

# FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News  
from First Presbyterian Church  
St. Petersburg

May 8, 2020

## Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

The sermon for this Sunday: "Come As You Are"

Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Psalm 30](#), [John 21:1-19](#)

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)) 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!

A graphic with the text "Happy Mother's Day" written in a red, cursive font. A red heart symbol is positioned to the left of the text.

Special Video Message from Pastor Dawn



## 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, Taffey Lichter, Tom and Marie Machuga, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauger, Nancy McLaughlin, 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 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](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org).

## Welcome Ken Young, Parish Associate

The Rev. Ken Young is no newcomer to FPC-St. Petersburg, and we are happy to welcome him as Parish Associate as he helps Pastor Dawn with pastoral care duties until our new Associate Pastor is called. Ken is a seasoned Presbyterian minister, ordained by the Brooklyn-Nassau Presbytery in 1962 after graduating from Adelphi University and Princeton Theological Seminary. He has over 50 years' experience in various ministry roles.

For the time being while we under the "safer-at-home" mandate, Ken will be spending five hours a week making telephone calls to our members and friends. Once we come back together, he will be working 15 hours a week assisting with in-person visitations, funerals, and administering Lord's Supper, as needed. We are blessed that he is willing to share his gifts for pastoral care.



## Presbyterian Women Honor Kathie Mayhall

Kathie Mayhall has been selected to receive the Presbyterian Women's Honorary Life Membership Award. This recognition is a well-deserved honor for the many contributions Kathie has made since joining FPC in 1999. She has a big heart for serving others and has served PW in many capacities, currently and for the past 4 years as secretary of the PW Coordinating Team. Kathie also serves as a Circle moderator, hosting the monthly Bible study in her home and

has actively participated in the many mission activities of Circle 3; feeding the homeless at Beacon house, New Hope Fellowship and now "Picnic at the Park" on Mirror Lake Drive. Kathie regularly calls and visits several church members who are no longer able to attend worship services. She is always meeting, greeting and encouraging church visitors to join a circle.

In addition to PW, Kathie served as a Deacon when FPC reactivated the role in 2013. She currently serves on the Sanctuary Guild and also started a small group Bible study.

Kathie's generous heart, energy, and positive attitude are magnetic and truly God honoring. We congratulate Kathie and thank her for faithfully living out the purposes of the PW organization.

### *Day Of Delight*

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



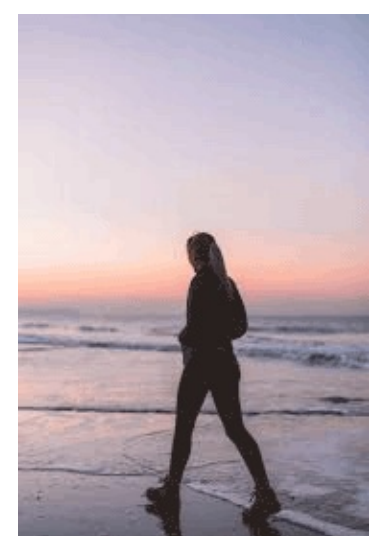
The *Presbyterian Hymnal* says this "joyful Easter hymn brings together many images and responses evoked by Christ's Resurrection. As the second stanza affirms, it does turn mourning into dancing (Psalm 30:11), for this 20th-century text was written to fit the rhythms of this 16th-century Italian dance-song."

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### THREE WAYS TO BEAT THE BLUES!

Need a bit of a lift these days? Try this:

1. Listen to something **RHYTHMIC & REPETITIVE** (music, waves on the beach, water in a brook or stream)
2. Experience **NATURE** first-hand. Get outside! (your backyard, neighborhood, a park or beach)
3. Put yourself in motion, **MOVEMENT** (walk, run, cycle, dance, exercise)



Do any one of these for just 17 minutes and you'll feel a lift in your mood. I benefit the most when I walk along the Bay while listening to music for 35-50 minutes.

Enjoy!  
Ginger McCoy, Stephen Minister

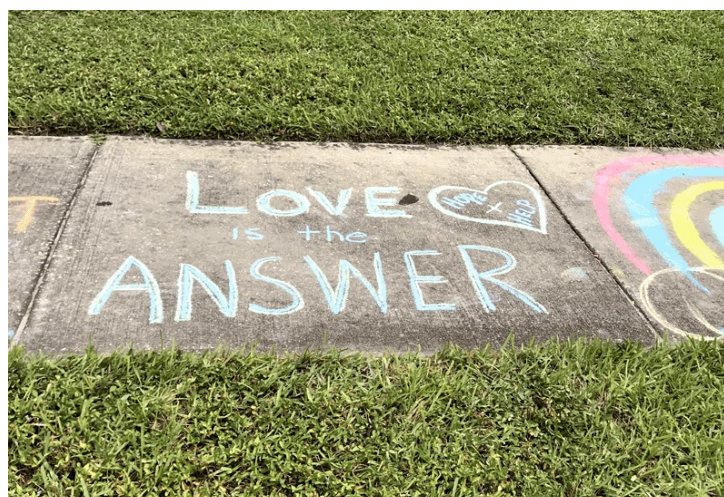


## To Help Keep Focused On God's Word

From Rachel Bowron: This [website](#) for Beatrix von Watzdorf is one I have listened to quite a few times to calm myself. It also keeps you focused on God's Word. I also find the music on YouTube to be calming.

## "Operation - Brighten our Community with Messages of Caring"

On May 6 and 7, neighbors of Westminster Palms used sidewalk chalk art to encourage the Westminster community during this difficult time. Here are several examples of the messages found on sidewalks surrounding the property.



## Lakewood Elementary School Donation Drive



Have you been looking for ways to help others during the Coronavirus outbreak? Here is a new opportunity. Lakewood Elementary School now has 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](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. Dates of the drive are **May 1-15**.

Contact Gay Wasik-Zegel ([wasik\\_g@msn.com](mailto:wasik_g@msn.com)) with questions. Thank you again for your ongoing and extravagant generosity.

The article below article about Matt Clear and his students appeared in the March/April 2020 edition of the *Northeast Journal*



PCCA Gibbs

Students performing at St. Patrick's Cathedral

## AROUND THE BLOCK

### TALENTED STUDENTS PERFORM AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL

**M**atthew Clear, the music director of First Presbyterian Church on Beach Drive, is also Director of Choral Activities at the Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School. In January, Matthew had the privilege of bringing 42 high school music students in the school's elite choir and orchestra to New York City for a once-in-a-lifetime performance at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

"It was the first time the students had gone on a trip of this magnitude to perform," says Matthew. "It was a life-changing experience for many of them – the first time on an airplane, the first time performing in a cathedral like St. Patrick's, and the first time seeing snow. All of them really enjoyed the snowball fight in Central Park."

[Here](#) is a copy of the entire article.

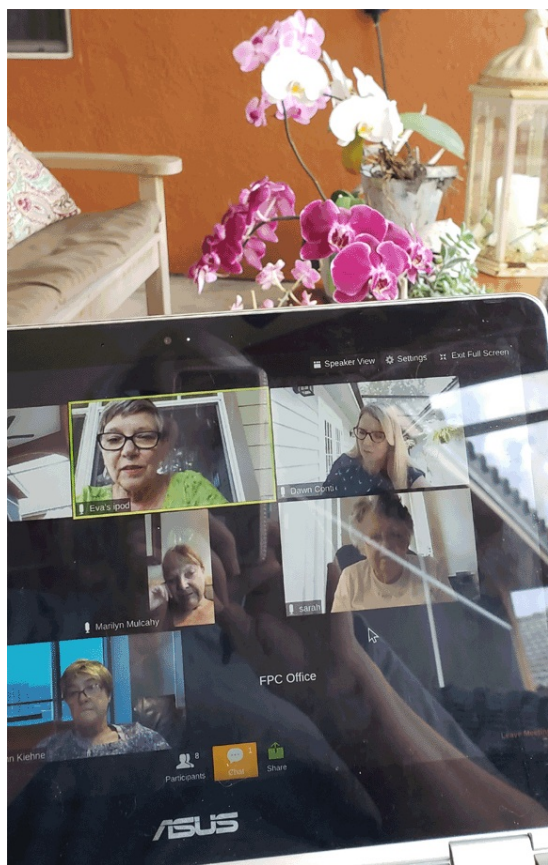


## GriefShare Support Groups

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](mailto:amyg@fpc-stpete.org)).



## Monday Zoom Devotion Time

Gretchen Letterman submitted this photo taken during the Monday Zoom devotion time.

She said, "Several of us were "attending" from porches or decks outside, where the spring breeze, the birdsong, and in my case, my orchids, reminded us of God's beauty. We studied the third appearance of Jesus to the disciples after his resurrection, with one message being that God is in all places. Even in the backyard, during a pandemic."

If you'd like to join in this devotion time on Monday mornings, see below for info on how to get connected!

## 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.

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!



[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](mailto: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.

## News From St. Pete Free Clinic

### Drive-Up Food Pantry

There has been a 331% increase over the last month in families assisted by the We Help Food Pantry. The number of families with children has more than doubled. The pantry expects to exceed the 11.3 million pounds of food given last year as the shut down continues.

Any Pinellas County resident with a valid Pinellas County driver's license may access the drive-through food pantry once per month. Food will be loaded right into your vehicle at 863 3rd Avenue North St. Petersburg 33701.

Hours are: Mon., Tue & Wed, 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM; Thur. 8:30 AM - 7:30 PM; Friday - 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM; Sat.& Sun. - Closed

### Some Ways You Can Help

Dozens of men and women and 11 families currently live in the Free Clinic's residential centers. Many have lost their jobs. An encouraging word in the form of a note, a child's drawing, or even a gift card could go a long way to lift their spirits. You can mail notes to the Free Clinic for distribution to the residents at this address: St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Attn: Encouraging Words, 863 3rd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33701



## 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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[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*

