

# FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from  
First Presbyterian Church  
St. Petersburg

September 4, 2020

## Online Worship This Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service  
this Sunday, September 6!  
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

New Sermon Series: Living Legacies  
This Sunday's Sermon: "The Foundation"  
Pastor Dawn Conti  
Scripture: [Deuteronomy 6:1-9](#), [Mark 12:28-31](#)

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](http://www.fpcstpete.com) - "Click Here to Watch Sunday Services") as well as on the church's Facebook page.

**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.

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!

**Prayer Concerns**

Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Phoebe Catlin, Gordon Crane, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Ron Hall, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Walter & Marie Huber, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Margie Laughlin, Kathie Mayhall, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Howard Moser, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, Del & Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Jean Schultz, 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 a quick end to this situation.

Please also keep in prayer everyone who has been affected by Hurricane Laura.

Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: James Loeblein, USN; CPT. Taina Specie, USA; 1st LT. Liam Shelton, USA; 2nd 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](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org).



The Church Office will be closed on Friday, September 4 and Monday, September 7 for the Labor Day holiday.

## When Can We Return?

The Return to Church subcommittee continues to track COVID-19 data, updated CDC guidelines, and the plans of other churches to determine the safest protocol for worshipping and gathering at FPC in person again. Please watch for a detailed update in *First News* soon!

Submitted by Gretchen Letterman

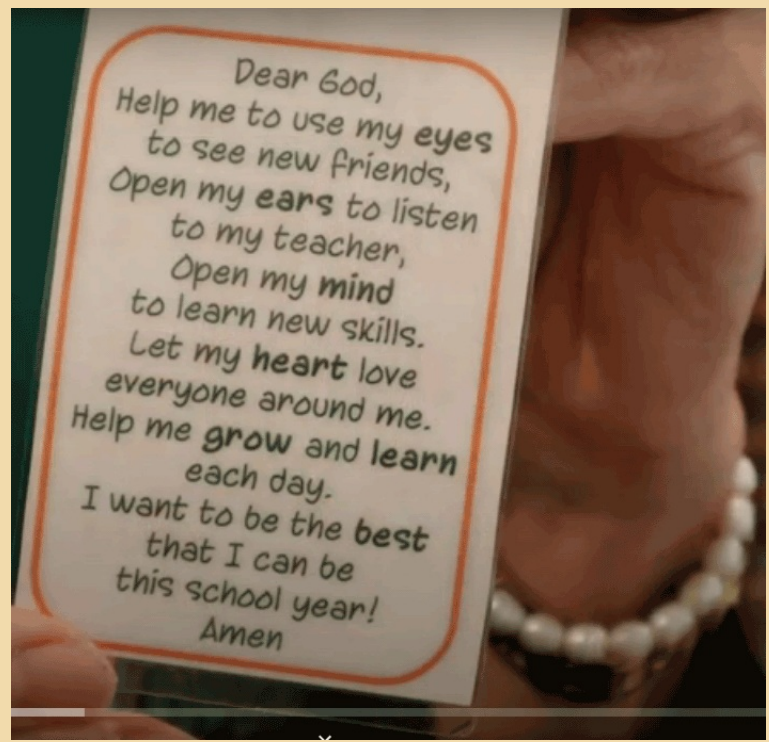
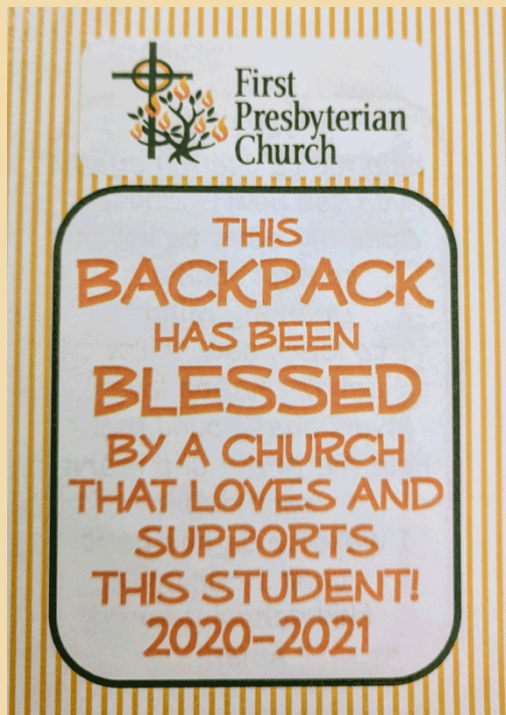
## Blessing of the Backpacks



Victoria Vetter was so excited to wear her backpack

for the blessing during last Sunday's online service.

Laminated blessing tags were sent to Young Disciples to be attached to their school backpacks.



“Help us to learn, through prayer and praise,  
To count our blessings all our days.”

I will be honest that as a deacon and a Stephen Minister, after five months of self-isolation, there are days or spells where I have to remind myself to count my many blessings. God has been good to me, but I am human. When a depression sets in, whether short-term or long-term, I hope you will be like me and reach out for a Stephen Minister.

A Stephen Minister is a trained person who can walk alongside you while you journey through those days of loneliness and negative thoughts. Sometimes we don't want to share our deepest feelings of anxiety and despair with our family or friends, but don't think we need a therapist. God has a Stephen Minister ready to listen. To pray with us. To be present. But not to judge us or betray our confidences.

Why not call one of our Stephen Minister leaders, Ginger McCoy at 727-804-2494 or Terry Schoenberg at 727-667-1023 for more information? It's a small step, but it is a step forward.

Submitted by Marilyn Mulcahy



In past years, our congregation has donated to Operation Attack's July school drive by providing school uniforms, underwear, and cash to help purchase needed school items for kids in south St. Petersburg. This year, Operation Attack has been closed due to the pandemic. Fortunately, we have another opportunity to help families served by this organization via a food distribution drive-thru which will take place at Lakeview Presbyterian Church on September 12.

Here are several ways in which we can donate:

1. Write a check, payable to Operation Attack (with "Op Attack" on the memo line). Mail your check to: **Lakeview**

**Presbyterian Church, 1310 22nd Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33705**

(Please mail your check ASAP so that it arrives no later than September 9, keeping in mind that September 7 is Labor Day and mail delivery may be slow.) Operation Attack staff will shop for food on the 10th or 11th.

2. Drop off food stuffs to Vivian at the Lakeview Church Office from 10:30 AM until

3:00 PM on Wednesdays.

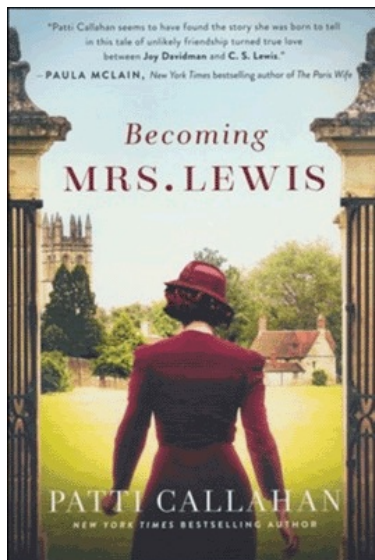
3. Volunteer to help distribute food at the food drive on the 12th by calling the Lakeview Church Office at 727-822-0784.

4. Pray for all those who are helping and for the families who will receive food. Thank 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!



## A New Season of Faith & Fiction

A new Faith & Fiction season begins on Monday, October 5 as the group discusses *Becoming Mrs. Lewis* by Patti Callahan. This historical novel deals with the improbable love story of C. S. Lewis and Joy Davidman. Rue Ann Porter will lead the online discussion using Zoom.

Plan to join the meeting on Monday, October 5 at 7:30 PM. Be sure to check in a few minutes earlier so the meeting can start on time.

Contact Linda Santoro at (727) 897-9543 with questions or to receive Zoom connection information.

## Meet FPC Member, Margaret Hewitt

Educator, accomplished musician, and a faithful worker in our church, that's Margaret Hewitt.

Born in St. Joseph, Missouri and lived there until 1950, Margaret was a very busy person. Graduating in 1950 and eventually earning five degrees, Margaret has spent over fifty years in Education. She and her late husband, Bruce, met at Central Methodist College in Missouri. Together they traveled around the United States and finally came to St. Petersburg in 1984.



Margaret joined the faculty of USF in Tampa. She was asked to oversee the Internship Program for Education at the Bayboro Campus in St. Pete. Her peers accorded her the title of Professor Emerita on her retirement from USF in 2009.

Bruce and Margaret were invited to FPC by Bob and Mary Aucremann and became deeply involved in the church. Ushering, serving as Elders, and chairing many committees, they contributed richly to our church. For many years she and Bruce assisted Charlie Adams in setting up and serving at the early service.

Realizing there was a need for a 9:00 worship service, Bruce, Margaret, and Mike Davis laid the foundation for our current Praise Service. In addition, Margaret helped to guide and lead the Day School as it expanded and became a cornerstone of our church.

All work and no play is not healthy, so between commitments Margaret enjoys a lifetime love of music....becoming a skilled Marimba player. Her father provided lessons for Margaret, starting at the age of 12.

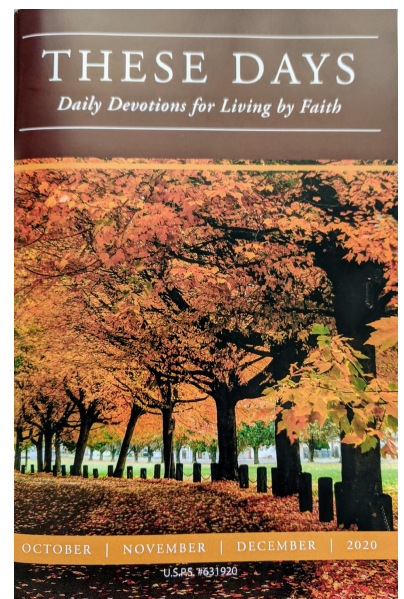
Margaret's philosophy of life is summed up in the following Bible verse: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.* Proverbs 3:5-6

Submitted By Diane Zuercher



## Devotionals Are Available For Pick-Up

Copies of the October/November/December editions of "Our Daily Bread" and "These Days" devotionals are available for pick-up from the Church Office during normal business hours. If you have concerns about social distancing, call ahead, and a copy can be left outside for you.



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](mailto: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.

## Summer Worship Service Soloists

Last Sunday Liam Dunn, pianist, presented Liszt's "Consolation."





Last Sunday Austin Vickery, alto saxophonist, was featured with the Praise Band as they presented "How Great Thou Art."

## Westminster Class Resumes Meetings

On Sunday, September 13, the Westminster Class will resume their meetings on Zoom at 11:15 AM. Anyone who would like to join or "visit" should contact Jim Garnett at [jim.garnett237@gmail.com](mailto:jim.garnett237@gmail.com).

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.*
- [September Birthdays](#)
- Fri., Sept. 4 and Mon., Sept 7, Church Office is closed for Labor Day Holiday

All groups are currently meeting 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](mailto:lkiehne@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 sign-in information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).
- Sunday, September 13, 11:15 AM, Westminster Class will resume their meetings on Zoom. Anyone who would like to join or "visit" should contact Jim Garnett ([jim.garnett237@gmail.com](mailto:jim.garnett237@gmail.com)).

## 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.



**First Presbyterian Church**  
St. Petersburg, Florida

