

FIRST NEWS



Your **Weekly News** from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

January 8, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, January 10
Baptism of the Lord

This Sunday's Sermon: "Covenanting with One Another"
Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Genesis 1:1-5](#), [Psalm 29](#), [Mark 1:4-11](#)

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: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, 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 Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, 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.



Joined the Church Triumphant

Ron Hall

January 4, 2021

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.

Church Membership: How to Become A Part of Our Church Family

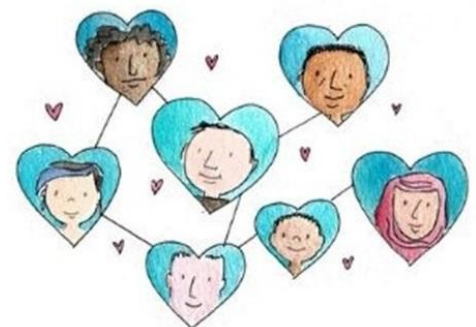
Even during a pandemic, you can't argue that church membership helps keep us accountable. When we join, we offer ourselves to worship regularly (online during a pandemic). We offer ourselves to each other to be encouraged (even if it's virtually). We offer ourselves to serve God (on various church committees or as Elder or Deacon), and to be served by others in times of need. Your church and God will help you if you are in need.

FPC St. Pete is a warm, inclusive, welcoming body of Christians who would welcome your membership, even during a pandemic! All you need to do is contact Karen Mossman at FpcNewMembers@gmail.com and say you're interested!

We invite YOU to be a part of our awesome church family this new year!

Staying Connected With the Psalms

In this time where we are gathering virtually instead of in the sanctuary, the Return to In-Person Worship and Ministries Team wants to stay in touch with you. If you haven't seen it already, a video greeting from a team member, which includes comfort from the book of Psalms, will land in your inbox once a week through the end of February.



In case you missed this week's edition, you can find it [HERE](#).



Learn a new hymn - "Help Us Accept Each Other" - for our online worship service on Sunday, January 17, 2021.

Click [HERE](#) to watch a teaching video!

An FPC Lenten Devotional

We would like to compile a Lenten Devotional for



our community here at First Presbyterian Church and make it available during the Lenten season for daily reflection and prayer. **WE WANT YOU**, friends of FPC, to contribute to this devotional. It is our hope that those of you led by the Spirit to do so will prepare a short devotional for one (or more than one!) day of the Lenten season, to

begin Ash Wednesday and continue all the way through Easter.

You may choose your own scripture to reflect on, or you can choose a scripture from the daily lectionary. It can be a very short reflection on anything that comes to mind for your chosen scripture. It can include a poem, a hymn, a story, or a piece of art. Accompanying your contribution in our devotional will be a coloring page illustrated by children from the Day School!

Please include: the scripture, your devotional, any file/photo/art you'd like to go along with it, and a prayer at the end. Each devotional is subject to review by Pastor Dawn and Pastor Megan. **Please limit your submissions to 250 words and please send them to Pastor Megan by January 31.**

To sign up for a day or two (or even three!!) click [HERE](#) to do so via Sign Up Genius on the day you choose. If you have any questions, concerns, need further information, or have any issues signing up, please contact Pastor Megan at meganm@fpc-stpete.org.

The Mullins' Have Retired

For many years, the Mission Committee has made donations in support of two missionary families, Larry & Stephanie Kraft, whose sending organization is OC International Ministries, and Alan & Ezia Mullins, whose sending organization is United World Missions. Alan & Ezia Mullins have retired.



The mission committee received a lovely note from the Mullins describing their life now that they have retired from active mission ministry. In part it read, "we are both enjoying our retirement, good health and continuing to be involved as much as possible in the work God has called us to do here in Brazil."

The note included a description of the work the donations from First Presbyterian Church have allowed them to do. They said "your gifts provide compassionate care for those who are ill and seeking medical care;...the funds also help with special needs for several Brazilian missionaries serving with New Tribes Mission, Mission Aviation Fellowship, and the Brazilian Association of Retreats and Christian campus."

The Mullins' also offered these kind words for our congregation: "we want to take this opportunity to share our gratitude for your continued financial contributions to our mission account at United World Mission."

This mission couple's work over the years has included "equipping leaders, establishing churches, engaging in holistic ministry by partnering with the church globally."

We are grateful for their ministry and wish them well in their retirement. In retirement, they remain in Brazil where they have worked for many years.

--from Your Mission Committee

Help Needed For First News

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

Devotionals Available in the Church Office

Copies of the January/February/March edition of "These Days" large-print devotionals are now available for pick-up from the Church Office during normal business hours (the "Our Daily Bread" devotionals are also still available).

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



Sonshine City Podcast

Take a listen to this week's Sonshine City Podcast [HERE](#) as Pastors Dawn and 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.

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."

Online Giving



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](#).
- **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, 7:30 AM, in person in Room N-123.**

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](#).

First Presbyterian Church
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701
(727) 822-2031

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

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

