



# TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN  
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 3 2023 | ISSUE 939

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated **this Sunday, December 3, the First Sunday of Advent.**

Prepare your heart to come to the Lord's Table.

## CHAPEL CHATS



Come join Dr. Steve and Jeremy for a deep dive on some Advent and Christmas hymns. We will be in the Chapel on **Wednesdays at 11 am on December 6, 13, & 20** during the season of Advent.

Each week, we will look at the backstory of Advent and Christmas hymns, their connections to scripture, and share a little about the composers themselves. We'll even sing together! We hope to see you in these chapel chats as we prepare our hearts and our minds in great anticipation of God's greatest gift to us!

## COME TO THE STABLE: A LIVING NATIVITY STROLL



Don't miss out on this incredible event as we celebrate the birth of Christ and enjoy amazing holiday music on **Saturday, December 9**. Come anytime between **6 - 8 pm** to see the story re-enacted and to walk through five stages of special music. While you stroll, enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and some homemade cookies.

There is still time to join as a volunteer, check out the board in the narthex or call the church office. Got a special Christmas cookie recipe? Consider making a batch or two for us to share! This event is sure to get you in the spirit as we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. We hope to see you there!

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, December 3 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT COMMUNION

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (GR)
- 10:00 am Fall Single Service Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:15 am Children Sunday School (CE 206)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

### Monday, December 4

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 5:30 pm Saturday Night Live Planning (ER)
- 6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (MH)

### Tuesday, December 5

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH)
- 6:00 pm Session Examine New Officers w/Dinner (MH)

### Wednesday, December 6

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 11:00 am Advent Chapel Chat (Chapel)
- 1:00 am American Mah Jongg (CE 102)
- 3:15 pm Christ's Kids (Playground)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
- 6:00 pm Chancel Bells (BR)
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir (CR)

### Thursday, December 7

- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (BR)

### Friday, December 8

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

### Saturday, December 9

- 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
- 4:00 pm Soup Kitchen (737)
- 6:00 pm Come to the Stable (PL)



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Jane Hayman	Mary Ellen Porter
Pat Berrell	Jim Huff	Sharon Ramseyer
Orin Champlain	Scott & Becky Irvin	Dick Shaw
Ellie Crowder	Joanie Kooser	Joyce Shirah
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Ray & Gladys Larson	Katie Sparr
Zan Dismuke	Pat McCarty	Barbara Tackett
Rob Donaldy	Pat Miller	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Dana Elmore	Edna Mitchell	Jennifer & Mike Vibral
Bill Everhart	Heidi Munoz-	Susan Wales
Lynne Grady	Gutierrez	Joyce Wander
Pam Gray	Jeri & Tom Oldt	Gale & Gwen Waters
Ken Hart	Jackie Pinckney	Stephen Winhoven

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Mike Bell	Juan Joy	Derb Pearson
Donna Brannen	John Linn	Dennis Ryan
Bobby Calvery	Ada Lopez-Mendel	Laurie Selling
Rick Cheney	Brian Marino	Emily Sheffield
Ernie French	Khyla Martinez	Lucinda Shelby
Pam Gordon	Joe Morton	Joyce Snively
Mitzi Gross	Ed & Anne Neumyer	Ruth Thiebout

### MILITARY

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

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**This newsletter is published weekly.**  
Church dated material, please deliver by 12/01/23

**Return Service Requested**

**Bag Lunch Ministry**  
We gave out 110 lunches  
the week of 11/20/23.



**Soup Kitchen Ministry**  
We fed 102 people on  
Saturday, 11/25/23.



## NEW: AMERICAN MAH JONGG LESSONS



Please join us for the fascinating game of **American Mah Jongg**. Spend a fun and relaxing couple of hours in fellowship with your First Pres family. Don't know how to play? No worries. We will teach you. The first gathering will be **Wednesday, December 6, 1-3 pm** and will meet weekly in the **Christian Education Building** in room **102**.

If you would like to play or learn to play, please contact Sharon Mitchell at 863-585-0170 as we will need to set up the room based on how many will be attending the initial "talk about" Mahjongg meeting.

## FUNTIMERS

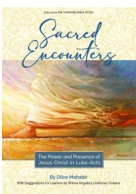
Our next FunTimers event will be **Thursday, December 14, 11 am - 2 pm.**



You won't want to miss this special Christmas program & catered lunch. The menu will be ham, scallop potatoes, glazed carrots, salad, & cake. Lunch cost is just \$15.

Please RSVP by signing up in McLeod Hall or calling or emailing the church office. And bring a friend!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDIES



The *Lydia and Joy Circles* Bible Study is **Sacred Encounters** by Olive Mahabir.

**The Joy Circle** meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month. The next meeting is **Tuesday, December 12, (special date) at 10 am** at Carol Carter's.

**The Lydia Circle** meets on the **3rd Thursday** of each month. The next meeting is on a special date of Thursday, December 14 at 10 am in McLeod Hall.

Our circles are open to any and all women of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIMES SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday of Advent falls this year on **Christmas Eve!** Please plan to worship with us at our single **10 am** worship service as we complete our season of anticipating the birth of our Savior.

## CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

For **Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24**, both worship services will help us to focus on the celebration of our Savior's birth with the reading of the biblical story and the singing of traditional carols.



The **5 pm** worship service will feature acoustic sounds of the season with our Praise Band and other musicians from our congregation.

The **7 pm** worship service will include music from our Chancel Choir & Chancel Bells.

### POINSETTIA ORDER FOR 2023

Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for all 3 worship services on Christmas Eve: **Sunday Morning Worship at 10 am, and Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols at 5 & 7 pm.** Please fill out this order form. The cost per plant is **\$15** and checks, marked "Poinsettia Fund", should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Place the order form and check in the offering plate, mail it, or take it to the church office by **Monday, December 18.**

**IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY**

Donor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_