

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian
Church
St. Petersburg

November 20, 2020

WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY

Join us for our 10 AM Worship Service
In-Person and Online
this Sunday, November 22
Christ the King Sunday

This Sunday's Sermon: "Now Thank We All Our God"
Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Psalm 34:1-10, 22](#), [Isaiah 12:1-6](#), [Luke 17:11-19](#)

Starting this Sunday, we will begin the organ prelude just before 10 AM, so whether you plan to attend in person or online, please join us a few minutes early! When the organ music starts, please observe respectful quiet as those around you use the time for prayer and preparation for worship.

Watch The Service Online

Persons who are at high risk and feel uncomfortable coming back to worship in person are encouraged to take their own risk assessment and stay home if they feel uncomfortable. Those individuals can continue to enjoy our vibrant online worship service.

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.

Attend In-Person Worship In The Sanctuary

If you attend in person, please remember:

You will need to reserve a spot to attend. There are two ways to register:

(1) **Go online!** An email will be sent to you each Monday morning with a link to click to RSVP for the upcoming Sunday. You will also find a RSVP button on the main page of our website, or you can go directly to fpcstpete.com/rsvpforsunday. Please complete ALL boxes, then click "Submit to RSVP" OR

(2) **Call the Church Office (727-822-2031)** Monday through Friday between 9 a.m. and noon. You will be asked a series of questions; some will be health-related. All information collected will be kept confidential. No reservations will be accepted after Friday at noon, and voicemail messages are not RSVPs. If you can help answer phones in the mornings on Tuesdays, please let Amy know!

- **Remember: You will be required to wear a mask.** If you forget one, we will have extras available.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in several easy-to-access spots for your safety.
- Please note that the elevator will NOT be accessible.
- The sanctuary will have **one entrance and one exit only**. Signs will point you in the right direction.
- For your safety, prior to service, you will check in at the front doors, and be seated by ushers at a safe social distance.
- We ask that you do not congregate in the sanctuary at all after the service. If you wish to stop and visit with friends, make your way out of the sanctuary first and visit outside. We want you to spend as little time inside the sanctuary as possible.

Thank you in advance for your patience with these new procedures. We look forward to returning to in-person worship while maintaining the safest environment possible!



Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Ron Hall, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Howard Moser, Eleanor Nicholas, Peter Pav, Alan Pfeider, Richard Pfeider, Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Jean Schultz, Judy Smith, Hildegard & Will Sondermann.

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.

Congregational Meeting Notice

A called congregational meeting will be held this Sunday, November 22 at 12:30 p.m. online (via Zoom). The purpose of the meeting will be to approve the use of electronic



meetings, hear the recommendation of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and approve a call for an Associate Pastor for FPC-St. Petersburg.

Details about the candidate, including a pre-recorded message from the candidate, will be shared at the meeting. A comprehensive written call package will be sent out via Constant Contact to friends and members of the church after the meeting, and questions will be fielded by the members of the Nominating Committee as well as the Rev. Bobby Musengwa, First Presbyterian Church's liaison to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry.

Active and affiliate members of the church are invited to join this online congregational meeting. The Book of Order stipulates that active members have voice and vote while affiliate members have voice only in congregational meetings. All others are invited to watch the meeting on the FPC-St. Petersburg [YouTube channel](#) or [Facebook page](#). If you are not able to join us on Sunday at 12:30, a recording of the meeting will be available.

A big thank you to those who registered for the in-person congregational meeting following 10 a.m. worship this coming Sunday, as well as to those who helped register them. As there were not enough active members registered to constitute a quorum, the congregational meeting was moved to the online venue. We are thankful that more members will be able to participate in an online, rather than an in-person, meeting at this time in the life of the church. The link to this meeting may be found below.

Many thanks to the members of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee: Al May, (Chair), Bill Burtchaell, Jim Garnett, April Hussung, Taina Specie, and Don Zegel and to member, Marty Wallace, who has provided funds to make this possible. Please join us for this exciting day in the life of the church.

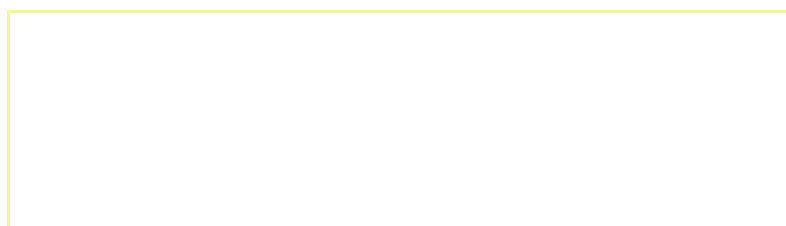
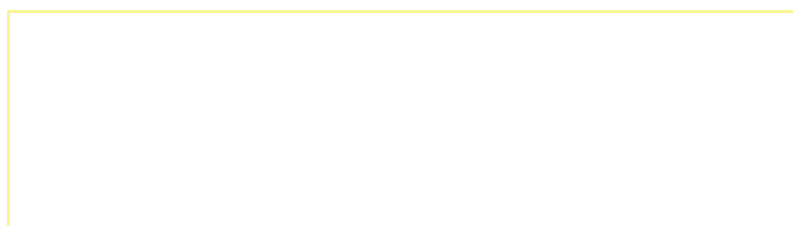
Click [HERE](#) to join the Zoom Meeting. Please feel free to log in up to 15 minutes early so we can get started on time.

If prompted or joining manually, enter:
Meeting ID: 814 2260 2741
Passcode: 740095

If you would like to use your phone to dial in for AUDIO ONLY, call 1-470-250-9358. Enter the Meeting ID and Passcode above when prompted.



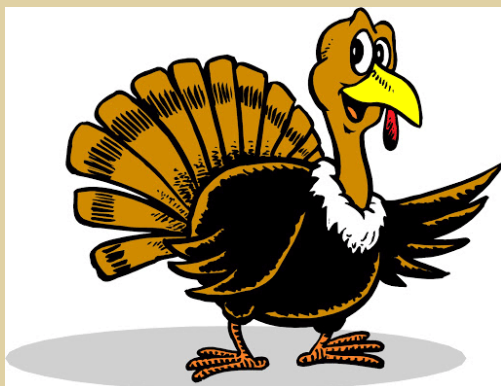
LAST SUNDAY'S RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY





The Chamber Singers were excited to participate in our reopening service last Sunday. We are maintaining safe distancing and using specialized singer's masks (pictured here) which have an extended "beak" for maximum comfort and resonance.

From Matt Clear



Meet Ezekiel and Noah

Today you will meet Ezekiel and Noah Houghton. They are excited about Thanksgiving, so I decided to interview them and discover their thoughts about the big day. Here is Thanksgiving as seen through the eyes of children. Enjoy!

Thanksgiving Excitement!

Q: Thanksgiving will soon be here. Ezekiel, what does the word Thanksgiving mean to you?

A: "I think of a big feast and family and a lot of different

things and places.”

Q: Put your thinking cap on and tell me what you have learned about the 1st Thanksgiving.

A: “ I know the Pilgrims came to America and found North America. A few days later, they had Thanksgiving.”

Q: What is your favorite food to eat on the big day?

A: “ I like mashed sweet potatoes and every year we make a pumpkin pie.” (white mashed potatoes are OK , IF they are smothered in gravy.)

Q: What are you thankful for on this special day?

A: “My family and people who love me. I am thankful for being in this world today.”



Q: Noah, Thanksgiving is a special day. What does the word Thanksgiving mean to you?

A: “ It means turkey, sweet potatoes, pumpkin pie, and of course chocolate milk!”

Q: If someone asked you about the 1st Thanksgiving, what would you say?

A: “We gather with family and have a big feast. The Pilgrims traveled to North America and met the Pilgrims and Jesus and then they had a big feast.”

Q: What is your favorite food for this big feast?

A: “ I like pumpkin pie, sweet potatoes, and turkey.” (However, green salad with dressing gets a big “yuk.”)

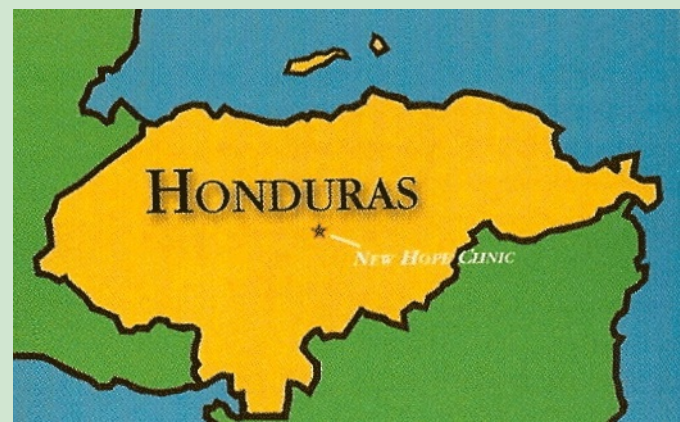
Q: What are you thankful for Noah?

A: “I am thankful to be living on earth today and thankful for the people who love me.”

Submitted by Diane Zuercher

News From Dr. Davila and New Hope Clinic

Many people have been asking about Dr. Davila and the Honduras New Hope Clinic after first Hurricane Eta and now Hurricane Iota have slammed Central America in the past two weeks. Here is his communication from Nov. 18, 2020:



Hurricane Iota has left the Honduras territory but we continue to receive rain from the atmospheric phenomenon. The weather forecast for today and tomorrow is continued rain. The damage from the hurricanes have been principally on the Atlantic coast of Honduras, the same zone that was destroyed a few days ago by Hurricane Eta. The rest of the country has only suffered from intense rains without major human loss, but of course loss of property, primarily in the agricultural and farming regions. The rains are forecast with less intensity but we hope the next few days will improve the conditions.

I was able to travel to Orca last week to the clinic and stay till Friday afternoon. The roads were in bad condition after Eta, but still possible. I am in Tegucigalpa now [his home]. In Orca, after hurricane Iota this week, all is well except that the river fords are affected. For the moment Orca and the Clinic are isolated. After the rains they will begin repairs and I believe next week the bridges will be repaired and we can get back to the clinic.

Thank you so much for all your prayers for Honduras. The truth is that the prayers were fundamental in preventing this Hurricane from devastating Honduras and was benevolent to the people of Honduras.

Greetings and Blessings, Dr. Cesar Davila

Submitted by Susan Schlecht

Do you love to write a good old-fashioned note?

Be part of a team who write notes to those who are literally “stuck” at home due to COVID-related concerns or live in



assisted living, nursing homes, etc. where visitors are seldom or not allowed. Join Lynn Kiehne in taking a moment to write to members of our Congregation. Contact her at lkiehne@gmail.com or get in touch with Amy at the Church Office.

Volunteer To Pass The Peace, VIRTUALLY!

As we return to worship in person the Passing of the Peace, the time where we used to stand and greet each other in the name of Christ, will be done as a video greeting.



We are asking individuals, families, or groups to record a short Passing the Peace video greeting. These videos will be played during Sunday worship for those in the Sanctuary and those watching from the couch at home.

For a sample script, contact the Church Office. If you are unable to record your own video on your phone, our online worship expert David Aumack will set up a convenient time to help you. Please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031) as soon as possible to let us know you can participate, and then send your videos to daumack@fpc-stpete.org. You can also contact him with any technical questions you may have.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays Being Offered Via Zoom

When you are grieving a loved one's death, the holiday season can be especially painful.

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar helps participants discover:

- How to deal with emotions
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- What to do about traditions
- How to find hope for the future

The Seminar will be offered via Zoom tomorrow, **Saturday, Nov. 21 at 10 AM**. Please email Petra Garnett (petra.garnett@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if you would like the Zoom log-in information.

Click on the video below to learn more about this event:



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!

Healing Scripture

As part of our pastoral care ministry, we will be offering a daily scripture meditation read by Pastor Ruth. Each weekday until Christmas, the church will send out an email to all those on the *First News* email list with a link to a short YouTube video of a scripture reading from the daily lectionary. The reading will be followed by the Lord's Prayer.

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 November 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, [Online and In-Person Worship Service](#). Beginning Sunday, Nov. 15, the sanctuary will be open for **In-Person Worship Services**.
- 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).
- Sundays, 4 - 5:30 PM, GriefShare Support Group. For Zoom sign-in information, contact 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 Meditation, virtual. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study, meeting in person in Room S-100.
- Saturday, Nov 21, 10 AM, GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays on Zoom (see article in this newsletter)
- Sunday, Nov. 22, 12:30 AM, Congregational Meeting via Zoom to approve a call for an Associate Pastor (see article in this newsletter for more information)
- Monday, Nov. 23, 7:00 PM, Stated Session Meeting
- Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27, Church Office closed for the Thanksgiving holiday

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.

