar

The Session invites all resting elders to participate with them in a conflict resolution training seminar called "Transforming Church Conflict," given by our consultant Cameron Trimble on Saturday, January 9 from 9 AM to 4 PM via Zoom. Together we will explore the following topics:

- your individual approach to conflict
- types and levels of conflict
- managing difficult conversations and emotions
- how conflict functions in groups and congregations
- healthy congregational conflict practices

The workshop will include opportunities for sharing personal experiences with conflict and working on leading through conflict using case studies and role-play.

If you would like to participate, please email or call Amy in the Church Office to reserve your spot no later than January 6.



Thank You Christmas Angel

A big THANK YOU to the Christmas angel who brought lunch to the church staff on Tuesday. Your generosity, thoughtfulness, and delicious food were much appreciated. We promise there are really big smiles under our masks!!

Your Help Is Needed

If you are (or know) someone who is computer-savvy and would be willing to help with publishing *First News*, our vital weekly church newsletter, please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031).

Glimpses from last Friday's Drive-Through Nativity and Youth "Lock-Out"

Our Drive-Through Nativity was a big success and a great service to our local community! Thank you to all our volunteers and to everyone who came and helped!





Sonshine City Podcast

Take a listen to this week's Sonshine City Podcast [HERE](#) as Pastor Dawn and Pastor Megan introduce and chat about the scripture on which Sunday's sermon is based.

Sonshine City Podcast will appear weekly in *First News* to shine the light of Christ's love into your day.



Pastor's Christmas Tree Fund Another Way To Help Those In Need

Each year at Christmas, the Mission Committee has collected donations for the *Pastor's Christmas Tree Fund*. Usually lots of cards are hanging from a beautifully decorated tree in the back of the sanctuary with donations included. All the monies collected are used at the pastor's discretion to help those in need, mostly from our congregation. Sometime the need is to pay an electric bill, or groceries, or other expenses that help people survive unexpected hard times.

This year we are asking that you make your donation to the Pastor's Christmas Tree Fund by:

- Mailing a card to the Church
- Dropping it off in the Church Office during regular office hours (or after hours through the front door mail slot)
- Giving online (click [HERE](#)); select Pastor's Assistance Fund on the drop-down menu

Please be sure to write "Pastor's Christmas Tree Fund" on the memo line to ensure your donation is recorded properly. Thank you.



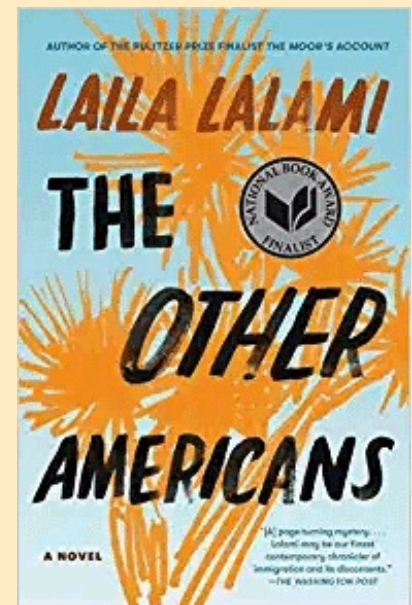
Devotionals Available in the Church Office

Copies of the January/February/March edition of "Our Daily Bread" large-print devotionals are 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.

Faith & Fiction Discusses *The Other Americans*

Faith & Fiction will meet via Zoom on Monday, January 4 at 7:30 PM to discuss *The Other Americans* by Laila Lalami -- the story of a Moroccan immigrant. Marsha Baker will lead this discussion.

Linda Santoro will send out the Zoom link on January 4 to all who are registered. Additional participants are welcome. Please phone Linda Santoro (727-897-9543) to receive the link. Kindly join us a few minutes before 7:30 PM so that we may begin promptly.



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 January 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.
- **Sundays, 10 AM, Worship Service** [Online](#) and **In-Person** in the Sanctuary.
- **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).
- **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 Meditation, virtual.** For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- **Friday Men's Bible Study,** will not meet the last two Fridays in December.
- **Friday, December 25, Church Office Closed.**
- **Sunday, December 27, Worship Services** transition back to 100% online
- **Friday, January 1, Church Office Closed**
- **Monday, January 4, 7:30 PM, Faith & Fiction,** meets by Zoom. See article above 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](#).

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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.

