

FIRST NEWS



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

March 26, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, March 28
Palm Sunday

This Sunday's Sermon:
"Save Us Now, We Pray"
Rev. Megan H. McMillan
Scripture: [Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29](#), [Mark 11:1-11](#)

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.

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Sunday, March 28 - Palm Sunday

- Online Worship Service at 10 AM



Thursday, April 1 - Maundy Thursday

- Stations of the Cross, online starting at 10 AM

- Drive-Through Lord's Supper, front circle drive, from 1 - 3 PM



Friday, April 2 - Good Friday

- Tenebrae service, online at 7 PM



Saturday, April 3 - Holy Saturday

- Family & Children's Easter service, with the reading of "The Tale of Three Trees," online at 4 PM. If your child or grandchild would like to participate, please call the Church Office so we can be sure to get an activity bag to them ahead of time!



Sunday, April 4 - Easter

- In-Person Sunrise Service, 7:30 AM in the front circle drive (chairs will be set up as socially distant; please wear masks). This more casual worship service will include music and a short meditation/homily.

- Traditional Easter worship service, online at 10 AM



Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, 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, JB & Marsha Starkey.

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

Easter Lilies

Next week is Easter Sunday! Share Easter's beauty by sponsoring a lily to be used as part of our Easter worship service. These traditional symbols of Easter can be given in memory of a loved one or to honor friends and family (\$20 each). To order, contact Amy in the Church Office (727-822-2031 or amyg@fpc-stpete.org). A safe, socially distanced pick-up of your lily can be arranged after Easter Sunday.



Update from the Return to Church Task Force

Great news congregation! Your Return to Church Task Force met recently and made the recommendation to Session to **return to church on Sunday, April 25.**

The plan is for our church to return to in-person worship (if you are comfortable) in the sanctuary on Sunday, April 25 at 10 AM. We will also continue with our vibrant online worship on YouTube. We are so excited to once again have the opportunity to gather together in person (masked and socially distanced; all CDC, federal, state, and local guidelines will be in place)!

As before, congregants will need to register in advance to attend worship, and on the day of worship, will be ushered into the sanctuary and seated according to their risk exposure.

Praise God! We will all be together in person together again soon! After 4/25, all church ministries will be able to begin meeting in person as well. We look forward to seeing you all very soon!

Welcome New FPC Members Matt, Katy, Bea, and Jake!



Matt and Katy have lived in St. Pete for a decade and have two young children, Bea (3) and Jake (1). Matt works at Study Group USA in international student recruitment and business development. Katy works at Raymond James Financial in marketing. Bea enjoys preschool, Tangled, and playing with her friends. Jake enjoys trucks and throwing balls. As a family, they enjoy traveling, spending time with family and going to the beach.



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. We will not be meeting next Wednesday (March 31) due to Holy Week. However, we hope you can join us the following week (April 7) when we are joined by Charlie Justice from Pinellas County Commission.

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. Monday's session (3/29) will be about Discipline Language, and we'll be using videos to show examples of "start" and "stop" language, and discussing natural and logical consequences.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Zoom Meeting Link

Or go to [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



Devotionals Available!

Copies of the April/May/June edition of "These Days" and "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.



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.

Grieving? Know someone who is?



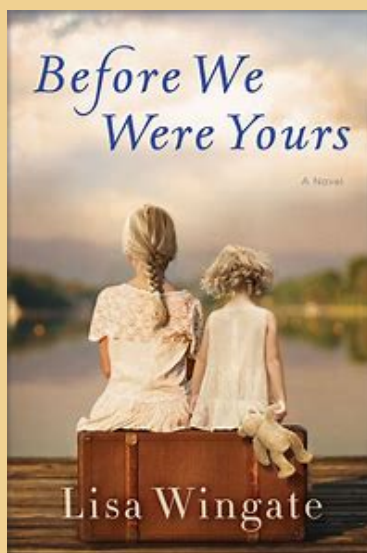
Join our GriefShare group on Sundays at 4 PM (via Zoom)

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.



Faith & Fiction

Next month, Faith & Fiction will be reading *Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate. This is a thought-provoking, complex tale about two families, two generations apart, and is based on a notorious true-life scandal.

Our discussion will be held on **Monday, April 5th** at 7:30 p.m. Once again, we will meet via Zoom. Please contact Linda Santoro if you would like to join the discussion (727-897-9543 or lindajsantoro@gmail.com).

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

Lament for Our Earth

--by Sarah Fechter, February 2021

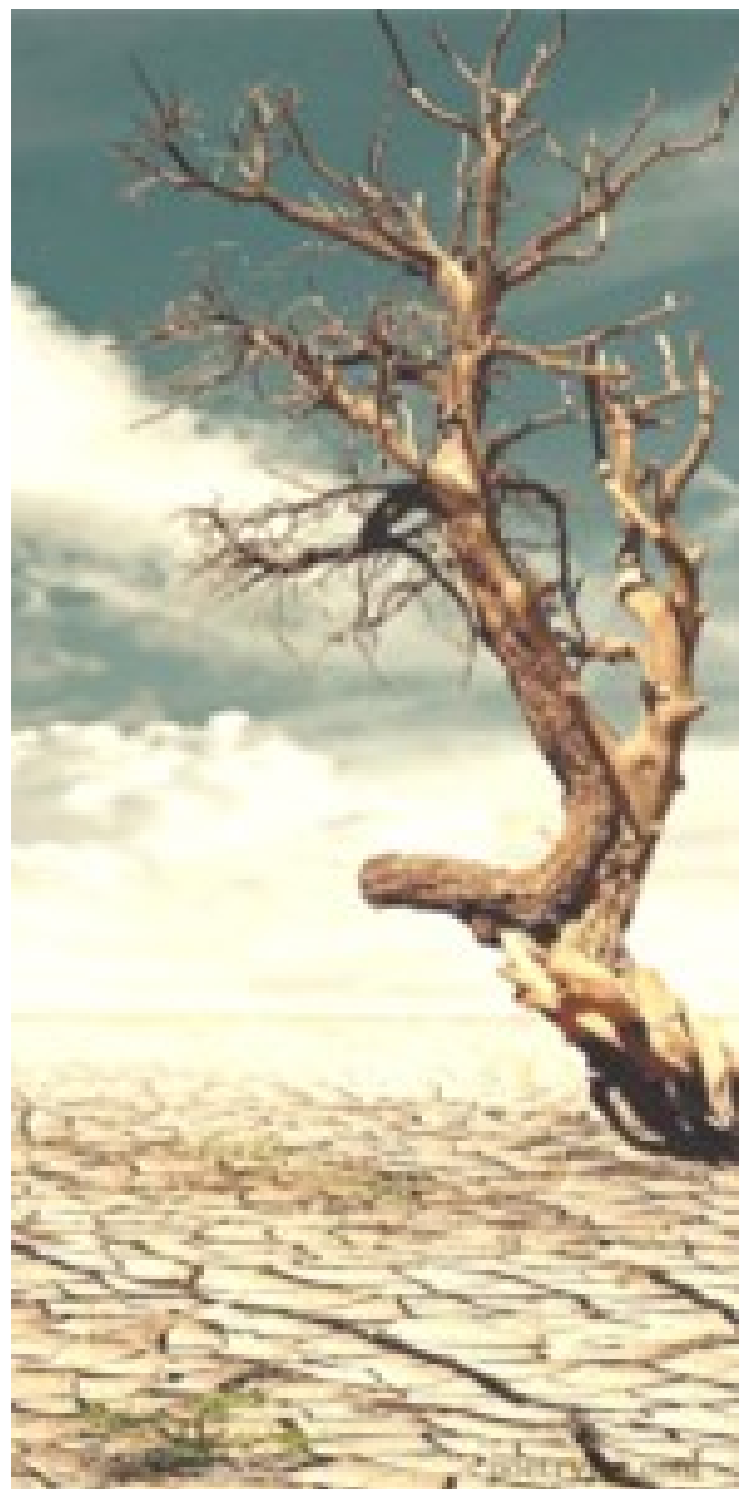
O God, who created heaven and earth
separated land and waters
planted towering oaks and tiny wild flowers
made giant whales for the seas
and foxes and rabbits
to scamper the forests.

Finally, you made humankind
to prosper with responsibility
for the earth and every living thing.

Yes, God, we did prosper
yet not responsible enough
doing little to replenish
and preserve your bountiful gifts.

The earth now cries from thirst
rivers and seas are littered and stressed
we have broken your covenant
with poisons polluting wind and water
joy has turned to doom.

Creator God, forgive us
help us rescue and nourish
the bounty of your land —
we beseech you to
reach out your hand
and save us from extinction.



stay
CONNECTED

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!

MONDAY DEVOTION

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."

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 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.
- **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" a password.
- **Mondays, 12 PM**, *Peaceful and Powerful Parenting Workshops* via Zoom.
- **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.**

- **Thursday, April 1, Maundy Thursday, 10 AM Virtual Stations of the Cross; 12-2 PM Drive-Through Lord's Supper**
- **Friday, April 2, Good Friday, Church Office closes at noon, Tenebrae Service online, 7 PM**
- **Saturday, April 3, Children & Family Easter Service online, 4 PM**
- **Sunday, April 4, Easter! In-person sunrise worship service at 7:30 AM in the front circle drive; online worship service at 10 AM.**

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.

