



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

## Tower Chimes

Week of December 13, 2020

Issue 798

134 Years of Ministry

Dr. Steven R. Negley  
Senior Pastor

Rev. John F. Reiter  
Interim 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

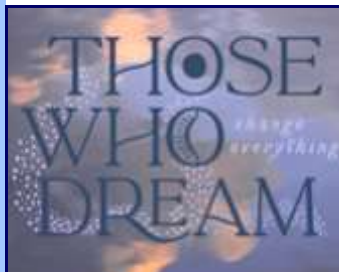
### COME TO THE STABLE A LIVING NATIVITY STROLL Saturday, December 12, 6-8 pm

Join us for an enchanted evening as we welcome you to  
*Come to the Stable: A Living Nativity Stroll* in the First Pres parking lot.  
See the beauty of the nativity come to life before your eyes.

Actors and live animals (that you can pet), as well as music will bring the spirit of  
Jesus into your hearts this joyous season. Live performances every 15 minutes.

This event is open to the public. Tell your neighbors and friends. Invite them  
to see what First Pres is all about. Come, share in the joy of the Christmas

### THOSE WHO DREAM ADVENT SERMON SERIES



This Advent we are meeting the prophets, psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simon, Anna, the Shepherds, and Magi - those dreamers of the Christmas story. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dream; a dream made real in the Christ child.

So too, will we step into the mystery and wonder of God's dreams to also shape our reality today. We dream of a better world and connect with the dreamer in all of us this Advent.

### CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE RESERVATIONS ARE OPEN

Choose your worship time and reserve your family's spot for in-person worship through  
our reservation service, or join us on Facebook Live.

We have two services, **5 and 7 pm** that will all have the Christmas story lessons and carols,  
time for children, and candlelight.

There are limited spots for the in-person services, so if your service fills up,  
please choose another when.

Reminder: spots are by family unit  
(1 spot equals an individual or family size of 6 and under).

Please note, the 5 pm service will follow the new mask policy of the Sunday 9 am worship service.

Visit our website: [www.firstpreswh.org](http://www.firstpreswh.org) or  
our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/FPCWinterHaven/](https://www.facebook.com/FPCWinterHaven/)

# Opportunities this Week

**Sunday, December 13**

## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship  
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)  
9:25 am Children's Sunday School (CE 207)  
11:00 am Traditional Worship  
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)  
5:30 pm High School Youth Group  
(GC)

**Monday, December 14**

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)  
10:00 am Lydia Circle (MH/Zoom)  
6:30 pm CE (GR/Zoom)

**Tuesday, December 15**

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)  
9:30 am Joy Circle (MH/Zoom)  
12:00 pm Finance (Zoom)  
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)  
6:30 pm Deacons (MH/Zoom)

**Wednesday, December 16**

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)  
4:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)  
5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group  
(GC)

**Thursday, December 17**

**Friday, December 18**

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

**Saturday, December 19**

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

*Our deepest sympathy goes to Marty Bentley upon the death of her mother, Helen Pollard, who died on Tuesday, November 24, 2020.*

*Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Jonye Briggs upon the death of her brother, Mike Green who died on Tuesday, November 24, 2020.*

*Our sincerest sympathy goes to Jean Strang upon the death of her sister, Lettie Lane North, who died on Tuesday, November 24, 2020.*

*Our Christian sympathy goes to Candy Marshall upon the death of her daughter, Courtney Marshall, who died on Saturday, November 28, 2020.*

# Remember in Prayer

## MEMBERS

- |                          |                     |                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Marie & Roger Able       | Mike Harris         | Bob McClew              |
| Melvin & Debbie Anderson | Jane Hayman         | Edna Mitchell           |
| Kathy Andrews            | Joyce Hayman        | Richard Moots           |
| Pat Berrell              | Frances Heath       | Bethany Owen            |
| Orrin & Helen Champlain  | Kay Hedden          | Barbara Roberts         |
| Carl Cheatham            | Doris Hill          | John Schleifer          |
| Charlie Darte            | Bryan Howard        | George Seagreaves       |
| Dave Davidson            | Isobel Hubbard      | Bob Sheffield           |
| Marjorie DiLorenzo       | Jim Huff            | Joyce Shirah            |
| Zan Dismuke              | Scott & Becky Irvin | Dale Smith              |
| Jana Easterling          | Martha Johnson      | Joel & Barbara H. Smith |
| Dana Elmore              | Dena Lancashire     | Christine Stevens       |
| Bill Everhart            | Eric Lindstrom      | Pam Tallent-Blackburn   |
| John Gray                | Spike & Jane Lucia  | Mike Vibral             |
| Jane Hammette            | Anne McBride        | Gwen Waters             |
|                          | Pat McCarty         | Sug Zowarka             |
|                          | Dick McCauley       |                         |

## Relatives & Friends

- |                            |                                       |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bruce Bachman              | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend         |
| John Brack                 | Bill & Doris Brack's son              |
| Curtis Capers              | Pat McCarty's friend                  |
| Connie Craig               | Lynn Oakley's friend                  |
| Sherry Dart                | John & Doris Brack's friend           |
| John & Muriel Davis        | Dick & Anne McCauley's friends        |
| Margaret Dorman            | Brenda Darte's mother                 |
| Susie Fisher               | Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin |
| Donald Gatlin              | Pat McCarty's friend                  |
| Bonnie Gaudet              | Bob Howard's sister                   |
| Lynda Giles                | Polly Wilson's niece                  |
| Jaimee Haley               | Bill & Becky Everhart's friend        |
| Louie Herman               | Judy Lindsay's brother                |
| Lynda Holyk                | Paul Montgomery's sister              |
| Lottie Johnson             | Lynn Oakley's friend                  |
| Verona Jones               | Lynn Oakley's friend                  |
| Mary Lenari                | Bill & Becky Everhart's friend        |
| Susan Lobdell              | Jonathan Owen's friend                |
| Sue Miller                 | Lynn Oakley's friend                  |
| Don Nash                   | Jeff Bowen's friend                   |
| Michael Oriani             | Joe Oriani's brother                  |
| Sandy Payne                | Lynn Oakley's family member           |
| Paula Penna                | Steven Lockhart's friend              |
| Robert & Marilyn Rackleman | Ann Meadows' friend                   |
| Joan Richter               | Lynn Oakley's friend                  |
| Eddy Ruperti               | Lynn Oakley's friend                  |
| Jane & Mario Scarpa        | Judy Winfree's friends                |
| Toni Shaw                  | Candy Marshall's friend               |
| Barbara Sjolander          | Judy & Richard Moot's friend          |
| Bennie Spangers            | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend         |
| Jim Steele                 | Bob Steele's brother                  |
| Nicole Upson               | Amy McKee's friend                    |
| Sam Vac                    | Marcie Dershimer's friend             |

## MILITARY

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

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY



The Lydia and Joy Circles Bible Study is  
*Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*  
by P. Lynn Miller.

*The Lydia Circle* meets on the **2nd Monday** of each month and will meet on **December 14 at 10:00 am** in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

*The Joy Circle* meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month and will meet on **December 15 at 9:30 am** in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

The study books are available at a cost of \$10. Contact either Sue McClew at (863)604-1610, Carol Carter at (863)206-7095, or the church office (863)294-3121 to purchase your copy. Our groups are open to any and all women of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.

If you prefer to join by Zoom, please call Sue for the Lydia Circle, Carol for the Joy Circle, or Connie in the church office to provide your email. You can also email your request to [cshipley@firstpreswh.org](mailto:cshipley@firstpreswh.org). Be sure to indicate which circle you wish to join.

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:20-10:20 AM AND

## THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM FOR DECEMBER IS UP!

Welcome to December's Virtual Sunday school classroom. This month we continue our Christmas story lessons. The Team Up poster takes you to the lessons and the Deep Blue poster is the videos. Click the items in the classroom!

Activities this month include Christmas games, coloring sheets and making Christmas cookies. Also, click the Christmas lights to see a cool video of Christmas lights timed to music and click Rev. Sarah to register your family for our Christmas Eve worship services! Check the church website and follow the link.

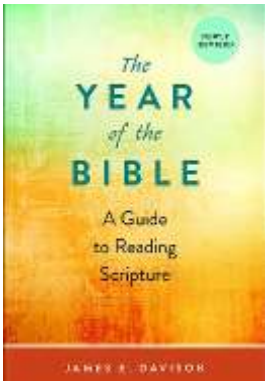


## DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Starting January 13, 2021—Wednesdays—6 PM



Worried about this year's financial impact and wanting to build a healthier conversation around money in your household? Need help and support in creating a family budget and getting real about planning for the future? Just want to be honest about questions with those who have been there for financial blunders? Then it's time for Financial Peace!

Join Pam and Lee Wilkerson for this 9 week class to talk about these issues and so much more. No judgement and no shame as we start Wednesday, January 13, meeting in McLeod Hall at 6pm. You need to register early to get the work binder and the benefits of membership to FPU. Sign up NOW before the class starts at [fpu.com/1124153](http://fpu.com/1124153)



## 2021 ADULT BIBLE STUDY & PREACHING THEME TWO opportunities to discuss A Year of the Bible

Join your pastors and church family as we take the year to read the Bible beginning in Genesis and the Old Testament through Revelations and the New Testament. In each month, we will alternate between chapters in the Old and New as well as the Psalms. A reading plan can be followed by picking up your copy of *A Year of the Bible* for \$10 from the church office or download the reading plan from our church website. We also invite you to join a class for deeper discussion!

Classes will be **Sundays at 10:20 am starting January 10** AND another time during the week to be announced.



**Did you know?**

Amazon Smile enables you to support First Pres and its ministries while you shop for Christmas. Simply shop for gifts at [smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0668481](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0668481) to generate donations.

## THE SESSION IS CALLING FOR A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 10:30 AM To hear report of Nominating Committee to elect an Elder to the Class of 2021 and Elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.



### SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE CARD

**Couples may use one form, please include both names.**

**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.)

Individual #1   Individual #2

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

Yes  No    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    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.**

# CHRIST KIDS - CONTINUING WEDNESDAYS, 4 PM



Christ Kids – our faith-filled and safe, after-school program for children 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade is going on. The fun happens **Wednesdays at 4:00 pm** with a majority of out-door activities and Bible study.

Permission slips for children are on the church website, so spread the word and don't forget to join us as an Adult Volunteer!

Questions? Contact Rev. Sarah via email [sbishop@firstpreswh.org](mailto:sbishop@firstpreswh.org) or call the church office 294-3121.

## CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Youth groups have started meeting (socially distanced & safe) in-person again! We are so excited to be gathering outside the youth house and can't wait to see all of you soon.

**MSYG meets Wednesdays from 5:30 until 7:30 pm**

**HSYG meets Sundays from 5:30 until 7:30 pm**

Come join us 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](mailto:esnyder@firstpreswh.org).



## MEN'S LUNCH IS HYBRID

**You have two ways to attend the  
First Pres Men's Lunch on Tuesdays at noon.**

**You can still Zoom** and the invite will continue to be sent ahead of time. The Zoom connection will be on the flat panel TV at the end of the table in McLeod Hall. You will be seen and heard as a full participant in the Men's Lunch. If you would like to join us by Zoom and have not been receiving the invites by email, please contact the office at 294-3121 or [office@firstpreswh.org](mailto:office@firstpreswh.org) and ask to be added to the list.

**OR**

**You can join us in person** at our socially distanced table in McLeod Hall.

- You will need to wear a mask.
- We will be seated around the tables – six feet apart.
- We'll get to see each other face-to-face (or at least eye to eye) like we can on Sunday mornings.

We hope you'll join us with one of these options as we continue meeting together as brothers in Christ. And don't forget your lunch!

## ANGELS CARE CENTER OF ELOISE

Angels Care Center continues to give out special kits to their patients and families, e.g. toiletry kits, first aid kits, children's kits, and senior bags. This is not possible without the donation of items to fill these kits! We have made and given out over 31,000 in the last 9 years!

But... in the last few months they have come up short of what is needed to fill the kits. This is a year round project and the need is great. They are in particular need of deodorant, disposable razors, small combs, quart and snack size zip lock bags, Band-Aids, washcloths, sunscreen, small hand sanitizer, and small samples from hotel/motels. Also, any and all items for the senior bags, whatever will make their senior citizens' lives easier and brighter: laundry soap, Lysol cleaning wipes, paper towels, mugs or plastic plates, bowls, teabags, oatmeal packs, crossword puzzles/activity pads, seasonal item/décor, gift cards (Walmart, restaurants, etc.) You can put these items in the Angels Care collection box located in McLeod Hall.



**Your help now and throughout the year is greatly appreciated.**

Dear Friends and Members of First Pres:

Knowing that “maintaining public worship” is one of the Great Ends of the Church, your pastors and Session members have prayerfully attempted to offer safe and spiritual opportunities for worship during this trying year.

We suspended in-person worship in March and celebrated on-line worship together each Sunday in the early days of the pandemic.

We kept our vibrant virtual worship as an option for our congregation as we re-opened the sanctuary to in-person worship in June. At that time, among our guidelines for in-person worship we:

Asked all worshippers at our 9 and 11 am services to maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship.

Required face coverings to be worn while in the building for Sunday worship.

Asked people not to sing.

Last month, we amended our guidelines to allow singing while we continued to wear face coverings.

After hearing concerns about the experience of in-person worship from a number of participants, we are further amending our worship participation guidelines as follows:

**People who wish to attend in-person worship at 9 AM will be asked to:**

Maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship

Wear a face covering while entering, exiting, and moving around in the building for worship. Once people are seated, socially distanced from all people except those in their chosen seating group, they may remove their face mask, if they choose, for that portion of the worship service.

If any person wishes to sing hymns or responses, we ask that you replace your face covering while singing.

**And people who wish to attend in-person worship at 11 AM will be asked to follow our current worship guideline which include:**

Requiring all worshippers to maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship.

Requiring face coverings to be worn while in the building for Sunday worship.

Worshippers are invited to sing while wearing face coverings.

We hope that these modifications will allow all of us to safely worship God in a style that is meaningful and helpful in your faith life. And of course, our vibrant virtual worship experience will keep us all connected.

In Christ,  
Steve Negley

## REMEMBER ~ FIRST PRES IS LIVE ON FACEBOOK!



Heading out of town, but still desire to be part of this worshipping 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 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 as videos after worship as well.

The church website at [www.firstpreswh.org](http://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.

## WHAT'S NEW WITH SECUREGIVE?

With each transaction, there are fees charged by the credit card processing companies. Securegive now has a "Separate Fee Offset" option when giving online. This option, if chosen, will increase the transaction to help offset transaction fees, the fee amount will be calculated based on the selected payment method. These fees are up to 2.5% of the transaction depending on the card used (the amount will be shown once the option is chosen).

New donors will see this as one of their options and they must select yes or no. If you are currently using the online service you will need to go into your account and update your information, as it is not automatic.

The total amount will be considered a donation and will appear on your quarterly statement. If you have any questions, call Robin, (863)294-3121.



## 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)

Call to see how you can help this program for adults with developmental disabilities.

### Project Love (280-6947)

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

### The Mission (299-2348)

Donations of 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.

## STRESSED? FEELING DOWN? NEED ENCOURAGEMENT?

Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a major crisis. They also provide care and support for people weighed down by the little things in life. If you're feeling down, lonely, stressed or discouraged, you could benefit from the care, support, and encouragement of a Stephen Minister. It's free. It's confidential. And it will really make a difference in your life!

To find out more, contact Connie Shipley at 863-221-2224 or one of our other Stephen Minister Leaders, **Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Barbara Perkins.**



**Our Purpose Statement**

First Presbyterian Church  
637 6th Street, NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
863-294-3121  
FAX 863-294-1105  
www.firstpreswh.org  
office@firstpreswh.org

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 12/11/20.

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 1162  
Lakeland, FL

**Bag Lunch Ministry**

We gave out 103 bag lunches  
the week of 11/30/20.

We gave out 511  
bag lunches in November, 2020.

**Return Service Requested**

**Soup Kitchen Ministry**

We fed 80 people on 12/5/20.

We fed 325 in November, 2020.

**LAST CHANCE TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA  
TURN IN BY MONDAY, DECEMBER 14**

Poinsettias are a yearly tradition to decorate the church on Christmas, “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one or friend. This year the poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 20. Please fill out the order form below. The cost per plant is \$10 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 14.**

**A complete listing will be available Sunday, December 20.**

**IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY**

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

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

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

I will pick up my poinsettia after the last Christmas Eve service.

I would like my poinsettia delivered to a shut-in.

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

