

FIRST NEWS



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

May 7, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us at 10 AM in the Sanctuary
for an In-Person or Online Worship Service
this Sunday, May 9
Sixth Sunday of Easter
Ordination & Installation of Officers



Happy Mother's Day



Pastor Dawn Conti
Scripture: [Psalm 98](#), [1 John 5:1-6](#), [John 15:9-17](#)

If you still feel uncomfortable or are unable to worship with us in person, you can click [HERE](#) to watch the service online.

*As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM,
so please plan to arrive a few minutes early!*

To the glory of God and in gratitude for the blessings

of God through our mothers, the flowers in the Sanctuary this Sunday are donated by Al May.



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 Pfeider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Judy Smith

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.

IN-PERSON WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY SUNDAYS AT 10 AM!

We are asking you to make a reservation every week to attend in-person worship services. 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. Please remember to complete ALL boxes, then click the "Submit" button at the bottom. We will take reservations for Sunday until noon on Friday.

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 on Sunday morning!

Introducing a New (Paperless!) Way to Access Our Sunday Morning Worship Service Bulletin!

Starting this Sunday (May 9), you will see the below QR code posted in various spots at the back of the Sanctuary. If you have a "smart phone," you will be able to use this code to access an online copy of the order of service!

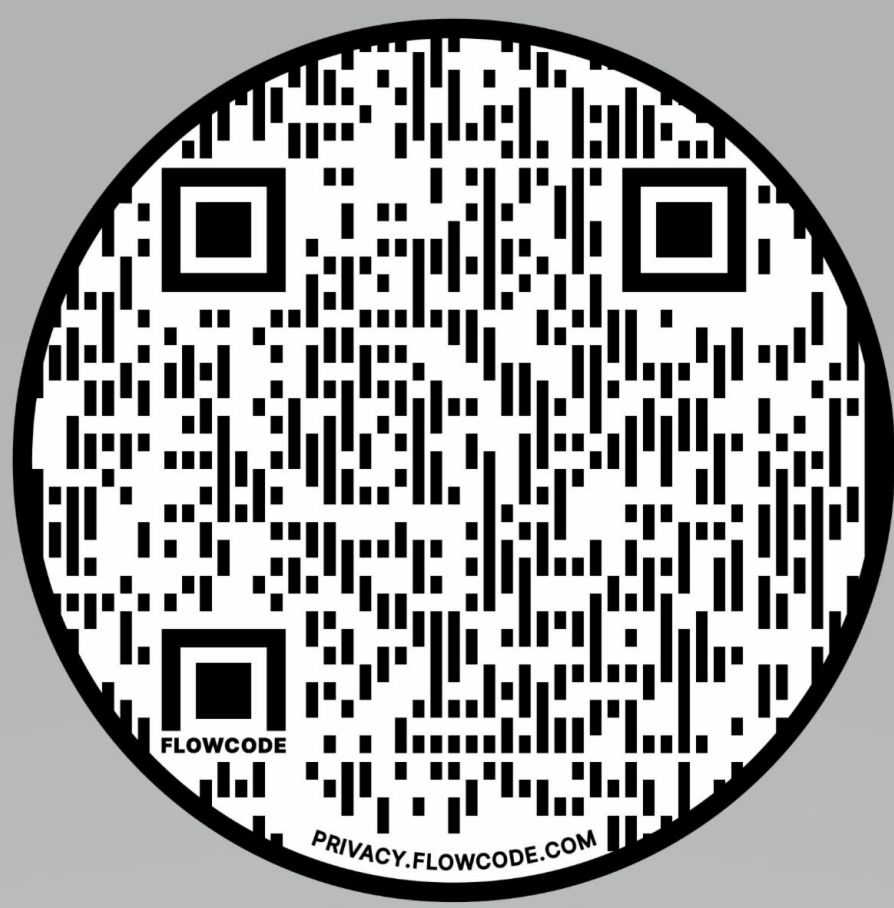
1. Go to the camera feature of your phone (like you are about to take a picture).
2. Aim the camera at the QR code.
3. A pop-up will appear on your phone (it may take a minute!).
4. Click that pop-up. It will take you to a screen (looks like the picture below) with a link to this Sunday's order of worship.



May 9 Worship Service Bulletin
May 9, 2021

← *Click this link!*

Feel free to practice using the new QR code! Just follow the steps above and point your camera directly at the image below!



Celebrating Helen Leslie's 100th Birthday

Pastors Dawn and Megan and Deacon Linda Santoro were able to visit Helen recently and deliver balloons and birthday wishes!

Why Do I Love My Church?

submitted by Eva Popovich

Some of the most wonderful experiences I have had at First Presbyterian Church were with the choir, which I consider to be my true home here. Matt Clear has made it even better, bringing his excellent musical talent and his heart for sharing it. The past year, he has kept us going with learning the new skill of recording and just keeping us together with Zoom "practices."

Since the pandemic, a new world has opened for me here. I am part of the Worship and Music Committee, where creativity and imagination has been at work with the online Sunday services. Our priority is always how our services will bring the people of the church back to God and keep us close.

Also I've worked on the Return-to-Church committee, where we have prayerfully considered how to provide the best comfort and Christianity to all

I ♥ MY
CHURCH

church members in spite of the limitations of the pandemic.

I joined Dawn's Monday-morning Bible study, where we all had a chance to increase our understanding of the Bible. More than ever, I grew from the ideas and care of the others in the group.

These all have one thing in common: we got to know each other as we prayed together at each meeting. Our group prayer gathered in prayer for every member, and everyone's loved ones. Our joys and sadness and fears were shared. Our sorrows and worries about everything in our church were shared.

They showed me a side of worship I have really benefited from.

Finally, this year I became a deacon. I have been a deacon in three other churches I have attended, but I think this time has really allowed me to grow in relationship with others in the church who I did not know before. I have seen the faces of the church, the individuals. The leaders of the deacons are wonderful mentors for me. I can't help but believe that THIS is the heart of the church, helping and caring for one another.

This is my own experience in our church. Yours undoubtedly is different, but all of us come together to weave a fabric that is this congregation, where every member is important.

The Bible tells us that each lamb in the fold is essential and must be found before the Good Shepherd can sleep at night. That is my experience of First Presbyterian and my place here. With God's help, I can work toward this most important goal.

An Invitation from Associate Pastor Megan McMillan WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church, the Book of Order, says this about the Church's ministry:

The Church's ministry is a gift from Jesus Christ to the whole Church. Christ alone rules, calls, teaches, and uses the Church as he wills, exercising his authority by the ministry of women and men for the establishment and extension of God's new creation. Christ's ministry is the foundation and standard for all ministry, the pattern of the one who came "not to be served but to serve" (Matt. 20:28). The basic form of ministry is the ministry of the whole people of God... to fulfill particular functions. Members and those in ordered ministries serve together under the mandate of Christ. (G-2.0101)

As stated in our polity, it's not just those in ordered ministry (Teaching and Ruling Elders) that are called to serve the church. We are looking for members and friends who are willing and able to serve the whole people of God during our worship services as a **Liturgists**.

If you are interested in serving First Presbyterian Church this way, please call Amy in the Church Office.

Last Wednesday (May 5) was our last Wednesday Night Live for this semester. As a reminder, if you would like to go back and watch any of the weeks



you may have missed, you can see the recorded version on our YouTube channel (click [HERE](#)).

Look for the Rainbow

There is a rainbow in the sky
bright colors chase away the clouds
signaling the storm is over
God has renewed
His promise
affirmed his presence.

We can smile again
after these many months
of doubt and pain.

Now it is time
to remember those
who cannot yet see the rainbow
far too many of God's children
continue to hurt
remain hungry and lonely
but it will come to them—
in time we pray
everyone can see the bow
believe God's promise
and the need to lament
shall cease.



**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.

All of us at First Presbyterian
are working to stay as connected as possible

during this time of social distancing.

Stay
CONNECTED

- 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!

MONDAY DEVOTION

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.

Online Giving



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 May 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, 8:30 AM,** Faith Journey Sunday School Class, meeting in-person, Room S-202.
- **Sundays, 10 AM,** In-Person Worship Service, Sanctuary or [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.
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Weekly Meditation, virtual. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, 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](#).

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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.

