

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

July 31, 2020

Online Worship This Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, August 2!
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's Sermon:
"What Do You Want?"

Interim Parish Associate Rev. Kenneth H. Young

Scripture: [Hosea 11:1-9](#), [John 12:17-26](#)

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, Katy Churchil, Kat Cline, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sarah Fechter's son Gordon, Teresa Gasper, James Gonzales, Nancy Grandoff, 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, Taffey Lichter, Tom and Marie Machuga, Dave and Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Camille Moran-Styles, Howard Moser, Tamara Murphy, Nancy Ogden, 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.

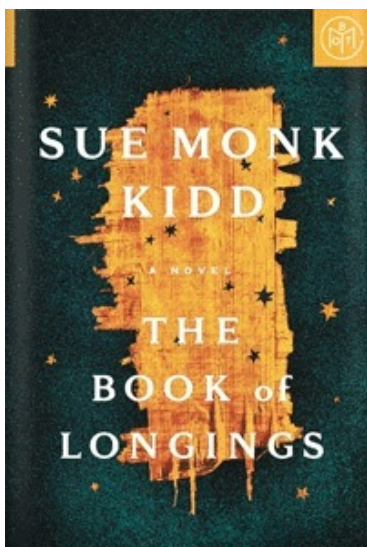


Please pray for our family and friends serving in the military: James Loeblein, USN; CPT. Taina Specie, USA; 1st LT. Liam Shelton, USA; 2nd LT. Mallory Wasik, USMC; CPT. Robert Wilson, USAF. *Please provide us with mailing addresses for our card ministry.*

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.

MY FAVORITE QUARANTINE READ



This is a review of *A Book of Longings* by Sue Monk Kidd. The subject matter is: what if Jesus had a wife? Kidd is herself a Christian, so she does not argue with the Bible certainly, but just took this subject as a creative answer to that question.

What if...Jesus had a wife? Ana is the daughter of the head scribe and is a talented scribe herself. As the wife of Jesus in this well-researched novel, Ana has a dream of her own, to write the stories of women who have no voice. So she understands how Jesus devotes himself to his quest to be closer and closer to God and, ultimately, how he becomes (in this book) an unwitting martyr.

This was appealing as a love story, and I think the author portrays both Ana and Jesus as amazing people in relationship to each other. I found myself following their courtship and life relationship with my own heart too.

As a Christian I found the way Jesus' death was laid out here at odds to what I have always believed. Does it matter? I guess to me it does; I am not convinced to give up my way of seeing things and the way the Bible portrays it. It certainly gives us something to think about and a different way of looking at it without changing our Christian beliefs.

-Eva Popovich

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: Jean Schultz



Remembering the first time, Jean saw Allen, she recalled, "It was in a rehearsal hall and I was on stage, singing a song called 'If I Was Only a Man' when I looked out into the audience and saw this tall, black-haired, gorgeous man...it was Allen!"

Jean was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and Allen was born in Allentown. They did not meet again for several years, as Allen went on to join the Army, serving as a Chaplain. Over the years their paths crossed and were finally married in 1968. Allen worked for Marts and Lundy Fundraiser Company, so he, Jean, and the three kids traveled to many states. As Jean says "we were all over the map."

After joining FPC in 1995, Jean volunteered in the Church Office for many years. She became very active in Circle 7, and both she and Allen sang in the choir.

"Our whole life involved theater, opera, and musical concerts." Allen was instrumental in arranging the Concert Series that FPC continues to present every year. FPC has been blessed for many years with the talents of Jean and Allen Schultz. Thank you!

Submitted by Diane Zuercher

Summer Worship Service Soloist



Last Sunday's soloist, singing "Pie Jesu," was soprano Daniela Pepe who was accompanied by Jack Rain on the organ

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!

MONDAY DEVOTION

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."



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). If you need assistance using the online system, please call the Church Office and we'll be happy to walk you through the process 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).
- Sundays, 4 PM (through August 2), GriefShare Support Meeting. For Zoom sign-in

information, email Petra Garnett (petra.garnett@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.

