

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

August 7, 2020

Online Worship
This Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, August 9!
19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday, we welcome
Guest Preacher Rev. Libby Shannon,
Associate Presbyter for Emerging Ministries, Presbytery of Tampa Bay
Scripture: [Romans 10:5-15](#), [Matthew 14:22-33](#)

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 - "Click Here to Watch Sunday Services") as well as on the church's Facebook page.

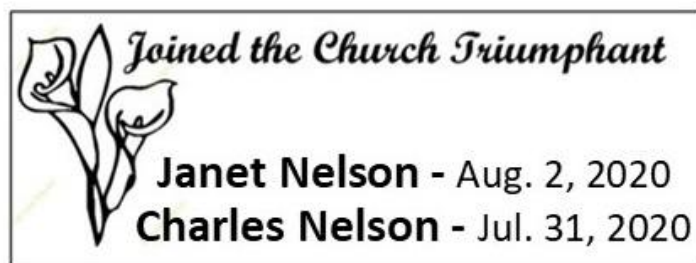
If the 10:00 hour on Sundays does not fit your schedule, the service is available for viewing on our YouTube channel throughout the week. Feel free to share the link with family and friends!

Prayer Concerns

Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Phoebe Catlin, Katy Churchil, Kat Cline, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sarah Fechter's son Gordon, Teresa Gasper, James Gonzales, Ron Hall, Cliff Hanks' daughter Sandra Fay, Larry and Diane Heath, Margaret Hewitt, Ann Holifield, Jean Howie, Walter & Marie Huber, Gary Hunt, Bonnie Jackson, Shirnice Johnson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Margie Laughlin, Taffey Lichter, Tom and Marie Machuga, Kathie



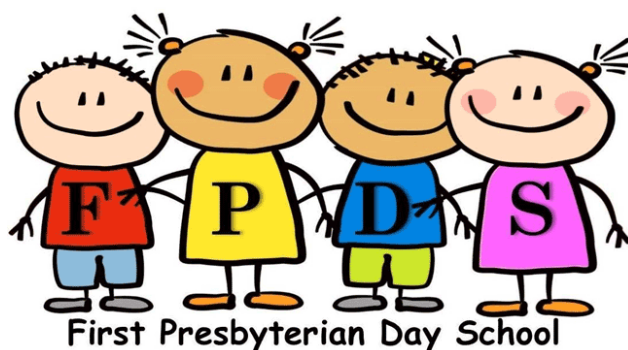
Mayhall, Dave and Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Camille Moran-Styles, Howard Moser, Tamara Murphy, Nancy Ogden, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider and his brother Richard Pfleider, Del and Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Lil Reid, Jean Schultz, Jane Snoke. Please keep in prayer all those who have been physically, emotionally, 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: 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.



Hear the GOOD NEWS

In case you didn't receive this good news last week, First Presbyterian Day School, the provider of excellent early childhood education in St. Petersburg for 51 years, will be OPEN THIS FALL. For more details, read this [Letter From Your Session](#).

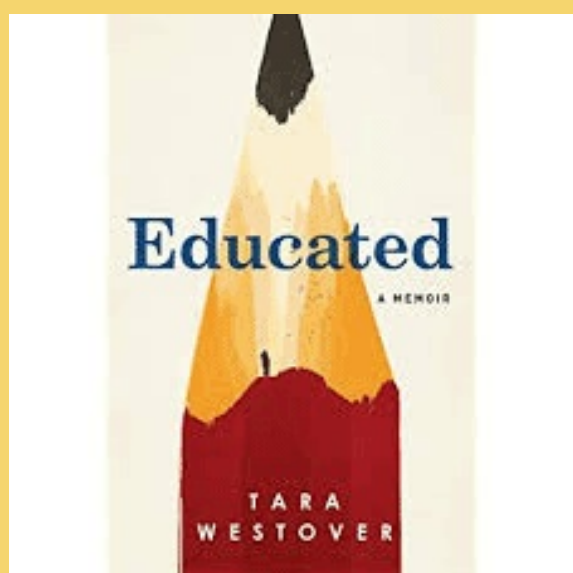
Day School personnel are planning on a September 8 opening. God is great!

St. Petersburg Opera Company Members To Sing At Next Sunday's 10 AM Online Service

Special music at this Sunday's 10 AM online service will be presented by Christopher Holloway, baritone, and Linda Holloway, soprano.

FREE Concerts: They will also perform live with the St Petersburg Opera Company in free outdoor performances on Sunday afternoon. These pop-up performances will be at four St Petersburg locations. For details, click [here](#).

MY FAVORITE QUARANTINE READ



The book I would recommend is *Educated* by Tara Westover. It is the inspiring memoir of a young woman who overcomes incredible odds to go to college, having never gone to school before in her life. She goes on to win a scholarship to Cambridge where she earns a masters and ultimately a PhD. I could not put this award-winning book down.
-Sandi Averitt

Please let us know about your "Favorite Quarantine Read" by submitting a short paragraph describing the book. Not only will this be intriguing to *First News* readers, but it will help all of us know the interests of others in the church. Join in the fun by sending your Favorite Read to Mary Johnson (mgsjohnson@gmail.com).



"Oh the Places We Have Been" Meet our Member Vivian Ramirez

"At the young age of two, I was singing, *At the Cross* not knowing what I was singing," explained Vivian when asked about her early musical experience. She was taught by her mother and father to sing, and ever since, her life has been filled with music.

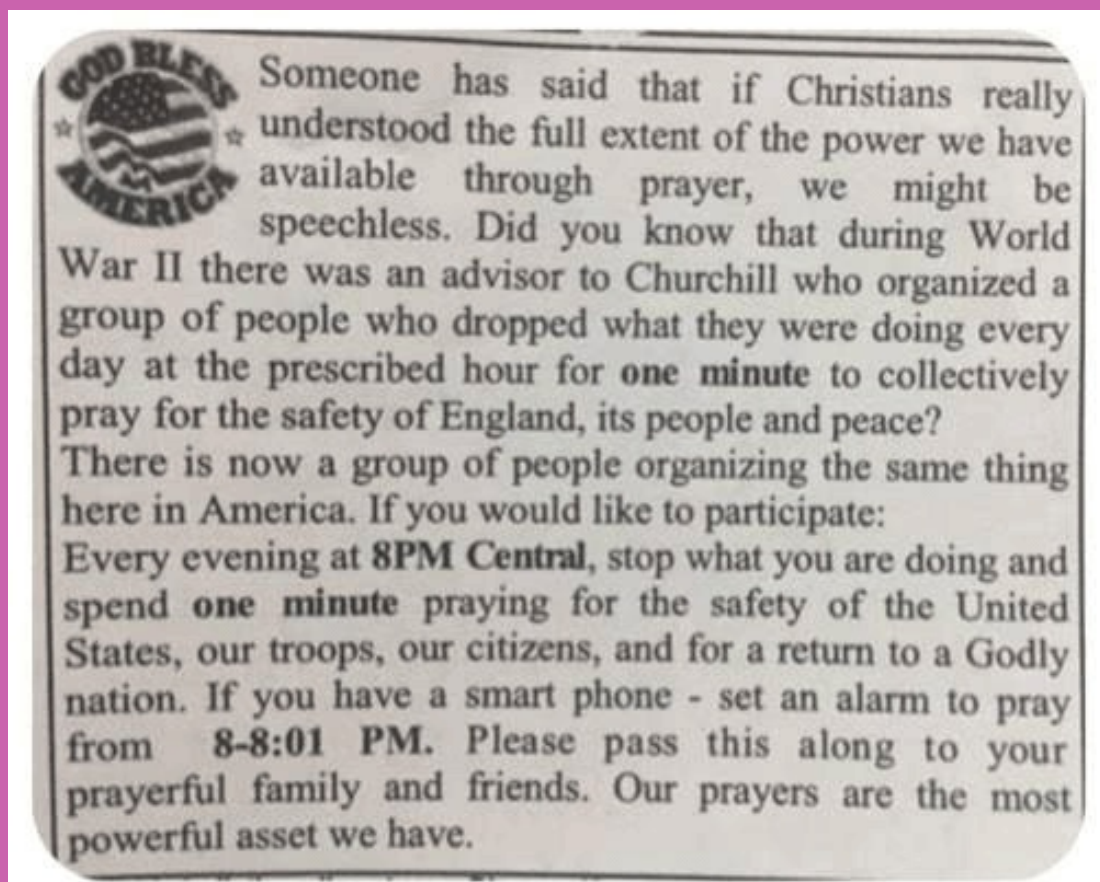
Because of this early experience, her parents paid for piano lessons when she was seven years old. During the Depression, her parents paid 50 cents for each piano lesson. Vivian attended a Christian College where she majored in music and trained to become an opera, gospel, and concert soloist. She and her husband travelled all over the United States singing gospel music for 38 years. During this time, she became an ordained Deacon in the Free Methodist Church. Vivian has been attending FPC since 1990 and has enjoyed singing in our church choir.

When asked about her life, Vivian softly said, "I accepted Jesus when I was eight years old, and I have had some tough times, but He has always given me peace and joy."

Special Note from Diane: I have written several interviews for *First News*, and I have never had the honor of having someone sing me a blessing. Vivian did just that. Her voice touched my heart...thank you Vivian!



Submitted by Diane Zuercher



Exercise and Tropical Beauty



Suzanne Searle and I are continuing our Thursday walks during the pandemic. It's a good time to "catch up" on our non-busy lives and get some exercise.

Last week was a real highlight of the season as we went to the Florida Botanical Gardens (12520 Ulmerton Rd.) in Largo. Even if the spring flowers have passed their blooming time, the tropical beauty of the park is breathtaking. Plus the walk is partly shaded! The tree pictured here is a Screw pine and representative of what you might see.

For the child in all of us, there is also a Butterfly Garden where we spent some time, mesmerized by the lightness of those tiny creatures. One can picnic there or go across the street to Walsingham Park, which is worth visiting all by itself. Good people, put the Gardens on your calendar!

-Marilyn Mulcahy

Be sure to send information about your favorite walks to be included in *First News*. Send to msjohnson@gmail.com.

Summer Worship Service Soloist



A flugelhorn solo "Revelation Song" was presented during last Sunday's service by Kevin Clark, who was accompanied by Jack Rain on the piano

Prayer Shawls: Gifts of Comfort, Hope and Peace

Please join our new FPC Prayer Shawl Ministry. Prayer shawls made by the group will be blessed by the church then given to FPC members, friends, and to those in need.

Today, knitters and crocheters of all faiths are creating handmade shawls for people in need, as gifts of comfort, hope, and peace. If you are interested in participating, please call the Church Office (727-822-2031) for more details!



You are invited 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! Pastor Dawn will be taking study leave for the next two weeks, so Lynn Kiehne will be leading the discussion.

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 it prompts you to enter one, 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!

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!

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.*
- [August Birthdays](#)

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).
- 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).

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



