



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of August 16, 2020

Issue 771

134 Years of Ministry

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

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR REFLECTIONS SUNDAY



On **August 16**, please plan to join us at **9 or 11 am** for the COVID-19 version of **YOUTH SUNDAY**. Several of our young people will be leading us in worship, music, and we will hear from some of our church's recent graduates about growing up with First Pres as their church home.

In-person, or connecting via Facebook Live, you will want to be a part of this wonderful and inspiring Sunday of worship and praise.

3 CENTS-A-MEAL THIS SUNDAY

We will collect the **3 Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering** during worship services this **SUNDAY, AUGUST 16**.

This offering is divided between our Soup Kitchen/Bag Lunch Ministry, Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry, and Honduras.



PREPARING TO BID FAREWELL

Plans are underway to say good-bye and celebrate 22 years of ministry with Dr. Alan Harvey.

As we all get ready to bid farewell to our well-loved, long-tenured Associate Pastor, the Session is planning a celebration. Alan's last Sunday before retirement is set for **September 13**. You can help us make that a special day by:

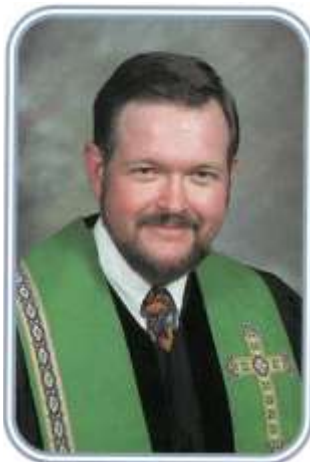
Contributing a letter and photos to a Memory Book that will be presented in worship.

Sharing a card with a "love offering" of cash or gift cards for his enjoyment in a retirement trip to the Carolina's for the fall colors.

Joining in our drive-by salute to Alan under the church porte-cochere **following the 11am worship** service on that Sunday.

Please send your letters/photos for the memory book in advance to the church office. You can bring your cards and gifts to the drive-by salute on **September 13**.

Let's share our love and best wishes with Alan as he moves toward becoming Dr. C. Alan Harvey, HR (Honorably Retired!)



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 16
3 CENTS-A-MEAL

HS SENIOR REFLECTIONS SUNDAY

- 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 17

- 5:30 pm Nominating (MH & Zoom)

Tuesday, August 18

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH & Zoom)
12:00 pm Finance (UR & Zoom)
4:00 pm Music Director Search (Zoom)
6:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Wednesday, August 19

- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group
(GC-Backyard)

Thursday, August 20

Friday, August 21

Saturday, August 22

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

JOIN US FOR OUR LAST VBS

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

Next Knights of North Castle VBS
gathering **August 26** 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 armoring 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. The **LAST** gathering of knights the **August 26**.

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.

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

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

Relatives & Friends

John & Brenda Accardi	Jeri & Tom Oldt's friends
Bruce Bachman	Jim & Ellie Threlkel'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
Paul & Betty Gilliam	Debbie Anderson's parents
Kristen & Dave Hall	Judy Winfree's friends
Marilyn Harris	Mike Harris's mother
Sidney Hilliard	Tillie Montney's mother
LuAnn Hurley	Sandy Hoffman's friend
Helen Lake	Sandy Hoffman's friend
Michael Oriani	Joe Oriani's brother
Paula Penna	Steven Lockhart'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

PLEASE NOTE:

We update the Relatives & Friends prayer list periodically.
If there is someone who needs to remain on the list,
please call the church office at 294-3121.

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	

Re-Opening First Presbyterian Church to Public Worship 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.

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.

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 – 9:05 am** and/or from **10:30 – 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 – 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.

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.

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.

First Presbyterian Church
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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 8/14/20.

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1162

Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 124 bag lunches
the week of 8/03/20.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 80 people on 8/08/20.

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Youth groups will be meeting (socially distanced & safe) in person again at the start of the school year! We are so excited to be gathering again outside the youth house and can't wait to see all of you soon. We will also be welcoming our new middle schoolers and new high schoolers!

MSYG: Wednesday, August 19 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

HSYG: Sunday, August 23 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Come join us at for food, fellowship, and faith building. We can't wait for another awesome year with our youth!

If you have any questions or would like to sign up to provide a meal for our students, please contact Emily Snyder at 224-4403 or esnyder@firstpreswh.org.

