

# FIRST NEWS



## Your Weekly News from First Presbyterian Church St. Petersburg

February 26, 2021

### WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service  
this Sunday, February 28  
2nd Sunday in Lent

This Sunday's Sermon:  
"Be Hospitable to One Another"  
Current Sermon Series - *One Anothering: Nurturing God's Beloved Community*  
Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Psalm 145:8-14](#), [2 Kings 4:8-17](#), [1 Peter 4:9-11](#)

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

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*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](http://www.fpcstpete.com)), as well as on the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

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

## Message to Congregation from Return to Church Committee

Greetings from the Return to Church Task Force,

We hope we are finding you emotionally and physically healthy. The Return to Church Task Force met recently and recommended to Session that we continue to worship virtually through Easter weekend. We came to this conclusion as a result of the limited vaccination supply and the difficulty some are having in securing vaccination appointments. We hope you are in agreement with our decision.

Please know that you have been on our minds and in our prayers continuously over the months of this pandemic. We miss seeing you in person, but are so grateful that we can gather virtually on YouTube.

The Task Force is meeting every three weeks and we look at the COVID data every time we meet. We will make a decision to reopen only when it is safe for all. After we meet in March, we will report back to you again. We look forward to the day when we will all worship together again. If you have any questions or concerns about this please feel free to contact Karen Mossman at [karenamossman@gmail.com](mailto:karenamossman@gmail.com). Many blessings to you!



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE -- ONLINE EDITION --

Everyone is welcome to join; feel free to send the links to friends and family!

**7:00-8:00 PM**

**Social Justice** - A series of talks and panel discussions are being arranged on issues of social justice. If you missed earlier discussions, you can see the recorded version [HERE](#). Future speakers and programs will be announced as the dates approach.

[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

**PLEASE NOTE: our original 5:00-6:00 WNL offering of Peaceful Parenting has moved to Mondays at noon!**

### Peaceful and Powerful Parenting Workshops

The next class on Monday, March 1st (12 - 1 PM), will be on Styles of Parenting, and will include a video component and discussion. For each session, we will practice building skills interactively, and will have a short Q & A problem-solving discussion at the end.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Zoom Meeting Link

Or go to [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) 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

## Small Group Opportunities

**Opportunities**

In this time of COVID life, would you be interested in being a part of a small group study? What topic(s) interest you? We often find that small group ministry is a wonderful opportunity to meet with others who share the same interest, want to deepen their faith and/or explore new topics.

Lynn Kiehne would love to hear from you as to what interests you and we will see if we can create groups of like-minded members/friends of members to enjoy this type of fellowship. As we are currently exercising extreme caution, these groups will more than likely meet online unless the membership of the group wishes to gather safely in person. Email Lynn ([lkiehne@gmail.com](mailto:lkiehne@gmail.com)) or call the Church Office (727-822-2031) to express your interest.

## Deacons' Corner

-Submitted by Marilyn Mulcahy

**Your Deacons have all been called by God to serve First Presbyterian's church family. We take this chance seriously as we have been given the spiritual gift from Him and are honored to have been chosen. We generally serve for a three-year term, and never for more than two terms in a row. Perhaps you are feeling the stirrings of God calling YOU to serve....please let us know as each year we search for new volunteers.**

Pictured today are four more Deacons or Deacon Helpers: Sally Lyle, Lynne Mormino, Marilyn Mulcahy, and Linda Santoro.



Sally Lyle



Lynne Mormino



Marilyn Mulcahy



Linda Santoro

## Lent Small Group Study *Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life*



If you'd like to be in fellowship with a small group of Christians who will learn about talking about God in everyday life, you are invited to participate in the Lenten Study: *Holy Conversation*.

This study is about equipping us to be more conversational and comfortable in sharing our faith with friends, family, and colleagues. We know that Jesus wants us to share the Good News. But how do we do it?

The weekly Zoom meetings will take place on **Mondays at 2 p.m.** This study is based on the book *Holy Conversation: Talking About God in Everyday Life*, by Richard Pearce. 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.

- 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.
- Please be sure to **purchase your book ahead of time.**
- If you would prefer an evening meeting time, please let Amy know; additional classes will be offered as needed.



## Grieving? Know someone who is? GriefShare begins March 7 at 4 PM (meeting via Zoom)

Whether your bereavement experience is recent or not so recent, you will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member, or friend.

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The 13-week DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. This is a great opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

**Need more information? Want to sign up? Call the Church Office at 727-822-2031.**

*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**

## **College Scholarship Applications**

We will be accepting applications for  
college scholarships **through March**

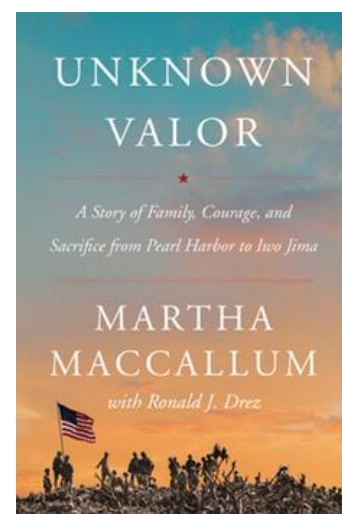
**3rd.** These scholarships include the D T Michael Scholarship and the Ohrns Scholarship for undergraduates and the Osborne Scholarship for Theology students.

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 next **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).



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."



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 March 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](mailto:lkiehne@gmail.com)).
- **Sundays, 11:15 AM**, Westminster Sunday School Class. For Zoom sign-in information, email Jim Garnett ([jim.garnett237@gmail.com](mailto: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, 12 PM**, *Peaceful and Powerful Parenting* Workshops via Zoom.
- **Mondays, 2 PM**, Lenten study: *Holy Conversations* via Zoom.
- **Tuesdays, 7 PM**, Weekly Meditation, virtual. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux ([cmaddux@maddux.com](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).
- **Wednesdays, online, 12 PM** (Feb. 24 through Mar. 24), Taizé Worship Service
- **Wednesdays, online, 7 - 8 PM** - Wednesday Night Live! (Social Justice)
- **Fridays, 7:30 AM**, Men's Bible Study, in person in Room N-123.

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- **Monday, March 1, 7:30 PM**, Faith and Fiction ("Unknown Valor") via Zoom
  - **Wednesday, March 3**, College Scholarship applications due
  - **Sunday, March 7, 4 PM**, GriefShare starts via Zoom

## 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](#).

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

