

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News
from First Presbyterian Church
St. Petersburg

May 29, 2020

Pentecost

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service this Sunday, May 31!

The sermon for this Sunday: "The Gifted"

Pastor Dawn Conti

Scripture: [Acts 2:1-21](#), [1 Corinthians 12:3b-13](#)

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) 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!



Mobile of More Than 1500 Paper Doves To Be Hung Over Baptismal Font

This Sunday, May 31, we remember how the Holy Spirit was poured out and the church was born in Jerusalem. In honor of the Spirit, a mobile of over 1,500 paper doves is being constructed and will be hung over the baptismal font in the Sanctuary! Thanks to the Aumack family and the youth who are tackling this project!

Be sure to wear red on the Day of Pentecost. You may be at home, but God can see you there too!



Kendra and Becky (and Carrie and Dave, not pictured) Aumack have worked diligently over the past few weeks making doves.



Paper doves have been folded, strung, and hung to be part of the mobile!

Prayer Concerns

Please remember in prayer: Carol Abernathy, Ron & Millie Bradley, Bob Burkhardt, Katy Churchil, Kat Cline, Carol Daniel, Joan Evans, Julie Evans, Teresa Gasper, James Gonzales, Nancy Grandoff, Ilda Hall-Littell, Ron Hall, Larry and Diane Heath, Ann Holifield, Barbara Houghton, Jean Howie, Walter & Marie Huber, Gary Hunt, Bonnie Jackson, Shirnice Johnson, Jim and Iberia Johnston, Kathy Jose, Anne Justiss, Glenice Kelley, Lynn Kiehne's father Merle, Taffey Lichter, Tom and Marie Machuga, Dave and Pam Malone, Barbara Mauger, 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, Gwen Tuthill. 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.



We will premiere the first-ever **Virtual Chancel Choir Performance** this Sunday, May 31st during the 10 AM Online Worship Service. Be sure to tune in!

Choir On Summer Hiatus

Yesterday's (May 28) Choir Rehearsal on Zoom, was the last regularly scheduled Chancel

Choir Rehearsal until August. This choir will be enjoying their normal summer hiatus until August.



The FPC Mission Committee can hardly wait to reveal the person selected by the congregation to receive the 2020 Missioner of the Year award. Thanks to all of you who took time to nominate so many deserving volunteers. Join us for our online church service this Sunday, May 31, to find out who received the most nominations!

Our Session's Zoom Meeting Takin' Care Of Business



For minutes of the May Session Meeting click [HERE](#).

**Financial Snapshot
April 2020**

	<u>Month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Gifts	\$ 72,851	\$ 228,154
Other Income	8,022	44,115
Total Income	80,873	272,269
Expenses	80,202	333,112
Income (Loss)	\$ 671	\$ (60,843)

Reverted to calendar year retroactive to January.
Virtual services continued due to coronavirus restrictions.

Gifts benefited this month by payment of large pledges.
Pledges and non-pledge gifts are \$7,200 over budget YTD.

THANK YOU for your gifts online, by mail, or dropping at office!

**Guidelines For In-Person Worship & Ministry
During COVID-19
Update from the Task Force**

This past week, the Session met and approved a plan for when we return to church and ministries...click [HERE](#) to read the complete document.

Stephen Ministry and COVID-19

Your Stephen Ministers continue to be in touch with their Care Receivers, adopting communication methods that we have all been using during this time of social distancing.



Did you know that the Apostle Paul faced the same challenges as he worked to stay connected to scattered groups of Christians? Paul's letters give us insight into how he related to believers when he couldn't actually be with them. Paul's ministry was built on in-person relationships. Paul could tell the Thessalonians "We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well." (Thes 2:8a)

Paul's relationships were built on Christ-centered love and compassion. That same foundation helps us keep our relationships strong when, for a time, we can't meet face-to-face.

We can be grateful for the technologies we have today that enable us to stay connected with one another and those we care for. And we all look forward with great anticipation to the time when we can resume our in-person care for one another in all of our relationships.

If you would like to be contacted by a Stephen Minister, please contact the Church Office

**Pentecost Special Offering
(collected May 31)**

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world. Psalm 71

testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.



To donate to this special offering, you can mail a check to the Church Office (701 Beach Drive NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33701) or donate online [HERE](#). Be sure to put "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line.

"Oh the Places We Have Been" Meet our Members *Betsy Clark*



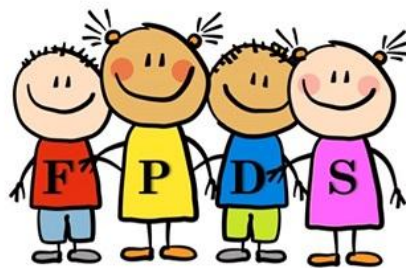
"Lions, tigers, and bears, oh my" said Betsy Clark on her first Bush plane ride into the heart of Africa. Yes, our very own FPC member is quite a world traveler. From the jungle of Africa to the vastness of the Amazon and into the rocky outcroppings of the Galapagos Islands, Betsy was there.

Betsy started her love of traveling with her husband Norm and their children. They called themselves, "trailer people" as they camped all over the USA. From the USA to Japan, The Holy Lands, and Europe, Betsy and Norm experienced many different cultures around the world. Their lives were enriched by the people they met along their many journeys.

When she was not traveling, Betsy spent 40 years teaching grades 4th, 3rd, 2nd, 1st, and Kindergarten right here in Pinellas County. Skyview, Westgate, Rawlings, and Orange Grove are just a few of the schools in which she taught. Maybe she was your teacher?

Betsy has been a member of FPC for 20 years and attends the 11:00 service. She is a woman of many stories, so look her up!

Submitted by Diane Zuercher



First Presbyterian Day School

KPREP Graduation Class of 2020

The end of First Presbyterian Day School's year was anything but normal, however, through collaboration and creativity, we were able to create a fun way for us all to stay connected. Zoom became the medium through which teachers and assistants led circle times throughout the week. They also posted daily activities for parents and children to enjoy on Bloomz, our Parent Communication App.



Graduation is always the concluding highlight of our school year and we were determined to make it extra-special for this year's graduates. Teachers and assistants met with each child individually in the Memorial Garden to photograph them in their caps and gowns. These images were part of our Zoom graduation ceremony. While the pictures are heartwarming, hearing what each child wants to be when they grow up is the real highlight of our annual ceremony. This year we had future mermaids, superheroes, doctors, moms, fire fighters, and veterinarians.

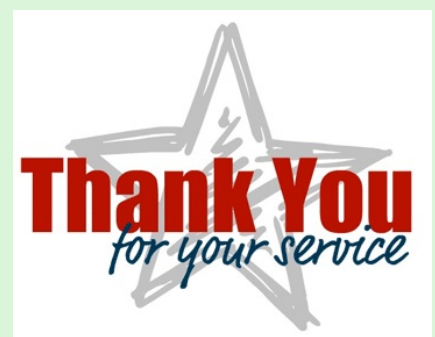
(Class photos from earlier this school year)



We are so proud of our graduates and all they have accomplished! We are also proud of our loving and talented staff here at FPDS who worked so hard this spring to maintain our sense of community while also educating our students. Many congratulations are due for a wonderful and very eventful school year!



We would like to update our church records to include all men and women from our congregation who are currently serving or who have served in any branch of the military, including the National Guard. Most of us are unaware of the men and women who have served in this capacity for whatever the reason, and we would like to be able to acknowledge and honor all of you during this November's Veterans Day.



Please email or call Amy in the Church Office (amyg@fpc-stpete.org, 727-828-3795) with your branch of service, years of service, rank, and where you served. We look forward to

hearing from you, and thank you for your service!!!

Weekly Virtual Meditation

The late Fr. John Main, a Benedictine monk, has said: *There are no experts with meditation. Every time we make time to meditate, we're all beginners...whether we've been practicing one month or 25 years.*

The next Virtual Meditation meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2 at 7 PM. Feel free to join us any Tuesday evening. Though apart physically, we'll be connected by God's healing Spirit. What more do we need? Anyone is invited to participate with us. So please forward this to someone you think might be interested in joining us.

For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com)



GriefShare Support Groups

GriefShare groups, which are for anyone grieving the loss of a family member or friend, will meet **Sundays from 4:00–5:30 PM**. A second session will meet **Tuesdays from 10:00–11:30 AM starting June 2**. Both groups will meet virtually using Zoom.

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).

Online Devotion, Discussion, and Prayer Mondays at 10 AM

Mondays from 10-11 AM, connect with God and each other as we read and discuss the sermon text that will be preached the following Sunday. To connect, **click [HERE](#)** (you will need a device with a camera and microphone to use this link). Or, join by phone, dial +1 929-205-6099. The meeting ID is 542 281 573. You can press *6 to unmute/mute yourself during the conversation.

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 pictures!



FPC Calendar At A Glance

- [Click here](#) to view the full church calendar online.
- [June Birthdays](#)
- Until further notice, no groups will be meeting at the church. We will keep everyone posted on any changes. *Since groups are not currently meeting on campus, they 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.*
- If anyone needs 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 for more 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](#).

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

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

