

FIRST NEWS



Your Weekly News from
First Presbyterian
Church
St. Petersburg

November 6, 2020

Online Worship This Sunday

Join us for our 10 AM Online Worship Service
this Sunday, November 8
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

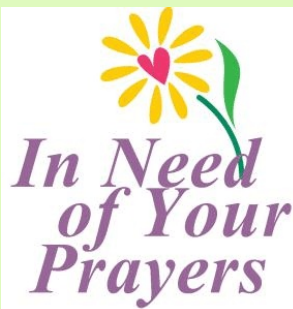
This Sunday's Sermon: "Called to Live in Love"
Pastor Dawn Conti
Scripture: [Jeremiah 29:4-7, 11](#); [Psalm 93](#),
[Ephesians 4:1-6](#); [John 13:34-35](#)

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!

Please see update below about returning to in-person worship!



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, 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.

Welcome Back

To In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary!

The time has come for us to welcome you back safely! The Return to In-Person Worship & Ministries Task Force met this week and approved the opening of worship in the Sanctuary on **Sunday, November 15 at 10 a.m.** for those who feel comfortable worshipping in person.

We recognize some are at high risk and feel uncomfortable coming back to worship in person so we encourage those individuals to take their own risk assessment and stay home if they feel uncomfortable. Those individuals can continue to enjoy our vibrant online worship service. For those of you at low risk and who feel comfortable coming back to in-person worship, we look forward to seeing you!

One thing to remember: **you must wear a mask** If you forget one, we will have extras available. Plenty of hand sanitizer will be available for your safety, and you will move through the sanctuary one-way-in and one-way-out. Also, for your safety, you will 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.

You will need to reserve a spot to attend in-person worship services starting with the November 15 service and moving forward.

There are two ways to register:

(1) Go online! We will be sending an email to you on Monday mornings 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!



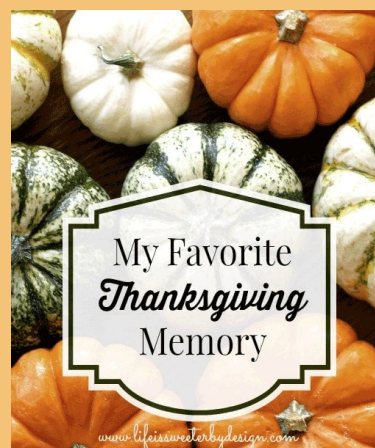
Congregational Meeting Notice

There will be an online congregational meeting on **Sunday, November 22 at 12:30 p.m.** (via Zoom) to receive a motion from the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to **approve a call for an Associate Pastor for FPC-St. Petersburg.** The terms of the call package will also be approved and details of the candidate will be provided at the meeting. The Zoom log-in information for this meeting will be publicized in next week's *First News*.

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.

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. You will find the first of these healing scriptures below. Today's reading is [Psalm 65](#).



The month of November brings thoughts of family, food, and memories as we celebrate Thanksgiving. For the next three weeks, several FPC members will share their memories of a special Thanksgiving. Enjoy!

When I asked Lynne Mormino to share a Thanksgiving memory, she replied in her delightful, cheerful voice and said, "Give me two days and I will have a story for you." She did....and here it is...

A Tale of Two Thanksgivings

The Thanksgiving that stands out in my mind took place in 1974. While Gary was getting his graduate degree, we were living in Chapel Hill and had been for about five years. Soon after we moved to Decatur, IL, where he would be teaching at Millikin University. We were thrilled

as we would be only 20 minutes from my family. This was to be our first Thanksgiving with my family and we were looking forward to enjoying a Thanksgiving feast with them.

I could just picture the family gathered around the large table anticipating a delicious feast. In my mind, I could taste that roasted turkey served with oyster dressing, sweet potatoes, capons ("fat chicken"), homemade honey rolls, noodles, and to top the meal off, rutabaga pie, angel food cake, and homemade ice cream. A "picture perfect" Thanksgiving meal and I could not wait!



Gary and I made plans to arrive early next morning, so we stopped at our house for the night. I do believe that I dreamed about that meal that night! While I was dreaming, a snow and ice storm came that night. We awoke with our car stuck in snow and ice and unable to drive. Thoughts of the Thanksgiving feast were fading fast. We had only lived in the house for two months and had not stocked up on much food. We shared a Thanksgiving meal (not feast) of crackers and a can of potato soup. We were heart-broken...but we had each other.

Fast forward two years to 1977. We move to Florida, 1,000 miles from family....new to Florida, new job, and new neighborhood. Thoughts of our families gathering together without us made us feel lonely.

Neighbors reached out to us in friendship and invited us to share their Thanksgiving with them...and 42 years later, we still do.

Thank you Lynne, for reminding us that it is not what you eat for Thanksgiving, it is whom you are sharing with that truly matters.

Submitted by Diane Zuercher



Calling all those who love to write a good

old-fashioned note! Other communities have engaged in note-writing during COVID 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. If you would like to join me in taking a moment to write to members of our Congregation, please contact me (Lynn Kiehne) at lkiehne@gmail.com or get in touch with Amy at the

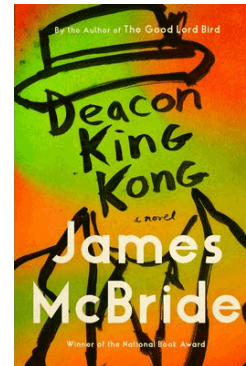
Church Office, and she will see that I get your indication of interest and I will share names with you who might enjoy a note.

Faith & Fiction

November's Faith & Fiction will be next Tuesday, November 10th at 7:30 PM via Zoom. Al May will lead our discussion of:

Deacon King Kong by James McBride

Please call or contact Linda Santoro if you wish to join this meeting, and she will send the Zoom link to you that evening. Linda's number is 727-897-9543, email is lindajsantoro@gmail.com.



GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays

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 **IN PERSON** on **Saturday, Nov. 21 at 10 AM** in the Chapel. Please email Petra Garnett (petra.garnett@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if you would like to join.

Please click on the video below to learn more about this event:



To God be the glory! From Marie Huber

With grateful hearts the Huber Family would like to thank our church family for the many prayers spoken over us during the past few years of Walter's health decline. The calls, cards, food gave us comfort in this difficult time. The support of so many of you at Walter's memorial service helped the family see the church in action.

Session Meeting Minutes & Important Note from Pastor Dawn



To enhance communication with the congregation, going forward, minutes of Session Meetings are sent to you as a separate email in your inbox. Additionally, First News provides a link to the full minutes. If you missed the email earlier this week, you can [CLICK HERE](#) for the complete minutes from the **October 26, 2020** meeting.

You can also [CLICK HERE](#) for an important note from Pastor Dawn in regards to one of the items on the session minutes (also sent in a separate email earlier this week).

A Lament for Sisters

Creator God,
you made woman
as a helpmate to man.
You made other women
to lament with Eve.

What would Hannah
Rachel and Elizabeth
have done without their sisters?

I need my sisters
to comfort me with warm bread
and cool salads
to silently wait with me
and listen to my stories
to hand me tissues
for drying my tears.

Thank you, God,
for my sisters of faith.
Thank you for sisters
who lament with me
who lift some
of the heaviness
from my heart
who show me the comfort
you grant us
when we grieve.

Sarah Fechter, October 2020

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.



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!**

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 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 Virtual Meditation, online. For more information, contact Carlen Maddux (cmaddux@maddux.com).
- Fridays, 7:30 AM, Men's Bible Study, meeting **in person** in Room S-100.
- Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7:30 PM, Faith & Fiction (online)
- Saturday, Nov 21, 10 AM, GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays **in-person**, FPC Chapel
- Sunday, Nov. 22, 12:30 PM, Congregational Meeting to approve a call for an Associate Pastor (via Zoom)

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.

