

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News
from First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

May 15, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service this Sunday, May 17!

The sermon for this Sunday: "Are You Kidding Me?"

Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Rev. 5:11-14](#), [Acts 9:1-20](#)

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) 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!

Prayer Concerns

Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Katy Churchil, Kat Cline, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Teresa Gasper, James Gonzales, Nancy Grandoff, Ilda Hall, 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, Gretchen Letterman, Taffey Lichter, Tom and Marie Machuga, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauger, Nancy McLaughlin, Camille Moran-Styles, Howard Moser, Tamara Murphy, Nancy Ogden, Peter Pav, Alan Pfeider, 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 coronavirus, 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, deletions, or updates to the weekly prayer concerns, please contact Amy Grossenbacher at amyg@fpc-stpete.org.

Day Of Delight



You are invited to familiarize yourself with the hymn, *Day Of Delight*, which will be sung this coming Sunday, May 17. Matt Clear has provided [this video](#) for you to review prior to the service.

The *Presbyterian Hymnal* says this "joyful Easter hymn brings together many images and responses evoked by Christ's Resurrection. As the second stanza affirms, it does turn mourning into dancing (Psalm 30:11), for this 20th-century text was written to fit the rhythms of this 16th-century Italian dance-song."

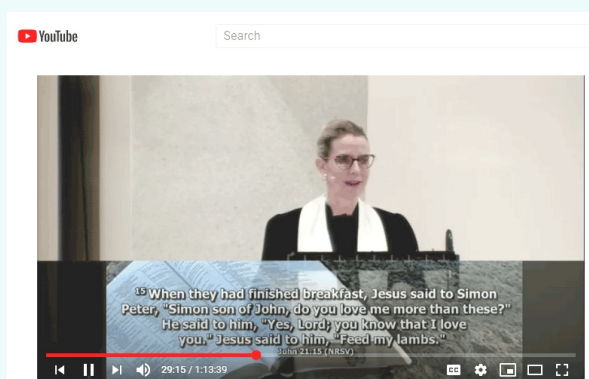
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Task Force for 'Returning to Church' Formed This Week

God calls us to love our neighbors and take care of each other. Although we are still in uncharted waters, it is time for our church to begin researching and planning for the time whenever and however our church will reopen, all while taking into consideration CDC precautions and our responsibility for reducing the risk of infection to the most vulnerable in our community. We are faced with many questions. What will worship look like when we return? What must we do to implement precautions?

This week, a Task Force was established to research and put forth a plan to the Session for reopening. Please keep in mind, we do not yet know the "when" or "how" of the best way to proceed with reopening. After a comprehensive review of resources from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, other presbyteries around the country, other churches in St. Petersburg, and CDC guidelines, we will have a better idea, then present our plan to the Session. Once a plan is carefully reviewed and finalized by the Session, the plan will be presented to the congregation.

These are still uncertain times, and be assured that the Task Force for Returning to Church will make decisions that will safely alter and allow for us to continue with our worship and gathering opportunities, but ensure all is done according to safety guidelines. Members of the Task Force include: Peter Bardin, Kevin Clark, Gretchen Letterman, Tony McCoy, Karen Mossman, and Don Zegel. Should you have any thoughts or concerns regarding this, please feel free to call Task Force co-chairs Eva Popovich (727) 202-7275 or Karen Kisten (727) 866-0201.



Are you watching First Pres worship on YouTube?

If you are, great! If you haven't already done so, **consider subscribing to our YouTube channel.** Why? By subscribing, you will be notified when we push out new videos, devotions, and of course Sunday morning worship. More subscribers will also

translate to more people trusting the First Pres channel and viewing our content. This translates into an increased virtual presence and improves the chances of bringing people back to our channel. Go to YouTube now and subscribe!

To subscribe:

(1) Open the YouTube app or go to www.youtube.com.

(2) Sign in to YouTube. If you don't have an account already, you will need to create one by providing an email address and creating a password.

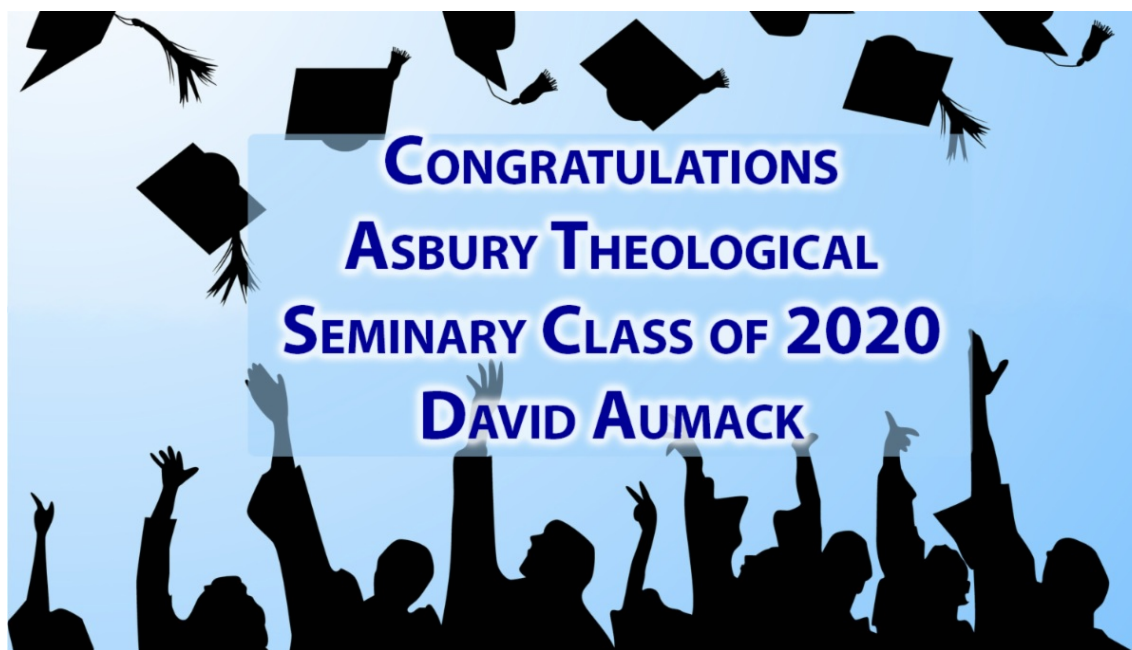
(3) Once you are signed in, you should be on the "Home" tab. Navigate to our channel by either searching for FPCSTPETE or following the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchStPetersburgFl>

(4) Click on the SUBSCRIBE button on the right side and also click the bell to get notified when we post new content. Voila!

Don't forget to click the LIKE (thumbs up) button whenever you watch a video and leave a few words of encouragement in the comments section. Thanks!

David Aumack Has Graduated!
Click below for a special video message from him!



Summer Reruns

Has anyone binge-watched some old shows lately? There is a good chance you have. This past spring, FPC had a fun group at Wednesday Night Live. Some of you enjoyed it, and others had to miss it. The good news is that I've recorded the two series of talks, and the links will be available on the church's website [HERE](#) and YouTube channel (see below list of links). Be sure to tune in!

"Astronomy in the Bible" is available to view now on our "Christian Education" playlist (click [HERE](#) to view). It is a four-part video series detailing the imagery and poetry associated with the stars as well as an analysis of the historical events.

- [Part 1](#) - Creation and the Calendar
- [Part 2](#) - Old Testament Astronomy
- [Part 3](#) - The Star of Bethlehem
- [Part 4](#) - New Testament Astronomy

The second series titled "Heritage and Hope," is a history of the Presbyterian Church in Florida. This should be posted on our YouTube channel soon - stay tuned!

- Part 1 - Settlement through 1860
- Part 2 - 1861 to 1940
- Part 3 - Post-WWII to Modern Time

From Kyle Brinkman

Sunday Afternoon Cooking Activity

As part of our “risk-taking mission,” your church’s Men’s Meal Ministry continues to prep and cook for the residents of Pinellas Hope. The 150 or so residents rely exclusively on outside groups for all their meals, as they do not have a fully functional kitchen. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our group is working with a reduced staff to cook. Also, we deliver the food to the residents of Pinellas Hope, but are not serving them as we normally would do. We look forward to the time we can resume serving them our delicious meat loaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, and small dessert.



We continue to seek your financial contributions in support of this local mission and are truly grateful for your gifts, prayers, and words of encouragement! Contributions to further this outreach can be made by indicating "Men's Meal Ministry" in the drop-down list of funds when giving online, or in the memo line of a check mailed to the Church Office.

Submitted by Peter Bardin

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

“We don’t need any more reality for awhile.” --Carlen Maddux

If you care to join in, we’ll have a virtual meditation meeting on Tuesday, May 26. at 7 PM. Though apart physically, we’ll be connected by that most trusted of forces—God’s healing Spirit. We’ll meditate for 20 minutes, using the word or phrase you have chosen. We’ll also close as we did when we were together in person. Stand up after our time of meditation, and put our hands out left as right as though we’re forming a circle with our neighboring meditators. Then we’ll close by saying our Lord’s Prayer aloud.

Anyone is invited to participate with us.

Submitted by Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com)



GriefShare Support Groups

GriefShare groups have begun meeting again. These sessions are for anyone grieving the loss of a family member or friend. We will meet **Sunday afternoons from 4:00–5:30 PM** and starting June 2, we will have a second session **Tuesday mornings from 10:00–11:30 AM**.

Both of these groups will be meeting virtually using Zoom.

Please join us for any or all of our meetings to learn about this journey “from mourning to joy.” For more information on GriefShare or how to join a session, please contact Amy in the Church Office (727-822-2031, amyg@fpc-stpete.org).

You Can Still Nominate A “Missioner of the Year”



The Mission Committee has received several great nominations for *2020 Missioner of the Year*. However, we have decided to extend the deadline for nominations until May 15. [Click here](#) to use the nomination form as a guide. Simply include pertinent information in an email and send to Gay Wasik-Zegel at gwzegel@gmail.com.

Each year, the Missioner of the Year receives a \$1,000.00 award to donate to their charity of choice. See names of former recipients at the bottom of the nomination form.

Online Devotion, Discussion, and Prayer
Mondays at 10 AM

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

To join on Monday mornings, click [HERE](#) (please note that you will need a device with a camera and microphone to use this link).

Or, you can 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.



TODAY is the last day of the Lakewood Elementary School Donation Drive

Lakewood Elementary School created an Amazon "Wish List" to support students and families during this time. Items include games, household items, and non-perishable foods. Simply use this link to access the wish list:

[Amazon Wishlist for Lakewood Elementary](#)

or type the following in your web browser:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2XHID92GHM29P?ref_=wl_share

Once purchased, items will be shipped directly to Principal Stephanie Woodford. She, in turn, will distribute them to families who may lack technology and other resources that the school might otherwise provide. Thank you again for your ongoing and extravagant generosity.

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! Our staff and volunteers are happy to help during this time.
- Help us stay connected by sending pictures!



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.
- [May Birthdays](#)
- The Church Office will be closed on Friday, May 22 and Monday, May 25 for the Memorial Day holiday.
- 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](#).

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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

