

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

October 23, 2020

Online Worship
This Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, October 25!
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's Sermon: "Sowing Generously"
Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Psalm 34:1-10, 22](#), [2 Corinthians 9:6-15](#)

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 10:00 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!

Gratitude & Generosity Sunday
(aka Stewardship Sunday)

is this coming Sunday, October 25

There are three way to give:

- (1) Simply go to the church web-site at www.fpc-stpete.org and click on the 2021 pledge card button OR click on this link that will take you to the electronic pledge card: <https://www.fpcstpete.com/pledgecard2021>
- (2) Return the pledge card you received in the U.S. mail, or
- (3) Drop your pledge card in the mail slot of the church office door.

Please pray about your giving, and take a moment to reflect upon what offering you would make to God through our church in the coming year.

Please Note: The amount of scholarship and missions giving in 2020 in the Constant Contact message sent from Pastor Dawn yesterday were incorrect. This year, \$40,000 in scholarship funds was awarded to five recipients. 2020 missions giving was 130,000. 40,000 came from your offerings while 90,000 was provided from endowment distributions. We apologize for the error.



Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Ron Hall, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Howard Moser, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider, 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; James Loeblein, USN; 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.

Tartans Taking A Break

First Presbyterian Church traditionally has celebrated our denomination's Scottish heritage with a beautiful tartan and bagpipe procession on the last Sunday in October. Because preparations are underway to make the sanctuary safe for our return to in-person worship on Nov. 15, we are forgoing the celebration this year. Look for the tartans and bagpipes in 2021.

Election Eve Virtual Prayer Service

Monday, November 2 at 7 PM

Please join us online Monday, November 2nd as we come together (virtually) to pray and ask God to lead us in making wise decisions in the upcoming elections. The service will go "live" on the First Presbyterian Church YouTube Channel (found [HERE](#)) at 7:00 PM. For more information call, First Presbyterian Church – St. Petersburg, FL (727) 822-2031.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful.

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar helps participants discover:

- How to deal with emotions
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- What to do about traditions
- How to find hope for the future

The Seminar will be offered via Zoom on **Saturday, Nov. 21 at 10 AM**. Please email Petra Garnett (petra.garnett@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if you would like the Zoom log-in information.



Operation Attack Food Distribution Drive-Thru

Drive-Up Food Distribution
Saturday, October 24, 9 AM
Until Food Runs Out
1310 22nd Ave S., St Pete

Food Will Be Placed In Your Open, Empty Trunk

Please Wear A Mask



Note to readers: For many years, our church has given scholarships to students to enable them to attend Cedarkirk and to be part of the Honduras Team. In the next few weeks, several students share their experiences and how camp and Honduras have touched their lives.

Featuring Eric Wilson



Eric is a senior in the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High. He is currently taking Geography, Dual Enrollment Comprehension, Probability and Statistics. In the Performing Arts, he is taking Orchestra, Senior Seminar, Design and Production and Recording Studio. In between all of those studies, Eric works part-time at Jimmy John's and manages to be involved in the Pinellas Youth Symphony, playing the Viola.

At FPC, Eric has participated in Youth Parking Events, Trunk or Treat, and has performed with our Chancel Choir. He has also worked with Jack Rain on various duets.

Reflecting on his several trips to Honduras, Eric said, "Going to Honduras affected me personally by putting everything I do in the right perspective, such as my school, my transportation, as well as my benefits including health care, financial stability, and other resources. I am very grateful to FPC for providing this opportunity to travel down to a different country to appreciate another culture."

Looking back on the many trips to Cedarkirk, Eric has wonderful memories of the great staff and all the great water activities!

Looking to the future, he says, "I plan to pursue a career in music, find a symphony to settle down in, and continue to make music. I give all the credit to my amazing family for providing support and resources and hope along the way."

Thank you, Eric for sharing your skill and love of music with FPC over the years...we are grateful that God has given you the beautiful gift of music.

Submitted by Diane Zuercher



We Need YOU to Pass the Peace, VIRTUALLY!

As we return to worship in person soon, our service will be different from before, in many ways, to keep everyone as safe as possible.

One way is that we will not have the Passing of the Peace, the time where we used to stand and greet each other in the name of Christ.

Instead, we are asking individuals, families, or friends who live in the same building or are otherwise comfortable with each other to record a short Pass the Peace video greeting to be played during Sunday worship for those in the Sanctuary and those still watching from the couch at home. You can include your pets (our cats watch every Sunday)!

The Return to Church Team has provided this sample script, which you can adapt to your own liking, as long as it is short and sweet and passes the peace. You may split the speaking up among you, though you may want to say the last phrase in unison:

Good Morning, First Presbyterian Church! We are the XXXXXXXX family (or say individual names in a group such as from Westminster Palms) and we have been members for XX years. We want to say we are glad you are here worshipping together, whether you are in the Sanctuary, your own home or even another part of the world!

We also want to warmly extend to you the Peace of Christ that passes all understanding: 'May the Peace of Christ be with you!'

If you are unable to record your own video on your phone (indoors or out, hold the phone horizontally, please), you can ask our online worship expert David Aumack to record you.

He will set up a time convenient to both of you.

We already have commitments from a handful of hams, er, willing people, to record Pass the Peace greetings, but we need many more. After all, there are 52 Sundays a year!

We think this is a great way to help members get to know each other as well as to stay safe. You can record one even if you plan to return to the Sanctuary for worship. These greetings will be broadcast on our new video screen wall in the Sanctuary as well as the online service.

Please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031) as soon as possible to let us know you can participate, and then send your videos to daumack@fpc-stpete.org. You can also contact him with any technical questions you may have.

Thank you in advance for virtually Passing the Peace!

Peace and blessings to you,

Gretchen Letterman, for the Return to Church Team

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Are you able to knit or crochet? Do you need a project to help fill your time while you are staying safe at home?

The deacons and other members of this church have begun a new ministry – the crafting of beautiful, hand-made shawls that will be given to anyone who might need the reassurance of a gentle touch of warmth, and the knowledge that someone from God’s congregation crafted a lovely shawl for them with love and prayers. If you need ideas for a pattern, there are many at www.shawlministry.com. You will find heartwarming prayers there too, prayers you might say as you begin your work, and as you complete a shawl.

We understand that yarn and supplies can be expensive. If you need help with purchasing materials, just save your receipts, and you can be reimbursed by the church. Once you have completed a shawl, you can drop it off at the church office, or call the office (727-822-2031) and we can arrange for someone to pick it up.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. James 5:13

Pictured above is a prayer shawl crafted by Lon Summers.



A Lament for Our Times

Almighty God,
Indeed, you are mighty;
we see your majesty
in the sea and the waves
crashing on the shores.
We feel your power
in the winds that cools
us in summer heat,
swaying the branches
of the trees.

And yet, O God,
we see and hear the signs
of turmoil in our world —
the sickness and death
that permeates the air
we breathe. All around us



there is pain and hunger,
fear and loneliness,
so much that is not
of your kingdom here on earth.

We cry out to you, O God,
remembering that you
are our ALL — All we need
and would seek.
Forgive us, Lord,
for our lack of trust,
forgetting your promise
to be with us always,
forgetting that you, too, grieve
when we shed tears
in this night of suffering.

We seek your comfort
as our world struggles
to return to a time of rightness,
trusting that life will again be good
and once more we can see
the beauty of your creation,
feel the gentle breezes,
and the warmth of the sun
shining from your face.

Sarah Fechter, August 2020

Gifted poet Sarah Fechter is a member of our church and Presbyterian Women, a group studying "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." This study spurred Sarah to write her own Lament during this time of Pandemic.



When a hurricane threatens and an evacuation is ordered, church members living in evacuation areas have options such as a hotel/motel, or they can evacuate out of town if they leave soon enough. The best choice is to evacuate to a friend or family's home in a non-evacuation area of our community.

We would like to create a volunteer Host Homes program for those who will need to move to a non-evacuation area, may have pets (members can offer if they are willing to take pets), or have other needs that will require special consideration.

If you are interested in becoming a Host Home or are someone who would need to move to a non-evacuation location, please email Lynn Kiehne at lkiehne@gmail.com or call the Church Office at 727- 821-2031, and we will get the right form to you.

Once these are completed, we will work to match hosts and guests, and, of course, there will be an opportunity to speak to each other to see if this match would work. We will also keep the information on file at the church via a spreadsheet and we will update the following year as needed.

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!

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 October 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, [Online Worship Service](#).
- 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 - 5:30 PM, GriefShare Support Group. For Zoom sign-in information, contact Petra Garnett (petra.garnett@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 Virtual Meditation, online. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study, meeting in person in Room S-100.
- Sunday, Nov. 1, Daylight Savings Time ends
- Monday, Nov 2, 7 PM, Election Eve Virtual Prayer Service (online)
- Sunday, Nov. 15, Tentative date set for **In-Person** Worship Service at 10 AM (worship services will continue to be shown online as well)
- Saturday, Nov 21, 10 AM, GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays

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

