



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of August 9, 2020

Issue 770

134 Years of Ministry

VBS ANNOUNCEMENT

Hear ye! Hear ye! All ye Kings and Queens, Knights and Nobles!

Next Knights of North Castle VBS gathering August 12 via ZOOM

By royal decree the difficult decision has been made to cancel the in-person summer gathering of knights known as VBS. All our knights instead have begun a summer quest at home, checking in twice monthly to be sure they are indeed arming up with love, truth, and faith. On the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays, June-August**, First Pres Castle will host ZOOM gatherings with VBS music, Bible stories, and prayer. Our knights, nobles, and their families connect via **ZOOM**, for **Lower Elementary (PreK-1st) at 3 pm and Upper Elementary (2nd-5th) at 4 pm. Next gathering of knights, August 12.** VBS crafts for the summer are still available in the church office; contact Rev. Sarah at 294-3121 to arrange a pick-up.



Until then, it is joyfully advised to *“be strong in the Lord and the strength of His power”* Ephesians 6:10 – **Rev. Sarah**, First Pres Castle.

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST

At the Session meeting on July 7, I delivered to them the following letter
For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven. There is a time to be born and a time to study, a time to work and a time to retire to

I began my ministry as your Associate Pastor on September 18, 1998, and so September 17 will mark the completion of twenty-two years as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, Florida.

There have been achievements and disappointments, joys and sorrows, successes and failures, throughout these years. If I could turn back the clock to 1998, I would do some things differently, but overall, I am pleased with the many things we have done together. I have wrestled with this decision for some months and I am at peace with this action, even though I do not know all the particulars of where I will go and what I will do.

It is with mixed emotions and the conviction that the time is right to submit my resignation as your Associate Pastor, even as I also request to be granted the status of Honorably Retired. It is with confidence that God who began a good work in us will bring it to completion, even as I journey forth in this new direction. May God bless and keep us now and always.

Blessings+ Alan



Dr. Steven R. Negley
Senior Pastor

Dr. C. Alan Harvey
Associate Pastor

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

Emily G. Snyder
Director of
Student Ministries

Robin D. Miller
Director of Finance &
Administration

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant
Director of Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry
Custodian

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 9

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
7:00 pm High School Youth Group (Zoom)

Monday, August 10

- 6:30 pm Christian Education (GR)

Tuesday, August 11

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (Zoom)
4:00 pm Music Director Search (Zoom)
6:00 pm Personnel (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 12

- 12:00 pm Buildings & Grounds (Zoom)
3:00 pm Virtual Bible School
Lower Elementary (Zoom)
4:00 pm Virtual Bible School
Upper Elementary (Zoom)
5:00 pm Confirmation (Zoom)
7:00 pm Middle School Youth Group (Zoom)

Thursday, August 13

Friday, August 14

Saturday, August 15

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

MILITARY

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

**A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY THE
MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS
AT THEIR SOCIALLY DISTANCED COOKOUT.**



Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

Marie Able	Jane Hayman	Edna Mitchell
Melvin & Debbie Anderson	Joyce Hayman	Nancy Neale
Kathy Andrews	Frances Heath	Bethany Owen
Pat Berrell	Kay Hedden	Barbara Roberts
Orrin & Helen Champlain	Doris Hill	George Seagreaves
Carl Cheatham	Shirley Hines	Bob Sheffield
Charlie Darte	Bryan Howard	Joyce Shirah
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Isobel Hubbard	Susan Heyer-Singleton
Zan Dismuke	Jim Huff	Dale Smith
Jana Easterling	Martha Johnson	Joel & Barbara H. Smith
Dana Elmore	Bill Johnston	Christine Stevens
Bill Everhart	John Kissel	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Bill Garrett	Dena Lancashire	Carolyn Thompson
John Gray	Eric Lindstrom	Ellie Threlkel
Jane Hammette	Spike & Jane Lucia	Mike Vibral
	Pat McCarty	Gwen Waters
	Bob McClew	Sug Zowarka

Relatives & Friends

John & Brenda Accardi	Jeri & Tom Oldt's friends
Bruce Bachman	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Belle Barris	Lauren Schwenk's friend
Joe Boyce	Mary & Greg Mars' friend
Sheri Braun	Margaret Braun's friend
Bob Carolan	Amy Speer's father
Maryann Cassell	Candy Marshall's friend
Katie Derthick	Marile Weeks' great-niece
Steve Dobler	Rich Dobler's brother
Jean Ann & Blake Doyle	Ben & Judy Tucker's friends
Susie Fisher	Rob Donaldy and Becky Everhart's cousin
Tom Francis	Jim Francis' brother
Allison Futch	Lynn Oakley's friend
Debbie Futch	Lynn Oakley's friend
Lynda Giles	Polly Wilson's niece
Paul & Betty Gilliam	Debbie Anderson's parents
Kristen & Dave Hall	Judy Winfree's friends
Christy Hemenway	Bob & Lisa Endres' friend
Sidney Hilliard	Tillie Montney's mother
Kate Hurd & family	Kathy Cheatham's friends
LuAnn Hurley	Sandy Hoffman's friend
John Kluberg	Nancy Dobler's brother
Helen Lake	Sandy Hoffman's friend
Catherine Loving	Nell Speer's sister
Jim Marrs	Greg Marrs' brother
Carol Moore	Roger & Marie Able's friend
Shelia Moskowitz	Nell Speer's friend
Jackie Murphy	Lynn Oakley's friend
Michael Oriani	Joe Oriani's brother
Paula Penna	Steven Lockhart's friend
Sydney Alexis Rich	Bill & Becky Everhart's friend
Joan Richter	Lynn Oakley's friend
Jane & Mario Scarpa	Judy Winfree's friends
Toni Shaw	Candy Marshall's friend
Bennie Spangers	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Jim Steele	Bob Steele's brother
Andy Vogt	Susan Singleton's friend
Jeanie Williamson	Jackie Pinckney's friend

YOUTH GROUP



During this challenging time, our youth groups are meeting weekly by Zoom meetings. We are doing lessons and enjoying each other's company on video chats until we can start meeting in person again.

High School: Sunday at 7 pm
Middle School: Wednesday at 7pm

Emily Snyder has also created an Instagram account where she is posting devotionals every few days to keep your hearts filled with a little bit of Jesus during this crazy time! The account can be found on Instagram if you search **fpcwh_youth**. If you don't have an account, but still want to receive the devotions, here is the link: [instagram.com/fpcwh_youth](https://www.instagram.com/fpcwh_youth).

Stay healthy and we hope to be together again soon!

MORNING OUT MOM CAREGIVER POSITION HIRING

Do you love kids?
Do you have the energy and patience to keep up
with toddlers through 3 year-olds?

Morning Out Mom is accepting applications for a 3-morning-a-week part-time position, beginning Fall of 2020. Morning Out Mom is a small, loving, Christian child-care program with need for additional staff. Please e-mail sbishop@firstpreswh.org by **August 17** to request an application.



WE ARE HAPPY TO BE HOLDING WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY ON FACEBOOK LIVE AND IN-PERSON HERE AT 9:00 AND 11:00 AM

In order to maintain order and safety, we need some help on Sunday mornings.

We need greeters each Sunday (one per service) to staff the table under the porte-cochere from **8:30 am – 9:05 am** and/or from **10:30 am – 11:05 am** (you can still attend most of the worship service that follows your volunteer time.)

We need 2 ushers at the **9:00 am** Heart of Worship Service and 4 ushers at the **11:00 am** Traditional Service to help seat and dismiss the congregation. (Please come 30 minutes prior to the service and plan to stay until the entire congregation has departed.)

We also need 2 volunteers each week to help church custodian, Tonia Milbry, clean the facility between services. (Please plan to be here from **10:00 am – 10:30 am** for the "In-Between Cleaning Crew").

If you could help with any of these tasks on any Sunday, please contact the church office at 294-3121 or office@firstpreswh.org and we'll sign you up to serve.



A Plan for Re-Opening First Presbyterian Church to Public Worship

June 2020

When confronted by COVID-19, a highly contagious airborne virus which posed a significant threat to the health and safety of the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, the Session suspended the gathering for public worship, initiating virtual worship services exclusively beginning March 22, 2020.

With a continued concern for the health and welfare our church family, seeking to maintain robust virtual worship while also providing the safe opportunity for those who wish to again assemble in God's house for praise and prayer, the Session appointed a Task Force on the Re-Opening of First Presbyterian Church for Worship, and re-entry in public gatherings.

Moving toward opening the doors of God's house once again for services of public worship, the Task Force met for prayerful research and reflection on two questions:

- 1) What criteria should be used for allowing the return to public worship?
- 2) What will public worship look like as we first return?

On June 2, 2020, the Session met for discussion on the Task Force recommendations and adopted the following **Plan for Re-opening**:

- 1) Guided by Polk County statistics on the efforts to combat the COVID-19 virus, as evidenced in a steady or downward trend in the number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations and in the percentage of positive cases (as compared to total tested) reported, **the church re-opened our doors to those who wish to attend in-person worship on Sunday, June 14, 2020.** (We are also continuing our vibrant virtual on-line worship experience on FaceBook Live)
- 2) **As we return to public worship in our church facility, we have implemented the following measures** to provide for the health and safety of our sisters and brothers in Christ.
 - a) Our worship schedule includes 2 Sunday worship services in our sanctuary - **Heart of Worship at 9:00 am** and **Traditional Worship at 11:00 am.** (This time change for Heart of Worship service allows for thorough cleaning between services.)
 - b) The second-floor exterior doors leading to the walkway to the CE building will remain open to increase the flow our fresh air into our ventilation system.
 - c) All worshipers will be greeted under the porte-cochere at the west entrance with a brief health questionnaire.
 - d) All worshippers will be asked to complete or bring a daily attendance card.

A Plan for Re-Opening ~ Continued

- e) Out of concern and care for all who gather for worship, all worshipers ages three and older will be required to wear a face covering (covering mouth and nose) while inside the church buildings.
- f) Hand sanitation stations will be located throughout the church facility with all encouraged to use upon entrance and exiting facility and other designated area (water fountains, restrooms, elevator buttons, stair rails, etc.)
- g) All paths leading to the worship space will be marked with six-foot separation stripes.
- h) The sanctuary will be marked with “worship sites for family units” (a single person, couple, or family grouping) with 8-foot separation in all directions for safe social distancing. (The first row of the balcony will be left vacant)
- i) Ushers (observing a six-foot separation) will escort worshipers to the next available worship site, filling the sanctuary from front to back, to minimize contact in passing by other worshipers.
- j) The worship services will be shown by livestream video in McLeod Hall, which will have worship site seating in 8-foot separation for over-flow or late-arriving worshipers.
- k) Worship will be modified by restricting singing and choir, in accordance with best practices, to reduce the threat of airborne virus spread.
- l) Following worship, ushers will dismiss the congregation starting at the back of the sanctuary and proceeding to the front, encouraging those who need to use the elevator to proceed to that location with safe distancing and asking those who can traverse the stairs to proceed to the north or south side stairwells.
- m) Immediately after the sanctuary is vacated following the Heart of Worship service, sanitation teams (our custodian, Tonia, and trained volunteers – all of whom will wear protective eye wear, masks, and gloves) will disinfect all surfaces which have been touched in preparation for the arrival of the next worshipers.
- n) The pastors will have exited immediately following the benediction via the front doors and proceeded to the porte-cochere for socially distanced farewells to worshipers.
- o) Children will be asked to worship with their parents, and childcare will not be provided.

The Session will continue to monitor the progression of the COVID-19 virus in our community, and will meet regularly to discuss any modifications to our public worship plan. The Session will also be making decisions on the resumption of other in-person activities here in our church facilities. We look forward to our continued life together as Christ’s body.



YOU CAN GET CONNECTED

Remember, when you are in worship we have guest **Wi-Fi** available here at First Pres!

On your device, choose one of our two networks:

First Presbyterian Main in the sanctuary building OR
First Presbyterian Edu in the education building and student center
The password **Connect@1st** can be used for both networks.

OUR FEEDING MINISTRIES

We are blessed to be able to continue serving the hungry of our community with bagged lunches during the week.

Our Saturday Soup Kitchen hasn't stopped either. We have **August 29** available, as well as most of the fall still open.

If you would like to serve the church by volunteering in either of these ministries, please call the office at 294-3121.



FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE THROUGH SECUREGIVE

Go to our Church website at www.firstpreswh.org 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 at 863-294-3121 or email rmiller@firstpreswh.org.

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE CARD

One form is necessary for each person attending.

Heart of Worship at 9:00 am; Traditional Worship at 11:00 am

For the safety of all entering the church facilities for in-person worship, please complete this brief survey. (If you answer yes to any of the questions, please return home and join us for virtual worship on Facebook Live.)

Yes No Have you had a fever, dry cough, or shortness of breath in the last 14 days?

Yes No Have you been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Yes No Have you traveled to a COVID-19 hotspot in the past 14 days?

Name (Please print): _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

First Time Visitor Address: _____

Thank you for helping us provide for the safety of the entire church family.

HOW ARE YOU DOING? Are you going through a difficult time?



Lonely?
Concerned about COVID?
Grieving the loss of a loved one?
Recently lost a job or retired?
Financial strain?



Stephen Ministers are members of First Presbyterian Church who have received special training to provide high quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to hurting people.

If you, or someone you know, are sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone.

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, call **Connie Shipley at 221-2224.**
Or you can talk with one of our other Stephen Leaders: Alan Harvey, Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, Barbara Perkins, or Jean Strang.

REMEMBER ~ FIRST PRES IS LIVE ON FACEBOOK!

Heading out of town but still desire to be part of this worshiping community on Sunday?
Heard something lovely said or played in worship and would like to hear it again?
Want to share with a friend a taste of worship with First Pres?



Then visit the our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FPCWinterHaven/>! Every Sunday we will be live-streaming the **9:00 am Heart of Worship** and **11:00 am Traditional** worship services on our Facebook page. These services will be available by video after worship as well.

The church website at <https://www.firstpreswh.org> will also continue to have recordings of Sunday's worship on the main page. Scroll down to "Latest Videos" at the bottom.

Either way, there are opportunities to worship with your church family when you cannot be present in person.

STEPS TO TEXT TO GIVE AT SECUREGIVE: 863-243-6880

1. Donor texts the keyword and amount (ex. Tithe 100 – **There must be a space between the keyword and amount**, to the above number. Other keywords can be: three cents or other.)
2. First time text donors receive a text with a link to sign into their SecureGive account or create a new one. A quick video with Robin walking through these steps is on our website.
3. Donor signs in or creates an account and saves a default payment method to be used for text giving.
4. When this is complete, donor receives a confirmation that their first text donation has been processed. They will also receive an email receipt.



****We recommend that the donor save *First Presbyterian Church* text number as a contact in their phone for future use****

****Donors can text a question mark "?" to be sent helpful tips.**

****Donors can text STOP to de-activate text giving from their phone. If they have texted STOP at any point, they must text START to get re-started.**

Robin Miller is available to assist you during office hours at 294-3121 or email rmiller@firstpreswh.org.

First Presbyterian Church
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www.firstpreswh.org
office@firstpreswh.org

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.

Adopted by Session, 2003

This newsletter is published weekly.

Summer months and holidays published bi-weekly.

Church dated material, please deliver by 8/07/20.

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1162

Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 104 bag lunches
the week of 7/27/20.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 38 people on 8/01/20.

LOCAL MINISTRIES NEED OUR HELP

The ministries supported by our church can use our help now more than ever. The Deacons have been in contact with those ministries to inquire about their current needs. If you wish to help, please consider the needs of these valuable partners in our community and reach out to them directly.

Meals on Wheels (299-1616)

Volunteer for Meal Delivery, Kitchen Prep & Packing, Thrift Store.

Polk Training (956-1620)

Day Training Program for adults with developmental disabilities.

Project Love (280-6947)

Donations of gift cards to Publix, Aldi, or Walmart.

The Mission (299-2348)

Need premade meals in large chef pans to serve about 100 people for lunch.

Habitat for Humanity (292-2256)

Receiving donations 9-10 am and 2-4 pm Tuesday through Friday.