

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

January 1, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, January 3
Second Sunday of Christmas / Lord's Supper

This Sunday's Sermon: "Love One Another"
Rev. Megan H. McMillan
Scripture: [Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18](#), [Matthew 22:34-46](#)

COMMUNION SUNDAY: We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this Sunday during our virtual worship. Please gather bread, crackers, or rolls and something to drink (juice, wine, milk, water) ahead of time for all in your home who will be participating.

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.

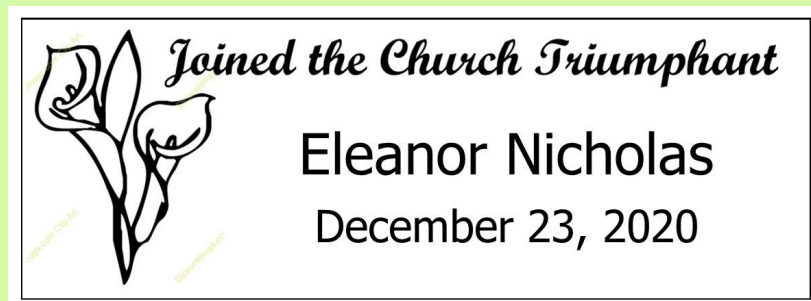
If the 10 AM hour on Sundays does not fit your schedule, the service is available for

viewing on our YouTube channel throughout the week. Feel free to share the link with family and friends!



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, Peter Pav, Richard Pfeider, 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.*

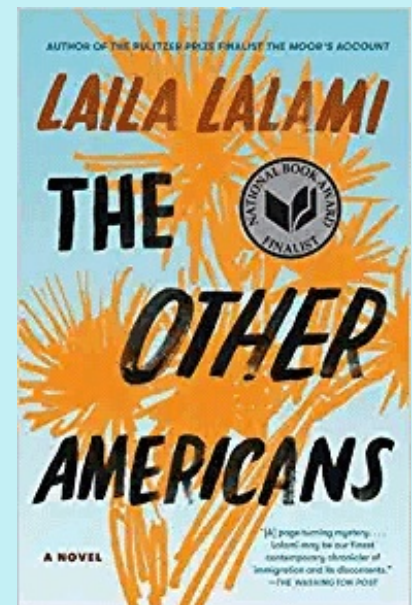
Thank you for choosing to use your time to give this important gift of prayer to our church family. *The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.* - James 5:16

If you have any additions, deletions, or updates to the weekly prayer concerns, please contact Amy Grossenbacher at amyg@fpc-stpete.org.

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.



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.

Your Help Is Needed

For the past two years, I have had the pleasure of producing the newsletter you receive every Friday morning. Thank you to those who have faithfully provided me with features, photos and news. I feel that *First News* is one of the most important methods of communication we have with our church family.

I step down as editor hoping that someone who is computer-savvy will volunteer to help publish our vital weekly church newsletter. Please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031).

Submitted by Mary Johnson

Cause For Hope

Ever since King David
wrote his Psalms
people have had cause to lament
then forget
and the world lives on
through wars and famine
 depressions and pestilence
 epidemics and Pandemics —
the Black Plague
 the 1918 Flu
 the polio epidemic
Now the 2020 Covid-19
way too many ill,
 in hospitals
 and dying
With millions jobless
 no food in the pantry
we tire of lockdowns and masks.

Where are you God
when we live each day in fear
each and every moment filled with suffering?
Where are you while we wait for the time
that vaccines will save mankind?

But now, God, you and your servants
are giving us hope.
We thank you, our Father,
for the light
 on the horizon
This time let us remember
 your goodness amid our struggles.

Sarah Fechter December 2020

Putting Names On The Faces



The Staff picture is being rerun this week to allow us to identify the staff for you. They are (Left to Right):
 Top row: Amy Grossenbacher, Johnny Miller, Megan McMillan, Ruth Elswood
 Middle row: Jack Rain, Dave Aumack, Kevin Clark, Dawn Conti
 Bottom row: Linda Champion, Matt Clear, Ashley Hardy



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.

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!



Sonshine City Podcast

The pastors took a break this week from the Sonshine City Podcast, but feel free to click [HERE](#) to catch up on previous weeks' podcast. We'll be back with another episode in next week's *First News* to shine the light of Christ's love into your day!

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](#).
- **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.** **Will not be meeting on Jan. 4,** but we'll resume on Monday, January 11. 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,** Not meeting on New Year's Day. Study resumes on January 8 at 7:30 AM, **in person** in Room N-123.
- **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 [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.



First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg, Florida

