

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from First Presbyterian Church St. Petersburg

March 20, 2020

Dear FPC Members & Friends,

We find ourselves in a strange new world as we watch and wait to see what impact our efforts to slow the Corona virus may have. All of us have had our routines interrupted and none of us know how long social distancing will last. As they wonder how they will pay the rent or buy groceries, many employed by the hospitality industry (restaurants, bars, hotels) and especially single mothers, carry an even heavier burden than most. Additionally, our most vulnerable, the elderly, and the sick may be fearful, and with good reason. We do not know how long it will be until life returns to “normal.”

What we do know, however, is that God is with us, for us, and working through us. And God has “has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power, love, and self-discipline” (1 Tim 5:7). As the days go by, it is important to develop new routines that keep us connected to God in prayer and to one another in safe ways. Why not take this opportunity of separation to bless someone else? Prayerfully consider who God might be nudging you to call, email, or text and then follow through. If financially able, make a donation to the St. Petersburg Free Clinic.

Thank you to our Deacons, Stephen Ministers, Pastor Ruth, and other volunteers who are contacting all our members and friends who are 70 years young and older. Please let us know if there is someone you know who might appreciate a call, or someone to shop or pick up medicines for them. In the words of Romans 12:10-12, “Love one another with mutual affections; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.” This and every day, together we are the church and our witness shines brightest when all reflect God’s love.

May God bless, comfort, and inspire you in this time of unknowing,

Pastor Dawn

Fourth Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM Live-Streamed Worship Service

Click here to watch: www.youtube.com/channel/UCYcYHUzgbUrt_w04s4Vb5

The sermon for this Sunday: "Christian Peace" - Pastor Dawn Conti

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

Scripture: [John 14:27](#)

Prayer Concerns

Please remember in prayer: Ruth Bafaro, 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, Rhys Hogan, Ann Holifield, Jean Howie, Walter & Marie Huber, Gary Hunt, Bonnie Jackson, Shirnice Johnson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Taffey Lichter, Tom and Marie Machuga, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauger, Kathie Mayhall, Gayle Moore, Camille Moran-Styles, Howard Moser, Tamara Murphy, Peter Pav, 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. *Please provide us with mailing addresses for our card ministry.*

Our prayers are so appreciated by those on this list. If we pray for six each day, we will have remembered the whole list in a week. Thank you for this important gift 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 Donna Bernloehr at dbern@fpc-stpete.org.

Please join us in prayer:

Sovereign Lord, you are the eye of calm and peace in this and every storm. Keep us centered on you in this time of uncertainty. Comfort and relieve all who are sick, all who are at risk, all who are anxious, and all who work to bring wholeness and life in caring for your people. Help us to be mindful of the needs of others and reach out in safe and appropriate ways to bring comfort and help. Give our nation and world wisdom to act responsibly and practice social distancing so that our health care workers and system can stay ahead of the spread of the disease and minimize its impact. Protect those who put themselves in harm's way in service to others. And bring this trial to an end quickly. We pray in the name above all others: Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



A New Way To Worship

Your session has voted to suspend worship services through Palm Sunday, April 5. As we approach Easter, a decision will be made about whether or not we will suspend worship for a longer period of time. In the meantime, worship will be live-streamed at 10 AM every Sunday morning. If the 10:00 hour does not fit your schedule on Sundays, the service is available for viewing throughout the week.

Please join our worship by clicking on the link below:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCYcYHUzgbUrt_w04s4Vb5

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.

All Church Meetings Temporarily Suspended Very Important!

- Until further notice, no groups will be meeting at the church, to be in compliance with the government recommendation of no meetings with 10 or more people. We will keep everyone posted on any changes.
- The session has voted for online services this Sunday (3/22), next Sunday (3/29), and Palm Sunday (4/5). They will reconvene to decide how we move forward for Easter (4/12) and beyond.

The Church Office

The office will be open during this challenging time. However, please visit the office ONLY if it is absolutely necessary.

We ask that our office volunteers NOT come in until further notice.

Feel free to phone the Office at (727) 822-2031.

We Haven't Stopped Our Revitalization Efforts

FPC in-person worship may be temporarily suspended, but we continue the work with our consultant, the Rev. Cameron Trimble of Convergence, her congregational consulting organization. Check out the link to the presentation Rev. Trimble gave after the 9 and 11 AM services on March 8, which shares the results of our congregational survey: [Click here.](#)

Also, there are many free resources available on the Convergence website, convergenceus.org, including Rev. Trimble's (Almost Daily) Meditations.

Here is one about the times we are living in:

<https://www.convergenceapp.org/posts/5435256>

Financial Snapshot		
February 2020		
	Month	YTD
Gifts	\$ 53,173	\$ 521,174
Other Income	9,096	73,768
Total Income	62,269	594,942
Expenses	84,862	652,964
Income (Loss)	\$ (22,593)	\$ (58,022)
Pledges and non-pledge gifts are \$31,300 under budget YTD.		
Large non-recurring expenses this month:		
Playground drain	\$ 2,300	
Sidewalk repair	\$ 2,250	
Fire alarm repair	\$ 1,600	
February is eighth month of new fiscal year.		

Lakewood Elementary Update

- The Lakewood Elementary School Spring Festival has been cancelled. Donated baked goods will not be needed, which were requested in last week's *First News*.
- Lakewood's principal says they have sufficient volunteers for now to assist with various duties during the school's closure.
- For your information, here is an article about the free, reduced meals in the schools: <https://www.wtsp.com/mobile/article/news/health/coronavirus/tampa-bay-area-school-closings-coronavirus-free-reduced-meals/67-86833792-2ac2-41e0-b18e-12d8184ba932>

A Prayer Amid An Epidemic

First Pres member, Karen Mossman, shares a prayer she received from her college (from the office of Alumni and Parent Engagement, LeMoyne College): [Click here.](#)

Meal pick-up and delivery options:

Walmart will deliver for a minimum charge.

Drive-up/pick-up Service:

Wal-mart
Target

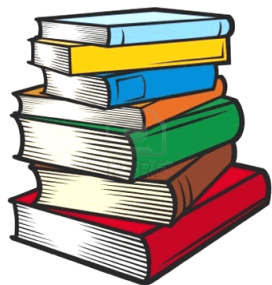


The following web-sites are meal delivery services for healthy and health condition specific meals:

www.Momsmeals.com

www.bistromd.com

www.Shipt.com



The April 6 meeting of Faith and Fiction has been cancelled. Linda Santoro requests that recommendations for next season's reading list be forwarded to her by May 1.

CEDARKIRK CHURCH-WIDE RETREAT

Originally scheduled for April 27 & 28
HAS BEEN CANCELLED



Cedarkirk *A place apart to build up
the body of Christ in love.*
CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER



EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Originally scheduled for Saturday, April 11
HAS BEEN CANCELLED



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.
- [March Birthdays](#)
- Until further notice, no groups will be meeting at the church, to be in compliance with the government recommendation of no meetings with 10 or more people. We will keep everyone posted on any changes.

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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[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

