

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

September 11, 2020

Online Worship This Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, September 13!
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sermon Series: Living Legacies
This Sunday's Sermon: "Service Not Self-Interest"
Pastor Dawn Conti
Scripture: [Isaiah 61:1-4](#), [Mark 10:35-45](#)

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!

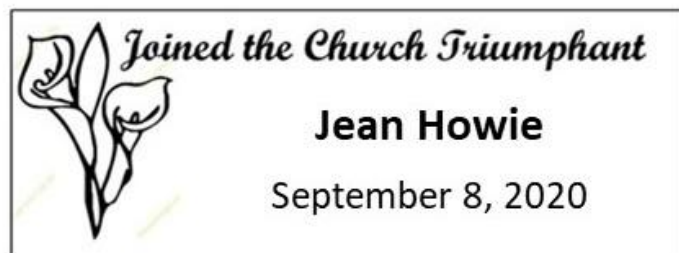
Prayer Concerns

Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Phoebe Catlin, Gordon Crane, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Sandra Fay, Teresa Gasper, Ron Hall, John &

Dorothy Harte, Larry & Diane Heath, Walter & Marie Huber, Jim & Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Margie Laughlin, Dave & Pam Malone, Nancy McLaughlin, Howard Moser, Peter Pav, Alan Pfeider, Richard Pfeider, Del & Janet Poling, Jane Pruitt, Jean Schultz, Judy Smith.

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 also keep in prayer everyone who has been affected by Hurricane Laura.



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.

When Can We Return? Breaking News Update

The Return to Church Team (Don Zegel, Gretchen Letterman, Karen Kisten, Karen Mossman, Kevin Clark, Matt Clear, and Tony McCoy, with input from Kyle Brinkman and Eva Popovich) has sent to the Session our updated draft of safety protocols and a big to-do list to get our campus ready for the day we can open our doors again.

Subject to Session approval, we will publicize the plan in detail at the end of this month for how we will begin to open for worship and other building uses. Tampa Bay's coronavirus positivity rate has been trending in the right direction, and we pray that continues, but we will not be able to set an opening date until the challenging list of tasks to be ready to return safely has been accomplished.

Once we are back in God's house, we will continue our online worship as well, with a hybrid of live streaming from the sanctuary and some pre-recorded elements. Stay tuned for more information, including how you might help get the church buildings ready.

Submitted by Gretchen Letterman



Associate Pastor Search Moves to Next Phases

Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee continues to make progress searching for a new Associate Pastor. We have interviewed several candidates multiple times either in person or by Zoom. The process of checking references has started for some of the candidates. The next phase beginning this month is bringing candidates whom we have not met with personally to St. Petersburg so the candidates and Committee can get to know each other better. These

visits also allow candidates to better know our church, our Pastor, and our community of St. Petersburg. Visits like this are necessitated because the pandemic has changed the search process.

Even though we are further along with some promising candidates, we still welcome your suggestions for others who might serve our church. The Holy Spirit often opens new opportunities. We also welcome your prayers as we attempt to discern God's will for our search and our church.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee: Al May, Chair; Bill Burtchaell; Jim Garnett; April Hussung; Taina Specie; and Don Zegel

Envisioning Our Future

Even as we're navigating the pandemic, your FPC leadership (Pastor and Session) is keeping its nose to the grindstone for our healing and visioning process, with the guidance of consultant the Rev. Cameron Trimble. Stay tuned for updates about healing sessions, conflict transformation, and our first steps toward discerning God's heart for FPC's future role in our community and the world.

Submitted by The Next Steps Elder Team:
Don Doddridge, Gretchen Letterman, Peter Bardin and Uneeda Brewer

Westminster Class Studies Uplifting Message

On Sunday, September 13, the Westminster Class will resume their meetings on Zoom at 11:15 AM. Anyone who would like to join or "visit" should contact Jim Garnett at jim.garnett237@gmail.com. Sarah Fechter will lead a study based on I Peter using the book "A Living God" as a guide. This is an uplifting message during a stressful time for all of us.

GriefShare Support Group Available To You

A GriefShare group will be starting on Sunday, September 20. Each week, this support group will offer help for anyone grieving the loss of a family member or friend.

The group will meet via Zoom on Sunday afternoons from 4:00–5:30 PM beginning September 20 (running for 13 weeks). Please join us for any or all of our meetings to learn about this journey "from mourning to joy."

For more information on GriefShare or how to join a session, please contact Amy in the Church Office (727-822-2031, amyg@fpc-stpete.org).

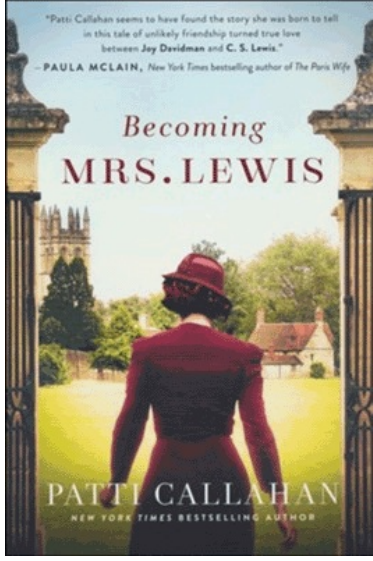
All of us at First Presbyterian
are working to stay as connected as possible
during this time of social distancing.

- 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!



A New Season of Faith & Fiction

A new Faith & Fiction season begins on 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. Be sure to check in a few minutes earlier so the meeting can start on time.

Contact Linda Santoro at (727) 897-9543 with questions or to receive Zoom connection information.

Meet FPC Member, Kathie Mayhall

With a twinkle in her eye, a captivating smile, and a heart to serve, Kathie has touched many lives. Born and raised in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Kathie still retains traces of a soft, southern drawl. After graduating from Ole Miss with a degree in Social Studies and a postgraduate degree in Guidance, Kathie began teaching in a local high school. For all you big Elvis fans, she was teaching at the same high school that Elvis attended!



Having met her future husband, Ken at Ole Miss, they soon started their married life together. Ken was with Amoco Oil for over 30 years and during this time they traveled all over the U.S. "Whenever we moved, I volunteered." Kathie said proudly. At first it was part-time, serving Meals on Wheels, Crisis Hot Line, and St. Pete Free Clinic.

In 1999, Kathie and Ken joined FPC. No longer a part-time volunteer, Kathie was now full-time and loving every minute of it! At FPC she has devoted her time and talent to the Free Clinic, Mentoring at Gulfport Elementary, serving as a Deacon, in the Sanctuary Guild, PW Circle #3, and the Congregational Care group..."that is what I love the most." Even with visiting over 120 countries, she has managed to keep up her service to our church.

"God helps us to love our neighbors through volunteer work. I have been blessed by all the people that I have known and served over the years."

Thank you Kathie and to all our volunteers....we truly are Christ's feet and hands when we touch the lives of our neighbors.

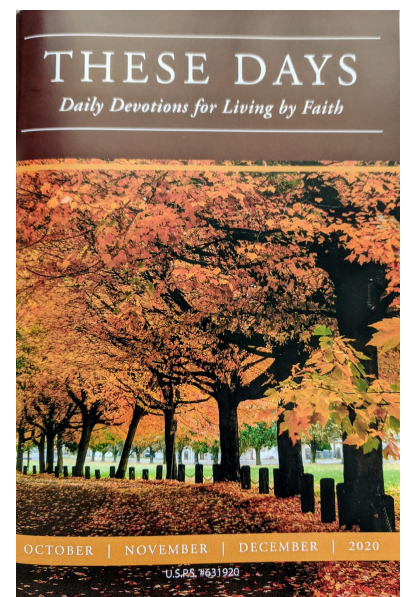
Submitted By Diane Zuercher



Devotionals Are Available For Pick-Up

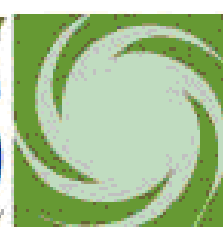
Copies of the October/November/December editions of "Our Daily Bread" and "These Days" devotionals are available for pick-up from the Church Office during normal business hours. If you have concerns about social distancing, call ahead, and a copy can be left outside for

you.



SURVIVING THE STORM... IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY

HOST HOMES
shelter from the storm



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 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.

Summer Worship Service Soloist

Last Sunday Gerald Arnold, tenor, was accompanied by Jack Rain, organist, performing Dvorak's "I Will Sing New Songs"



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.*
- [September 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, 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.
- Tuesdays, 7 PM, Weekly Virtual Meditation, online. For sign-in information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- Sunday, September 20, 4 - 5:30 PM - first meeting of 13-week GriefShare Support Group using Zoom. For details on how to join a session, please contact Amy in the Church Office (727-822-2031, amyg@fpc-stpete.org).

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.

