

FIRST NEWS



Happy
Valentine's
Day

Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

February 12, 2021

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, February 14
Transfiguration of the Lord

This Sunday's Sermon:

"Our Valentine to God: Live in Harmony with One Another"

Current Sermon Series - *One Anothering: Nurturing God's Beloved Community*

Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Psalm 1](#), [Romans 12:16-21](#), [John 17:9-20](#)

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

As a reminder, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM, so please plan to join us a few minutes early!

If the 10 AM 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!

The online service 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 and YouTube channel.

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, February 14

There will be a called congregational meeting this Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 12:30 PM by Zoom conference call.



The 2 purposes of the meeting are:

(1) to present the [2019/2020 Annual Report](#) (please note this link reflects a correction/update to page 3) and

(2) to elect Church Officers

Deacons - Class of 2023

- Debbie Factor
- Eva Popovich
- Taina Specie

Elder - Class of 2021

- Michelle Carothers

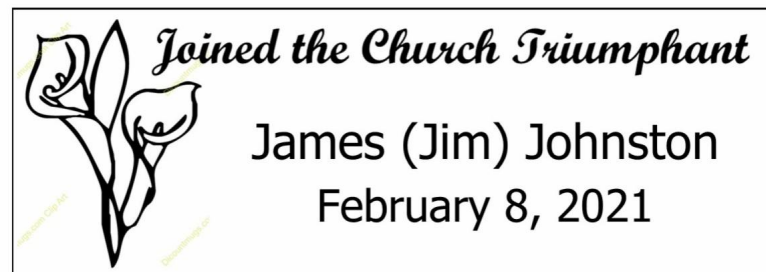
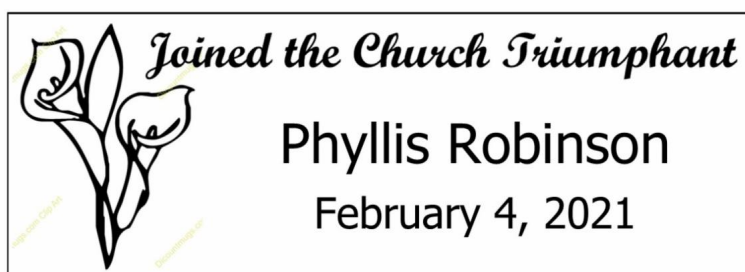
All active and affiliate members of the church are requested to register in advance for this meeting [HERE](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting, including the link for the Zoom meeting.

All others are welcome to watch the meeting on our YouTube link [HERE](#).



Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Margo Hart, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Agnes Ingles, Russ & Connie Johnson, Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Alisa Keys, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Peter Pav, Richard Pfleider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Ken Robinson, Judy Smith, Hildegard & Will Sondermann, JB & Marsha Starkey.

Please keep in prayer all those who have been physically, emotionally, and financially affected by the coronavirus, and join us in praying for an end to this situation.



Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: Marc-Antoni Julia', USN LT; CPT. Taina Specie, USA; 1st LT. Liam Shelton, USA; 1st 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.



Share the Love

Although this year we cannot gather again for a "Lasagna Love Lunch" on Valentine's Day/"Share the Love" Sunday, we can still reach out and share the love of God. We can share our love with those we know and love and with those we don't know and who are different than us.

In the month of February, in the spirit of God's love, we encourage you to reach out to others with a phone call, text,

email, or card. If you have an interest in reaching out to a member of our church who is homebound or has been in your thoughts lately, please call Amy in the Church Office if you need their contact information.

Perhaps you might even - in a safe, spontaneous socially distanced way, and only if you are comfortable and not high-risk - have a face-to-face conversation or wave or smile at someone you do not know or perhaps someone who is different than you.

There are so many ways to show God's love to those around you, whether virtually or in person! All these things foster a more loving community and help us live out God's greatest commandment. Stay tuned for more messages of love from Pastors Dawn & Megan on Sundays. God bless you & enjoy sharing His love with kind words & actions!

--Submitted by Karen Mossman



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE -- ONLINE EDITION --

Two programs will be available over Zoom, and are open to all (feel free to send the links to friends and family!):

5:00-6:00 PM

Peaceful Parenting will be taught by Julie Menke MS, Licensed Mental Health Counselor at the Suncoast Center. The classes will cover important topics in child-raising, including discipline basics and emotional coaching.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Zoom Meeting Link

Or go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com) and enter the Meeting ID: 871 8995 8365 and Passcode: peace

Or dial in by phone: 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 871 8995 8365, Passcode: 691341

7:00-8:00 PM

Social Justice - A series of talks and panel discussions are being arranged on issues of social justice. The first was a lecture on the *History of the Black Community in St. Petersburg* by Ray Arsenault (a historian, professor, author, and board member of the Woodson African American Museum). The second was a panel discussion of the book *Being the Bridge*, led by Lynn Kiehne. If you missed either week, but still want to view the session, click [HERE](#). Future speakers and programs will be announced as the dates approach. **PLEASE NOTE, we will not be meeting for this class next Wednesday (Feb. 17), so that everyone can tune in for the Ash Wednesday online service at 7 PM.**

[CLICK HERE](#) for Zoom Meeting Link

Or go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.com) and enter the Meeting ID: 851 4775 5193 and Passcode: justice

Or dial in by phone: 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 851 4775 5193, Passcode: 0664377

Lenten Opportunities

In case you missed the email earlier this week, [CLICK HERE](#) to see a complete listing of our Lenten activities here at FPC-St. Pete!

Deacons' Corner

-Submitted by Marilyn Mulcahy

By now, many of you have received a call or note from your Deacon or a Deacon's helper. I hope you wrote their phone number and email in a safe place so that you can easily reach

them when you have a question or issue!

Once we start back with worship IN CHURCH, wouldn't it be wonderful to know what your Deacon looks like so you can greet her/him? Starting this week, we'll present a few of them each week so let's get going! This week, we introduce:



Petra Garnett



Richard (Dick) Luehrs



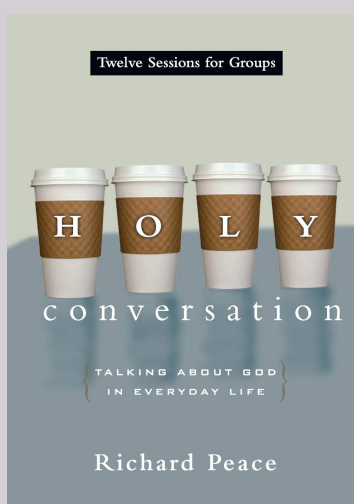
Taina (Tai) Specie



Dorothy (Dottie) Young

Lent Small Group Study

Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life



Perhaps you've heard the joke: "What do you get when you cross a Presbyterian with a Jehovah's Witness?" Give up? Somebody who knocks on the door, but then when the door is answered, just stands there and doesn't say a word!

Just to be clear, this study will **not** be about knocking on the doors of strangers! Rather, it will be about equipping us to be more conversational and comfortable in sharing our faith with friends, family, and colleagues. Who would not want to be a better Christian conversationalist? After all, we know that Jesus wants us to share the

If you'd like to be in fellowship with a small group of Christians (no more than 12) who will learn about talking about God in everyday life, you are invited to participate in the Lenten Study: *Holy Conversation*.

The first Zoom meeting will take place on **Monday, February 22nd at 2 p.m.** and will meet weekly. This study is based on the book *Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life*, by Richard Pearce. Although the study is designed to cover 12 sessions, the length of the study will be determined by the group participants.

Learning happens in the study through a weekly group time of study, reading the book (about 10 minutes per session), and practicing what you've learned with a conversation partner which can take as much or little time as you set aside for it. This study will be facilitated by Ruling Elder, Lynn Kiehne, Pastor Dawn, and Pastor Megan.

Please be sure to purchase your book ahead of time. To register for this study, please call (727-822-2031) or [email](#) Amy in the Church Office. She will send you the necessary Zoom information. If you would prefer an evening meeting time, please let Amy know; additional classes will be offered as needed.

Below is the lament that the PW circles will be using in February:

A Lament for Our City

--by Sarah Fechter, January 2021

It's twilight
in our Sunshine City.

O God, all through the spring
summer and fall
we watched clouds
hover over our city
over our land,
over all the world
the thunderclouds from the virus
make each day more frightening
than the day before.

What have we done to deserve
this darkness enveloping us?
We humbly ask that you save
our city and our people.

Winter is upon us
with less and less light
we can only hibernate
pray
wait out the night
'til dawn peeks through the shadows
and throws off this dark pandemic blanket.

Thank you, Lord,
for your promise of a new day
in our city, our land, the world
when there will be no more death
no more tears
And darkness shall cover our land no more.



APPLY NOW

We will be accepting applications for college scholarships **February 1st through March 3rd**. These scholarships include the D T Michael Scholarship and the Ohrns

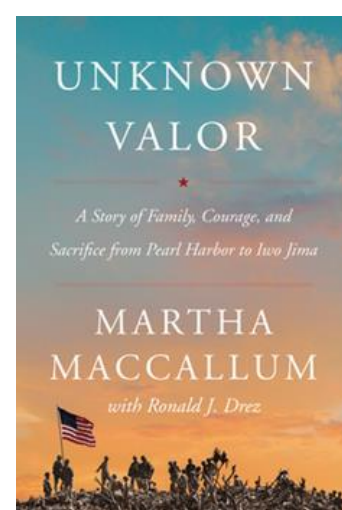
Scholarship for undergraduates and the Osborne Scholarship for Theology students.

For further details about these scholarships, please contact the Church Office. To apply for any of these scholarships, you will need to include: 1) a completed application form (found [HERE](#)); 2) a copy of your most recent high school or college transcript; 3) a 500-word essay describing your involvement in church-related activities as well as extra-curricular and community involvement activities, why you want this grant, and what you expect to do following the completion of your education.

The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and the Session will approve the final awards. Successful applicants will be asked to provide proof of enrollment and acceptance by their educational institution. Funds for the scholarship will be sent directly to the institution so be sure to give the proper name and address to which the funds are to be sent.

Faith and Fiction

Our next read will be: *Unknown Valor* by Martha MacCallum. This is our first non-fiction read for this year and relates a story of family, courage, and sacrifice from Pearl Harbor to Iwo Jima. The discussion will be held via Zoom on **Monday, March 1st at 7:30 p.m.** Please call Linda Santoro if you would like the link to join this meeting (727-897-9543).



Help Needed For First News

If you are (or know) someone who is computer-savvy and would be willing to help us with the publishing of the vital church communication that is our weekly *First News*, please contact Amy in the Church Office at 727-822-2031.



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!**

Pastor Dawn invites you 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!



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 Zoom prompts you to enter a password, 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!

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.
- [Click HERE](#) for February Birthdays



Most groups are continuing to meet 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**, Worship Service [Online](#).
- **Sundays, 11:15 AM**, Contemporary Faith Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, email Lynn Kiehne (lkiehne@gmail.com).
- **Sundays, 11:15 AM**, Westminster Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, email Jim Garnett (jim.garnett237@gmail.com).
- **Mondays, 10 AM**, Online Devotional with Pastor Dawn. Click [HERE](#) to join. If you are prompted, use "prayer" as a password.
- **Mondays, 2 PM** (starting Feb. 22), Lenten study: *Holy Conversations* via Zoom.
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Weekly Meditation, virtual. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- **Wednesdays**, online - Wednesday Night Live!
 - 5 - 6 PM (Peaceful Parenting)
 - 7 - 8 PM (Social Justice) - *NOT meeting Feb. 17*
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, in person in Room N-123.
- **Friday, February 12**, Church Office closed.
- **Sunday, February 14, 12:30 PM**, Congregational Meeting via Zoom to present the Annual Report and elect Church Officers for 2021. FPC members, please register (see blurb above for more info).
- **Wednesday, February 17 - Ash Wednesday**
 - 1-3 PM, Drive-Through Imposition of Ashes and Lord's Supper, front circle drive
 - 7 PM, Ash Wednesday service [online](#)

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 [Amy Grossenbacher](#).

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation of the PC (USA) - Christ empowering people to care for people.

