



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2, 2023 | ISSUE 908

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2



On the Christian calendar, Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. The name comes from the triumphal entry of Jesus into the holy city of Jerusalem and how the people waved branches taken from the palm trees to celebrate Jesus' arrival. Palm Sunday is often marked in churches with songs of praise and the joyful shouts of God's children.

We invite you to join us **this Sunday, April 2 at 9 or 11 am** to add your voice to the chorus of praise.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6



You are invited to join your church family **Thursday, April 6** for supper and our Maundy Thursday Communion Service. A fellowship meal will be served starting at **5:30 pm** in McLeod Hall. At **6:30 pm**, we will gather on this holy night in the sanctuary for a worship service and the Lord's Supper. The evening will conclude with the Tenebrae (Service of Darkness) as we listen to readings from the last hours of Jesus' life, extinguishing candles and stripping the church, until we leave the darkened worship space. We invite you to prepare for Good Friday and Easter at this special service.

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7

The Chapel will be open for prayer and mediation on **Good Friday, April 7, Noon-3 pm**.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9



The Community Sunrise Service will be held in Martin Luther King Jr. Park on Lake Silver at **6:30 am**.

We will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ at the **9 am Heart of Worship Service** and **11 am Traditional Worship Service**.

Easter breakfast will be served in McLeod Hall from **9:45-10:45 am**.

The Easter Egg Hunt will meet on the CE building front steps at **10:30 am**.

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven exists to show God's kingdom to the world as we...

Share the good news of what God has done in Jesus Christ,

Develop and nurture God's children into disciples

Provide a place and a program for praising God

Live our lives according to the Word, guided by the Spirit

Commit to justice for all God's people.

STAFF

Dr. Steven R. Negley
Senior Pastor

Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
Associate Pastor for
Christian Education
and Family Ministries

Jeremy T. Rath
Director of
Music Ministries

Emily G. Snyder
Director of
Student Ministries

Robin D. Miller
Director of Finance
and Administration

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative
Assistant

Rose S. Flynn
Office Assistant

Daryl D. Fenley
Director of
Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry
Custodian

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, April 2 PALM SUNDAY

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
9:15 am Children Sunday School (CE 206)
10:10 am Adult Sunday School (GR)
11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
5:30 pm The Chosen Bible Study (MH)
5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, April 3

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating
Committee (MH)
7:00 pm Nominating (MH)

Tuesday, April 4

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
6:30 pm Session (GR)

Wednesday, April 5

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
3:30 pm Christ Kids (CE)
5:00 pm Confirmation (GC)
5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
6:00 pm Chancel Bells (BR)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, April 6 MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (BR)
5:30 pm Supper (MH)
6:30 pm Worship w/Communion
(Sanctuary)

Friday, April 7 GOOD FRIDAY

- 12:00 pm Chapel Open Until 3:00 pm

Saturday, April 8

- 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
4:00 pm Soup Kitchen (737)

**UP-COMING ALL CHURCH
GATHERING SINGLE
10 AM WORSHIP SERVICES**

April 16 & May 7

SYMPATHIES



Our Christian sympathy goes to
Orrin Champlain, Jennifer & Mike Vibral
upon the death of their wife/mother,
Helen Champlain, who died on
Wednesday, March 22, 2023.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Pam Gray	Mary Ellen Porter
Debbie Anderson	Jane Hayman	JP & Kim Powell
Pat Berrell	Jim Huff	David Ryan
Orin Champlain	Scott & Becky Irvin	Marilyn Schleifer
Ellie Crowder	Jill Kosmensky	Dick Shaw
Julie Dantzler	Dena Lancashire	Joyce Shirah
Brenda Darte	Ray & Gladys Larson	Dale Smith
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Pat McCarty	Sarah Summers
Zan Dismuke	Dick McCauley	Katie Sparr
Rob Donaldy	Sue McClew	Kathy Taber
Dana Elmore	Pat Miller	Barbara Tackett
Bill Everhart	Edna Mitchell	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Heidi Munoz- Gutierrez	Jeri & Tom Oldt	Jennifer & Mike Vibral
Lynne Graddy	Joe Oriani	
	Jackie Pinkney	

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Holton & Briley Adcock..... Jeff, Lisa, & Emily Snyder's friends
Jameson Adcock..... Jeff, Lisa, & Emily Snyder's friend
Ruth Calloway Kate Eelman's cousin
Dolores Clay-Barton..... Karen Gerber's sister
Caren Coleman Lynn Van Gundy's friend
Stephen Houmar..... Rick & Pat Reass' grandson
Bryan Howard Janet Howard's son
Kile McKee Greg Marrs' cousin
Paul Pletcher..... Bob & Judy Winfree's friend
Ginger Stanley Lynn Oakley's friend
Karen Thompson..... Kristen Sheffield' mother
Jack Tyler & Family..... Becky Irvin's brother-in-law
David Young..... Lynn Oakley's friend

PLEASE NOTE

We update the Family & Friends prayer list periodically. If there is someone who needs to remain on the list, please call the church office.

MILITARY

Zach Anaya	Eddie Gray	Mathew Massam
Brenden Anderson	Daniel Harp	Diane Secord
Christian Anderson	Sean Harp	Shad Skinner
Zach Drum	David Knowles	Drew Stapor
Robert Ferguson	John Marotti	
Stephanie Gillie	KaitLin Marotti	

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES



These past years has reminded us all of the importance of staying in touch with those we care about. We are always looking to keep our directory current and are seeking to make sure we have your current information on file.

If you have a new phone number, home address, email, or additional contact info (such as a seasonal address), please contact the church office so we can make sure you stay informed. Thank you.

CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY



You are invited to join us on these **Sundays, April 2 & April 23, from 5:30 - 7 pm** in McLeod Hall to watch an episode from *The Chosen*, Season 3, then discuss what we have seen. Please join us even if you haven't watched the series, we will help you catch up.

Please bring a covered dish to share and enjoy an evening with your friends from First Pres. Childcare will be provided.

BRIGHT SUNDAY, APRIL 16



For over two decades, we have celebrated Bright Sunday on the Sunday after Easter with joy and laughter.

This year, the members of our confirmation class and the First Pres Praise Band will be planning and conducting our Bright Sunday Service.

This **single worship service will be held at 10 am**, and will conclude with a **butterfly release** in the Memorial Garden, then a reception in the court yard.

Please plan to join in the joy on this wonderful Sunday!

FUNTIMERS



Our next gathering on **Monday, April 24** of *FunTimers* (Our 55+ fellowship group) invites you to join.

We will meet in McLeod Hall at **11 am**. From there we will travel to **Bok Tower Gardens** to enjoy exploring the grounds and lunch together.

We will return to the church by **2 pm**. Transportation is provided. Sign up in McLeod Hall or call the church office.

SAVE THE DATE VBS JUNE 4-8



Vacation Bible School is just around the corner as we head to Babylon! Registration is open for 4 years through 5th graders as participants.

Calling all teen and adult volunteers, don't forget to sign-up too! Check the church website for more information or contact Rev. Sarah.

CHRIST'S KIDS



Our engaging and nurturing disciples of Jesus Christ program, Christ's Kids happens on **Wednesdays at 3:30 pm till 5:30 pm**. Starting on our playground, we support developmental relationships, continue to expand Biblical knowledge with stories, music, and movement and also caring for other children of God every Wednesday. If you'd like to learn more about volunteering or supporting this ministry, contact Rev. Sarah.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Continuing to *Grow in Faith*, Children's Sunday School follows the Time with Younger Disciples in the Heart of Worship service in CE room 206. Children will explore people Jesus met, healings and miracles of Jesus, and of course, art! Preschoolers through 5th grade are encouraged to join us and continue to grow in God's love. Meeting every Sunday with two service, except Easter Sunday.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE APOCRYPHAL JESUS



Got questions regarding the New Testament and why some texts are in our Bible while others, that have even been discovered recently, are not? Want to explore the early Church, teachings of Jesus and his first disciples? Join other seekers on this journey as we watch a video from an esteemed professor and discuss. We meet **at 10:10 am in the Geneva Room** every Sunday with two worship services, except easter Sunday.

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!



Volunteering for Meals on Wheels is a great way to make a huge impact in a short amount of time. By packaging and/or delivering meals you bring nutritious food and a friendly visit to seniors in your community. Volunteering in our Thrift Store helps us bring in funds to provide meals as we do not receive government funds. We welcome volunteers of all ages and it's a great volunteer opportunity for individuals or groups of friends. Most volunteer 1 day a week or month, and some substitute or help seasonally. Get rewarded with smiles!

Call 863-299-1616, email susan@mealsonwheelspolk.com, fill out an online volunteer application at MOWpolk.org or visit/tour our office at 620 6th ST NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881.

MEN'S LUNCH GROUP



Every **Tuesday**, the men of the church gather from **12:00-1:00 pm** for lunch together in McLeod Hall. This fellowship group offers men an opportunity to build friendships and grow in faith.

We hope that you will join us. This gathering is hybrid; meaning you can come in person or join by Zoom. To receive the Zoom invite, please contact the office by phone or email and ask to be added to the list.

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN TEXT TO GIVE?



To donate, you will text a **keyword**, (those options are below and special events will be added as they come.), then a **space**, and an **amount** to **863-243-6880**. Example: Text keyword **3cents 5** for gifting \$5 to *3 Cents-a-Meal*. An auto-response will confirm your gift offering. Respond **Y** to confirm and send. Save this number as a contact for future giving.

Keywords are:

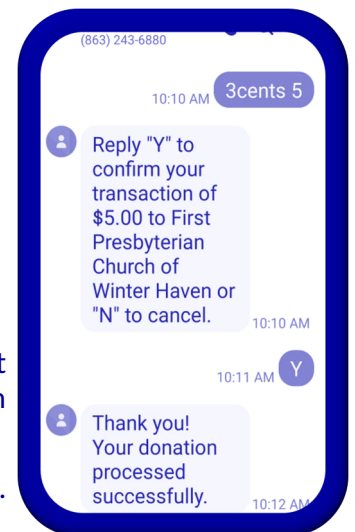
- Pledged (for your offering to be credited to your pledged amount for the current year)
- Offering (Non-pledge or undesignated gifts)
- Music (for Capital Music Campaign Organ/Music)
- 3cents (for 3 Cents-a-Meal)
- Memorial (for when donating in memory of someone)
- Special (for all other donations; example 1 time events)

If you are donating through Text To Give for the first time, you will receive a text containing a link to login or create your Secure Give account. Please save that login information.

You will then be asked to save your default payment information for giving by text. The system will confirm your donation and you will receive an email receipt.

The only time that you should have to enter your login or card information is the first time you donate through Text to Give. After your first transaction, your Secure Give account and card information will be recognized automatically and you will simply reply **Y**.

The next time you would like to give by text, simply type the keyword and amount to the number above and you will receive a request to confirm with **Y**.



HOW TO EASILY ACCESS SECURE GIVE

Go to our Church website and click on **give** (top right), you will be re-directed to <https://app.securegive.com/firstpreswh> or you can go directly to the SecureGive website, <https://app.securegive.com/firstpreswh>.

Robin Miller is available to assist you during office hours or email rmiller@firstpreswh.org.



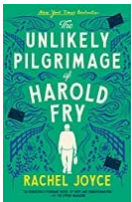
APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4/2	Porter Flemming Kenny Lasseter	4/13	Debbie Sowards	Clara Nell Dantzler	
4/3	Glenn Thomas	4/13	Marcia Eycleshimer	Lydia Rennie	
4/5	Richard Bogey Drew Fenley Glynn Swango Kalen West	4/14	Amena Roe	4/25	April Porter
4/7	Russell Aaron Caden Kok Brandy Gray Caden Kok	4/15	Perry Oakley	4/26	John Marchetti
4/8	Jacob Dantzler	4/16	Steven Dunham McCree Stults	4/28	Carolyn Greene Kyle Seney Lucas Volpe
4/9	Mal Boland	4/17	Scott Hart	4/29	Alice Colgrove Matthew Gaines Marilyn Sheffield Alexandra Turner
4/10	Julius Windham	4/19	Joni Gann Jane West	4/30	Deane Briggs Cindy Curry Judy Denlinger Remy Jacobson Dale Johnson Ryan Seney Ellen Tate
4/11	Quentin Roe Mike Speer	4/20	Jay Gray Roxane McCann Julie Valk Dave Wander		
4/12	Ellie Crowder Charlene Glenn Meg Strang	4/21	Kevin Grady Corbin Hart Marcia Strang		
		4/22	Harper Roe		
		4/23	Kimberly Gaines		
		4/24	Kelly Butz		

ANNIVERSARIES

4/1	Neal & Anne McBride	4/17	Dick & Susan Wales
4/4	Tom & Jeri Oldt	4/22	Ted & Paula Threadgill
4/6	Stephen & Beth Luxford	4/23	Michael & Meredith Baragona
4/7	David & Marcie Dershimer	4/25	Joe & Martha Burke
4/10	Carson & Kay Weeks	4/26	Shorter & Marcia Strang
4/12	Lauren & Zane Schwenk		

BOOK CLUB



We invite you to join us **Monday, May 15 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss *The Unlikely Pilgrimage* by Rachel Joyce.

We hope you will come together with us for a time of fellowship and discussion of this charming, humorous, and profound insight into the thoughts and feelings we all bury deep within our hearts.

Contact **Sue Henry** at 863-656-2611 with any questions.

YOU CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR STEPHEN MINISTRY . . .



. . . Because you may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister. If you know of someone who is hurting, contact **Connie Shipley** at 863-221-2224. Or you can talk with one of our other Stephen Leaders: **Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Barbara Perkins.**

They can talk with you about how we can connect the person you know with one of our Stephen Ministers. It's a great way for you to show how much you care!

First Presbyterian Church
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Lakeland, FL

This newsletter is published weekly.

Church dated material, please deliver by 03/31/23.

Return Service Requested

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 162 lunches
the week of 3/20/23.



Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 62 people on
Saturday, 3/25/23.

EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS NEEDED



It's time to prepare for some super happy children and the resurrection celebration at the Easter Egg Hunt! So please drop off individually wrapped candies, small toys or filled Easter eggs in McLeod Hall this month. Please no chocolate as melted chocolate is no fun in the FL heat. Thank you!

EASTER LILY FORM-LAST CHANCE!



It is time to order your Easter lily for **Easter Sunday, April 9**. To purchase a lily "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one or friend, please fill out this order form.

The cost is \$12 per plant. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Easter Lily Fund".

Please turn form in by **Monday, April 3**.

A complete listing will be available Easter Sunday. We will again remove the yellow stamen from each lily so it will not bother your allergies.

Donor(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Number of plants: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

BUTTERFLY FORM

In memory of church members who have died since last Bright Sunday, April 24, 2022, and for those who have sustained the loss of a child, parent, sibling, or spouse since that date, we will release butterflies following our Single Service Worship on **Sunday, April 16 at 10 am**.



If you would like to release a butterfly in memory of a loved one who died outside of the parameters mentioned above (for example, before last year's Bright Sunday and/or grandparent, aunt, cousin, son-in-law, etc.), you may purchase a butterfly for **\$5**.

Please turn in form by **Monday, April 10**.

Your name: _____

Deceased loved one: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Number of butterflies: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____