

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News
from First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

April 10, 2020

Easter Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service this Easter Sunday!

The sermon for this Sunday: "The Promise of Hope"

Pastor Dawn Conti

This is the fifth sermon in a series titled "Standing on the Promises"

Scripture: [Psalm 118:1-2;14-24](#), [Matthew 28:1-10](#)

Watch the service online by clicking [HERE](#).

To see the bulletin for this Sunday's service, click [HERE](#).

This 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. 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!

Good Friday / Tenebrae

We will be broadcasting a
Good Friday Service of the Tenebræ
tonight at 7:30 PM

Click [HERE](#) to watch the service. Click [HERE](#) to view the bulletin.

Please join us for this service which commemorates the final hours of Lord's life on earth.

The full passion story, as found in John's gospel, can be found in the Good Friday bulletin. You are invited to follow along during the readings or meditate on the word during the periods of silence or song.

For a fuller worship experience, you may want to print the bulletin beforehand, as the liturgists will only be reading selected verses (printed in **bold**) from each passage.

The words and music for the Taizé songs in tonight's service are also printed in the bulletin. Please sing along or listen, to your comfort level.



To the glory of God and in loving memory of...

Peter and Glenn Schlecht by *Eric & Susan Schlecht*

Jim & Ophelia Ferber by *Jim & Debbie Ferber*

Don & Dorothy Hill by *Jim & Debbie Ferber*

Bob & Mary Aucremann, Daniel Morrow, and

Charles & Madolyn Aucremann

Janet Hunter by *Royce Haiman*

Norman B. & Linda M. Hart and William & Doris Tew

Loved Ones by *Chris Agee*

Clayton T. Tuthill by *Gwen Tuthill*

To the glory of God and in honor of...

Ken & Dottie Young and Al May by *Nancy Ugden*

Anny Arsenault by *Ray & Kathy Arsenault*

A Farewell Message from Rev. Ruth Elswood

Sunday, April 12 will be my last day in ministry at First Presbyterian. I have loved being your Parish Associate. I have been welcomed with - literal - open arms by this congregation. I have been both humbled and privileged to walk beside so many people during times of sorrow, sickness, hospitalization, and bereavement. I have met so many open, caring, loving people, and you have shared your deepest needs and feelings with me individually, and in group settings. I can never thank you enough for trusting me to be your Pastoral Care

pastor for these last fifteen months. I have formed relationships that mean so much to me, and I have gained more from you all than you can ever know. I have prayed for you as a church, and I have prayed for individuals and families going through times of crisis. You, in return, have prayed faithfully for me and for members of my family, for which I will be ever thankful to our dear Lord. In short, I thank God for the great privilege of serving this church.

I am deeply saddened that I cannot be in church in person this Sunday. I know what a very hard time this is for all of us, separated as we are, from our loved ones, and unable to be physically in worship together. I had envisioned my last Sunday at FPC very differently. I imagined worshiping in community with you all, hearing the choir raise their voices in wonderful Easter anthems, and, of course, I imagined giving and receiving farewell hugs and blessings. I pray that, as soon as this time of isolation is over, I will be able to come and visit one Sunday. So, "God be with you till we meet again," and please know that I hold you all dear in my heart and will continue to keep you in my prayers.

Pastor Ruth

Love Offering for Rev. Ruth

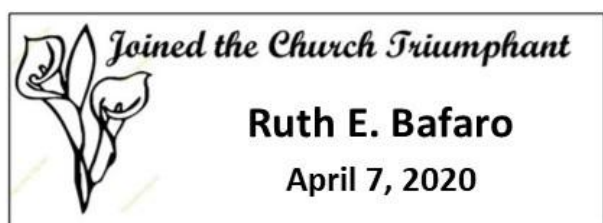
Parish Associate Rev. Ruth Elswood's time at FPC is coming to an end on April 12. She has served our congregation so well and we have been truly blessed by her kind and gracious spirit.

If you would like to contribute toward a "love offering" for Ruth, please mail your donation (with Ruth's name on a note or on the memo line of your check) to the church, or use the on-line giving feature found at the church's website: fpcstpete.com. Click on the "Resources" tab and then on "Give." You will be able to give your gift through the end of April.



Prayer Concerns

Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Katy Churchil, Bob Clark, Kat Cline, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Teresa Gasper, James Gonzales, Nancy Grandoff, Ron Hall, Larry and Diane Heath, Ann Holifield, Jean Howie, Walter & Marie Huber, Gary Hunt, Bonnie Jackson, Shirnice Johnson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Lynn Kiehne's father Merle, Taffey Lichter, Tom and Marie Machuga, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauger, Gayle Moore, Camille Moran-Styles, Howard Moser, Tamara Murphy, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider, Del and Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Lil Reid, Jean Schultz, Jane Snoke. Please keep in prayer all those who have been physically, emotionally, and financially affected by the Corona virus, and join us in praying for a quick end to this situation.



Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: Brian Herzik, USA; James Loeblein, USN; CPT. Taina Specie, USA; 1st LT. Liam Shelton, USA; 2nd LT. Mallory Wasik, USMC; CPT. Robert Wilson, USAF. Lt Cdr Charlotte Symonds, USNS Hospital Ship Mercy. *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 or deletions to the weekly prayer concerns, please contact Amy Grossenbacher at amyg@fpc-stpete.org.

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 let us know by calling the Church Office at 727-822-2031! We have volunteers who are happy to help during this time.
- Need postage stamps? You can order them online from usps.com
- Help us stay connected by sending pictures!



Sunday Sofa Church

My cat Archie and I are waiting for 10 AM service. I told him to try not to fall asleep like last week but, well, he's a cat.

Marilyn Mulcahy



Who Else Worships At Home With Their Pet?

Karen Mossman and Benny

(If you worship with your pet, be sure to send a picture to First News mgsjohnson@gmail.com.)



Great Need for Masks

Are you part of a sewing group or know of anyone who is willing to sew masks? As you have probably heard on the news, face masks are currently very difficult to get, and every place is running low on them. Our friends at Westminster are in great need of them. If you are willing and have the ability to sew masks, please consider donating

to Westminster. For more information, please call the Church Office or contact Jan Banker (jbanker@wservices.org).



The Choir Is Learning To Do Things A New Way!

The choir had its first-ever virtual rehearsal last Friday, thanks to Zoom technology. It went incredibly well for the first time out!

There were 18 total choir members who were able to participate (although not everyone's picture appears on the screen!). They are hoping to continue to meet virtually on a weekly basis for as long as the "safer-at-home" orders last.

Gifts in a Difficult Time

In response to God's love in Christ we offer our lives, our gifts, our abilities and material goods for God's service.

If not for the coronavirus, our annual pledge campaign would be in full swing by now. You would have been reminded of the myriad and wonderful ways in which FPC cares for the people of the church and ministers to our community and world. You would have received a budget with plans for deploying your gifts wisely and prudently, along with a pledge card so that you could estimate your annual gift. We would be looking forward to worshipping together on Palm Sunday, Easter, and Dedication Sunday.

Despite the fear and chaos surrounding us, we are certain that this world and all that is in it belongs to God, and we trust that God will guide our nation and the world through this health crisis and economic fallout. In the meantime, we ask that our members and friends support First Presbyterian Church financially by continuing to give at their current rate until this crisis passes, even if it rolls into the next fiscal year. If for some reason, you cannot fulfill your pledge, please contact Amy Grossenbacher in the Church Office (amyg@fpc-stpete.org or 727-822-2031) to let us know so that we can adjust our church budget.

Gratitude and Generosity
(The Stewardship Committee)



Illustrated Ministry LLC

One Great Hour of Sharing

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

To donate to One Great Hour of Sharing, you can mail a check to the Church Office (701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701) with OGHS in the memo line OR you can click [HERE](#) to donate online.

"Missioner Of The Year" Nomination

The mission committee is happy to launch our new "Missioner of the Year" nomination form. We will be taking nominations for the 2020 award until April 30th. Since we are currently unable to deliver the form in the bulletin, please take a look at it ([click here](#)). If you would like to nominate someone, just send an email containing all of the pertinent information to Gay Wasik-Zegel at gwzegel@gmail.com

The committee will compile a list of nominees from the emails we receive.

Weekly Online Devotion, Discussion, and Prayer

Pastor Dawn invites you to join in an online time of devotion, discussion, and prayer **Monday mornings from 10:00-11:00 AM beginning April 20th**. Connect with God and each other as we read and discuss the sermon text that will be preached the following Sunday. All are welcome!

With anticipation for our time together and what the Spirit will teach as the Word is opened,

~Pastor Dawn

To join on Monday mornings starting 4/20/20, click the following link: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/542281573> (please note that you will need a device with a camera and microphone to use this link).

You can also join by phone (you will be able to hear, but not see, other participants).

Dial +1 929-205-6099

The Meeting ID is 542 281 573

You will automatically be muted. You can press *6 to unmute/mute yourself during the conversation.

Virtual Meditation

"Contemplation is meeting as much reality as we can handle in its most simple and immediate form—without filters, judgments, or commentaries."

--Richard Rohr

If you care to join in, we'll have virtual meditation meetings on Tuesday, April 14 and April 28 at 7 PM. We'll meditate for 20 minutes. Anyone is invited, and please let anyone who might be interested in joining us know.

Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com)



Have you friended us on Facebook or Instagram?

If you haven't, please do so! Also, be sure to SHARE our Facebook and Instagram posts as much as you can! That can help us increase numbers of followers of the church Facebook and Instagram pages. Thank you for helping us be more visible!

FPC Calendar At A Glance

- [Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online.
- [April Birthdays](#)
- Until further notice, no groups will be meeting at the church. We will keep everyone posted on any changes.
- If anyone needs 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 for more information.

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](#).

First Presbyterian Church
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(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.



First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg, Florida

