

# FIRST NEWS



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

October 2, 2020

## Online Worship This Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service  
this Sunday, October 4!  
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

This Sunday's Sermon: "Reconciling Love"  
Pastor Dawn Conti  
Scripture: [Psalm 32](#), [2 Corinthians 5:14-21](#)

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](http://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!

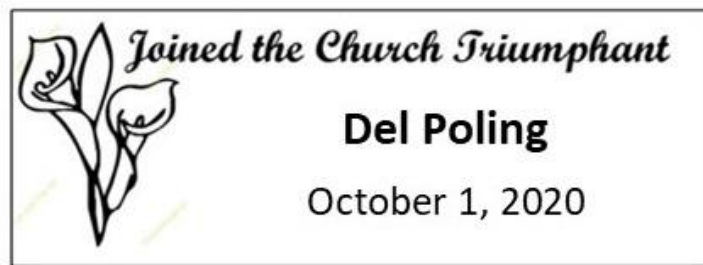
## Prayer Concerns

Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley,

Bob Burkhardt, Gordon Crane, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Frank Fox, Teresa Gasper, Ron Hall, John & Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Howard Moser, Peter Pav, Alan Pfleider, Richard Pfleider, 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; James Loeblein, USN; 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).

## OUR FUTURE IS BRIGHT: NEXT STEPS FOR FPC!

The pandemic may have thwarted our timeline a bit, but the Next Steps Team has been working diligently for months to complete our healing and reconciliation process and provide a healthy foundation on which to begin the revitalization of First Presbyterian Church. Earlier this week, you should have gotten an emailed message detailing the recommendations approved by the Session at its Sept. 28 meeting for moving forward as God is calling us for the future. However, if you missed that email, click [HERE](#) to view. If you would prefer a paper copy, please contact the Church Office (727-822-2031).



## WE'RE NEARLY OPEN FOR WORSHIP!

Your Return to Church Team is excited to share with you the latest version of our evolving plan to reopen for in-person worship. The team is now meeting every two weeks as we get closer to an open date, still to be determined by 14 days of steady decline in local cases. Click [HERE](#) to read the detailed report that was approved by the Session on Monday.

## WELCOME BACK, SMALL MEETING GROUPS!

The Return to Church plan includes opening our classroom doors for limited size (10-15) in-person meetings of our church and mission groups, effective immediately. Complete rules in the plan can be found using link above.

**All groups that wish to meet on church property will be required to:**

- (1) call the Church Office (727 823-2031) in advance to reserve a room
- (2) wear masks while on campus
- (3) observe social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) and
- (4) when finished, disinfect the area used with wipes and/or cleaning product, which FPC staff will provide and leave in the room.



## All the Places **WE** Will Go

*Note to readers:* For many years, our church has given scholarships to students to enable them to attend Cedarkirk and to be part of the Honduras Team. In the next few weeks, several students share their experiences and how camp and Honduras have touched their lives.

---

### Jude Singleton

Jude Singleton is the third generation to attend St. Pete High. He is a senior in the International Baccalaureate Program and will graduate in June 2021. At the present time he is taking Math, Biology, Spanish, English, History, and Theory of Knowledge. In his spare time, he works at Squeaky Clean Car Wash. He loves to read, write poetry, bike ride, and study. Jude has participated in youth parking events, Trunk or Treat, and our Church Clean-Up Day.



Jude has attended Cedarkirk Camp since 2014 and was disappointed that it was cancelled this past summer. When I asked him to describe what Camp meant to him, he replied, "Camp has the ability to blend fun activities with learning about the Gospel. I have strong bonds with my family and friends because of camp."

In his own words, Jude describes what Honduras means to him, as he was on the team for three years. "For me, it has been one of the most meaningful experiences, based on how it has affected what I want to do with my future. It has also impacted my understanding of God and how the world's problems can be resolved. Dr. Jamie Brownlee is the person I credit with inspiring my passion for medicine. Specially medical care in rural areas. Mrs. Susan Schlecht showed me the power of empathy and building relationships across international boundaries."

The Future: "I want to pursue a career in neurology and my final goal is to own and operate a private neurological practice in rural America"

"I am grateful to the church for providing these trips that have impacted my young life and shaped my interests to a God-centered medical passion."

Submitted by Diane Zuercher



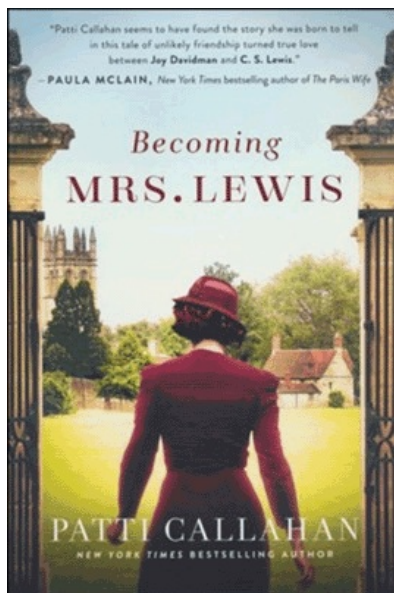
Concern for fellow believers at this time has greatly increased my prayer life. I hesitate to reach out to others, knowing they have their own set of issues to deal with and don't need mine added to their load. Those are my thoughts, but God has shown me they are not His thoughts.

Jeremiah 29:11 states God has plans for my good and not evil...therefore, as I reflect on this truth, I remind myself God has set His plan in motion not for me to merely survive this pandemic crisis, but to actually live in His hope. For me, this means to forget about ME and allow someone to walk alongside. Oh, yes, it is about WE and not ME. Time to allow God to surround me and my situation by being honest enough to allow someone to know how I am REALLY doing. It is so easy to sing about trust and obey but applying it to my life, that is a whole other side to being in God's family.

So join me in becoming "WE" and experience the joy God has waiting for you as you reach out and actually make the call. Looking forward to rejoicing with you as we journey through this time together and not apart. This too, shall come to pass. God designed us to live in His kingdom together and to share in His loving kindness.

Go ahead, make the call (727-804-2494 for Ginger or 727-667-1023 for Terry). God is all about the health of His children and surrounding us with His love. The balm in Gilead is also here at First Presbyterian Church of St. Pete and your name is on it. I do believe we do make God's joy complete when we have love one for another. Now that's good news to act upon.

Submitted by Wendy Wooden



## A New Season Of Faith & Fiction Begins With *Becoming Mrs. Lewis*

A new Faith & Fiction season begins next Monday, October 5 as the group discusses *Becoming Mrs. Lewis* by Patti Callahan. This historical novel deals with the improbable love story of C. S. Lewis and Joy Davidman. Rue Ann Porter will lead the online discussion using Zoom.

Plan to join the meeting on Monday, October 5 at 7:30 PM.

Join Zoom Meeting using this link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81357574377?pwd=Q1V5dHpicmdPcFNTMG1YVIBPVFFhZz09>

Or go to your Zoom app and use these codes:

Meeting ID: 813 5757 4377

Passcode: Read

We are not using the church's Zoom connection, but the Santoro's personal connection. If you have never done Zoom before and need help connecting, please call Linda Santoro at 727-897-9543 so we can walk you through this.

Be sure to check in a few minutes earlier so the meeting can start on time.

## A Lament In A Time Of Loneliness

By Sarah Fechter

Where are you, O God?  
You do not enter  
into my cloistered room  
you have left me alone.

I look for you, my God,  
I long for your presence  
to take away this loneliness  
I want to see your face  
and hear your voice.

Send one of your angels, Lord,  
to minister to me  
I have served you  
and your children  
for many years



so why am I left alone?

Help me to believe  
that this too will work  
for good  
Give me courage  
to face one more day.

I listen to your promises  
and give thanks  
for your goodness  
this day and forever.

*Gifted poet Sarah Fechter is a member of our church and Presbyterian Women, a group studying "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." This study spurred Sarah to write her own Lament during this time of Pandemic.*

## Please Give To Local People In Need

### FREE CLINIC "HUNGER FREE 2020"

"As a result of the COVID pandemic and its resulting economic impact, ... [the St. Pete Free Clinic...] has served over 83,000 people since March in the We Help FRESH Pantry. Families are finding it more and more difficult to afford food and are relying on the FRESH Pantry to meet basic nutritional needs. The Free Clinic reports that: Over 70% of the food we distribute is FRESH produce, meat, and dairy. We make sure families are not just fed, but that they are healthy.

You can help make sure families do not have to choose between keeping a roof over their heads or putting food on the table by contributing to Hunger Free 2020."

Hunger Free 2020 will take place on **October 10, 9 a.m. - 12 noon**  
at the Jared S. Hechtkopf Food Bank, 3115 44th Ave N St. Pete FL 33714

Go to the Hunger Free 2020 website (link is below) to donate money, food, time or to become a sponsor of the event.

<https://stpetersburgfreeclinic.org/events/hunger-free-2020/>

Find many more ways you can give by contacting Julie Bostick, Director of Development Operations, at [julie.bostick@stpetersburgfreeclinic.org](mailto:julie.bostick@stpetersburgfreeclinic.org)



### Lakewood Elementary School Uniforms Drive

The principal at Lakewood Elementary School, Mrs. Stephanie Woodford, informed the FPC Mission Committee that the "clothes closet is running low, especially for our boys. We are reaching out to see if you...would consider making a donation to our clothes closet. Lakewood is a uniform school with students wearing Navy or White Polos and Khaki or Navy Bottoms."

FPC has donated uniforms each year since our partnership with Lakewood Elementary School began in 2018.

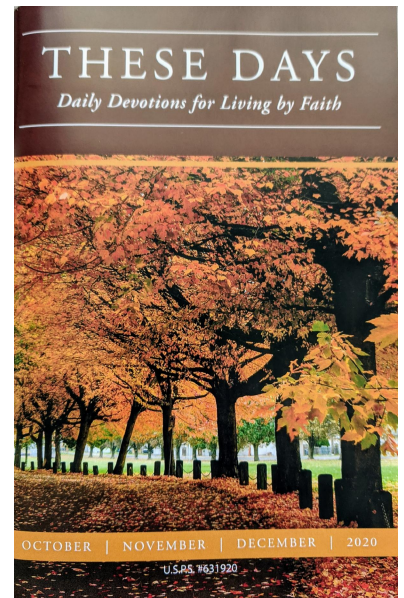
The School has established a registry with Walmart. Use the following link to access the Lakewood Elementary School registry and select the items you wish to donate. You can also see which items have already been purchased and which remain. All items need to be mailed directly to the school. If the shipping address doesn't automatically fill, use 4151 6th St S, St. Petersburg, FL 33705.

Information from the FPC Mission Committee



## Devotionals Are Available For Pick-Up

Copies of the October/November/December editions of "Our Daily Bread" and "These Days" devotionals are available for pick-up from the Church Office during normal business hours. If you have concerns about social distancing, call ahead, and a copy can be left outside for you.



When a hurricane threatens and an evacuation is ordered, church members living in evacuation areas have options such as a hotel/motel, or they can evacuate out of town if they leave soon enough. The best choice is to evacuate to a friend or family's home in a non-evacuation area of our community.

We would like to create a volunteer Host Homes program for those who will need to move to a non-evacuation area, may have pets (members can offer if they are willing to take pets), or have other needs that will require special consideration.

If you are interested in becoming a Host Home or are someone who would need to move to a non-evacuation location, please email Lynn Kiehne at [lkiehne@gmail.com](mailto:lkiehne@gmail.com) or call the Church Office at 727- 821-2031, and we will get the right form to you.

Once these are completed, we will work to match hosts and guests, and, of course, there will be an opportunity to speak to each other to see if this match would work. We will also keep the information on file at the church via a spreadsheet and we will update the following year as needed.

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!



## Stay Connected By Remembering Others' Birthdays

The October Birthday List is provided below in FPC Calendar At A Glance.

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!



## MONDAY DEVOTION

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 October 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](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)).
- Sundays, 4 - 5:30 PM, GriefShare Support Group. For Zoom sign-in information, contact Petra Garnett ([petra.garnett@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:cmaddux@maddux.com)).
- Monday, October 5, 7:30 PM Faith & Fiction group discusses "Becoming Mrs. Lewis." Contact Linda Santoro at (727) 897-9543 with questions or to receive Zoom connection information.

## 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](#).

First Presbyterian Church  
701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
(727) 822-2031

[Contact Us](#) | [Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)

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

