



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of December 15, 2019

Issue 738

133 Years of Ministry

COME TO THE STABLE

Join us for our annual Christmas tradition **December 14!**



A living nativity scene presented under the stars with angels, shepherds and their sheep, kings, and the Holy Family with their donkey.

Performances are at **6:30 p.m.** (Children) & **7:30 p.m.** (Mixed)

Following the nativity presentation, guests will enjoy light refreshments and drink. Children will be invited to pet the sheep and donkey at the stable.

All are welcome, this event is our gift to the community in celebration of Christ's birth!



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

We hope you will join us for worship during the Advent season as we are *Seekers of the Light*. On the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, the sermon and scripture will be joined with special music by our choirs and praise band.

The anthem theme for the **Third Sunday of Advent, December 15**, will focus on the *Seekers of the Light Hurry to Bethlehem*.

On **December 22**, the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, we will *Behold! Go Tell! Shine!*

Let us prepare our hearts this Advent to celebrate the birth of the Holy Child of Bethlehem.



CHRISTMAS SEASON SOUP KITCHEN



We need help cooking hams, turkeys, and green bean casserole to help celebrate the Christmas season with our friends and neighbors at our **SATURDAY SOUP KITCHEN**. For each of the past two years, our Christmas Day Soup Kitchen has hosted under twenty guests (as other groups in the community groups have held Christmas day feedings), while our soup kitchens on the Saturdays following Christmas have fed well over 100 people. This year, we will **not** be feeding on Christmas Day, but invite your help to have a spectacular Saturday Soup Kitchen meal (Ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, gravy, corn, and

desserts) on **Saturday, December 28**. Please sign up in McLeod Hall if you can cook a ham, turkey, or green bean casserole and bring it to the church on the Saturday after Christmas.

Dr. Steven R. Negley
Senior Pastor

Dr. C. Alan Harvey
Associate Pastor

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

Lynn M. McCoy
Director of
Music Ministries

Emily G. Snyder
Director of
Student Ministries

Robin D. Miller
Director of Finance &
Administration

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative Assistant

Rose S. Flynn
Office Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant
Director of Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry
Custodian

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 15 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 3 CENTS-A-MEAL

- 8:00 am Chapel Worship
- 9:15 am Connection (MH)
- 9:15 am Heart of Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 am Sunday School-Children/Adults (CE)
- 10:30 am Sunday School-Youth (MH)
- 11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 5:00 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, December 16

- 8:45 am MOM (CE)
- 6:30 pm Christian Education (GR)

Tuesday, December 17

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH)

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

- 12:00 pm Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, December 20

- 8:45 am MOM (CE)
- 5:00 pm Praise Band (Sanctuary)

Saturday, December 21

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

REMEMBER THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

If you, or someone you know, are sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. Men are matched with men, and women with women.



(It's completely confidential too!) To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, call Susan Singleton at 318-9208. Or you can talk with one of our other Stephen Leaders: Alan Harvey, Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, Barbara

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

Marie Able	Joyce Hayman	Nancy Neale
Melvin & Debbie Anderson	Frances Heath	Bill Patchen
Kathy Andrews	Kay Hedden	Jackie Pinckney
Orin & Helen Champlain	Doris Hill	Barbara Roberts
Carl Cheatham	Bryan Howard	George Seagreaves
Charlie Darte	Isobel Hubbard	Cash Sheaffer
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Jim Huff	Bob Sheffield
Yolanda Dyer	Martha Johnson	Joyce Shirah
Jana Easterling	Bill Johnston	Barbara H. Smith
Dana Elmore	John Kissel	Joel Smith
Bill Everhart	Dena Lancashire	Christine Stevens
John Gray	Eric Lindstrom	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Pam Gray	Spike Lucia	Carolyn Thompson
Jane Hayman	Pat McCarty	Mike Vibrat
	Bob McClew	Gwen Waters
	Edna Mitchell	Sug Zowarka

IN THE HOSPITAL: Helen Butz & Deane Briggs

Relatives & Friends

Michael Branch	Jeff Bowen's friend
Tiffany Chen	George Butz's friend
Larry Durrence	George & Joyce Carefoot's brother-in-law
Al Ellis	Jim Threlkel's friend
Kate Hurd & family	Cathy Cheatham's friends
Tom Francis	Jim Francis' brother
Verona Johnson	Lynn Oakley's friend
John Kluberg	Nancy Dobler's brother
Bill Lanoue	George Butz's friend
Bob Lapsley	Susan Singleton's friend
Sal Moraco	Tom & Jeri Oldt's friend
Michael Oriani	Joe Oriani's brother
Sandy Schwenk	Zane Schwenk's mother
Penni Tinsley	Tom & Jeri Oldt's friend
Margarita Villarreal	Lynn Oakley's friend
Ennis & Liz Young	Anne Meadows' friend



MILITARY

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



Our Christian sympathy goes to Isobel Hubbard upon the death of her husband, Bob Hubbard who died Tuesday, November 26, 2019

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Lydia and Joy circles current Bible Study is:
"Love Carved in Stone" – A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.

The Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month and will meet on **December 17 at 9:30 am** at the home of Carol Carter.

The Lydia Circle meets on the **2nd Monday** of each month and will meet on **January 13 at 10 am** in the back of McLeod Hall.

The study books are available at a cost of \$10. See either Sue McClew or Carol Carter, or come by the church office to purchase your copy. Our group is open to any and all women



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIMES

We hope you will join us for worship on one of the holiest nights of the year. For **Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24**, we will have two opportunities for worship. Both of these worship services will help us to focus on the celebration of our Savior's birth with the reading of the biblical story, the singing of traditional carols, music from our Chancel Choir, and other ensembles, and closing with candlelight.

The **5:00 pm** Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will also include musical selections from our Children's Choirs, and a children's story which includes a re-enactment of the nativity story.

The **9:00 pm** Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will feature additional musical selections from our Chancel Choir.



IT IS THAT TIME ~ POINSETTIA ORDER FOR 2019

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 22. 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 16.

A complete listing will be available Sunday, December 22.

IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Donor(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia after the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

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

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



FIRST PRES MUSIC GOES TO DISNEY!

This year the Chancel Choir continues the tradition of participating in the Disney Candlelight Processional. We will be singing for the **6:45 and 8:15 pm** shows on **December 26**. The Candlelight Processional is at the Disney Epcot Park in the American Gardens Theatre. We consider this an honor as they only opened three evenings to community choirs!

The Chapel Bells have also been chosen to share Christmas music at the Disney Saratoga Springs Resort Lobby on December 21 at 10 and 11 am. If you happen to be in the area, stop by for a listen!

Again, we are honored that Disney included us in their holiday celebrations!



THANK YOU TO DECK THE HALLS ELVES

We thought Santa's Elves had cleared their way to help us with Deck the Halls on Sunday afternoon December 1. They overextended themselves and their deadline for all toy construction being completed is December 24.

So we offer a great big Thank You to the First Presbyterian Church Elves, who erected the trees, hung the wreaths, draped the garlands, displayed the Nativity sets, placed the candles in the windows, repaired and positioned the angels, erected the Chrismon tree, etc. You know who you are and we do too, but we don't want to list names and then overlook any Elves First Class. Many hands made light work!



2020 BREAD PICK UP LIST IS COMING SOON!

We are in the process of creating our 2020 Saturday bread pick-up list from Publix. If you are currently on the list and can no longer participate, or if you did not pick up bread in 2019 and would like to, please call Alan at 294-3121 to let him know.



ANGELS CARE CENTER OF ELOISE Angel Collection Box Needs

There is an ongoing need for the following items to give out at the Angels Care Center. Please leave items in the Angel Collection Box in McLeod Hall. Thank YOU, and God Bless!!!

First Aid Kits: washcloths, band-aids, wet wipes, small soaps, small antibacterial soap, Q-tips, small packets of antibiotic ointment, etc.



Children's "Jesus Kits": coloring sheets with Biblical themes, crayons, scripture/song cards (simple and short for children), small books, stickers, etc.

Toiletry Kits: shampoo, soap, deodorant, razors, feminine products, combs, washcloths, hand gel, lotion, toothbrush and toothpaste, small samples from hotel/motels, etc.

Miscellaneous: zip lock bags (gallon, quart and snack size).

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS!!!

8:00 am Chapel Worship

A traditional worship service held in our chapel. The service follows the same order as the 11:00 am worship, but does not have a Chancel Choir. Musical ensembles will offer special music on many Sundays. *A Time with Younger Disciples* will be included when we have children in attendance.



9:15 am Heart of Worship

A Praise and Worship service held in our sanctuary. Along with scripture, sermon, and prayers, a praise band will help the congregation in adoring and showing reverence to God. Following the *Time with Younger Disciples*, children will be invited to join Ms. Lynn in music and then to join in their own Children's Sunday School Classes.



11:00 am Sanctuary Worship

A traditional worship service held in our sanctuary. The service follows the same order as the 8:00 am Chapel Service, and includes music from the Chancel Choir and the organ, as well as other instruments and groups.



DON'T MISS THE CONNECTION 9:15-10:45 AM

This fellowship time in McLeod Hall offers a coffee bar type selection with different flavored creamers, pastries, etc. It is a gathering place before or between worship and Sunday School for some folks.



SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES CHILDREN & ADULTS: 9:30 - 10:30 AM

FOR THE CHILDREN

SPARK Sunday School will begin for our children (PreK-5th grade) and will be sparking faith after the *Time With Younger Disciples* in the Heart of Worship service. PreK-K will be meeting in Room 101 and 1st through 5th grades in Room 206. Don't forget they will also be doing music with Ms. Lynn before their respective classes and ART on the third Sunday. Sunday School ends at 10:30 am.



Can't make it to church? Your family can activate faith with God's Word by connecting with the stories at home with our Spark home sheets and buying a copy of the Story Bible at www.weareSparkhouse.org.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

PERSPECTIVES SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETS IN THE GENEVA ROOM

The *Adult Perspectives Class* is a seven Sunday DVD/discussion series titled *Invitation to a Journey* where we will interact with seven acclaimed scholars, theologians, and authors, in exploring what is next for Christianity and what faith may look like for ourselves and others in this 21st century. Join us in the Geneva Room at **9:30 am**.



ADVENT: ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

In our second Adult Sunday School, we are reading the book, *Walking Backwards to Christmas*, which starts at the end, with Jesus' presentation to Anna and Simeon at the temple and moves backwards through the Christmas stories both light and dark. Telling the story through the eyes of both the famous and imagined characters, the author and our discussion leaders will invite the class to experience Jesus' birth anew. We meet in CE 207 at **9:30 am**. Join the conversation by purchasing the book, \$10, from the church office or in class.



CALLING ALL YOUTH TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!!! 10:30 - 10:55 AM

Youth grades 6th-12th, please join us for Sunday School following the 9:15 am Heart of Worship Service, **10:30-10:55 am**. We will enjoy fellowship, breakfast, and dive deeper into the scriptures discussed in the today's worship services. Meet us in the back of McLeod Hall! Come hungry and ready to learn more about God!



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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 12/13/19.

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1162

Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

Correction: We gave out 140 bag lunches the week of 11/25/19.

We gave out 172 bag lunches the week of 12/2/19.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 95 people on 12/7/19.



CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We are excited to announce that we have requested the services of **Lifetouch Church Directories** to prepare our Pictorial Family Album. It will contain color portraits of all the families and updated addresses and contact information.

Photography session dates will be **December 27 & 28** (Friday & Saturday) then **February 4-8** (Tuesday - Saturday.)

DECEMBER PHOTOGRAPHY SESSION SIGN-UPS ARE HAPPENING AFTER WORSHIP IN THE NARTHEX AND ONLINE.

Families with family members home for the holidays are encouraged to sign up for the December dates.

Session times are: **Friday, December 27, 1 - 8 pm**, and **Saturday, December 28, 10 am - 5 pm**.

You may sign up on our web-site at **firstpreswh.org** and our Facebook page at **First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, FL**.

We will open our February 4-8 sessions sign-ups at a later date.



DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY NEW CLASS STARTING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020

Take control of your money with *Financial Peace University* (FPU)! This nine-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! FPU includes your member workbook and a year of free online resources through Financial Peace Membership. Please contact Lee and Pam Wilkerson at 863-221-2006 or wilkeglk@verizon.net for more information. Registration will be opening soon.

