



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of December 16, 2018

Issue 696

132 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

Dr. James G. Manor
Parish Associate

Lynn M. McCoy
Director of
Music Ministries

Robin D. Miller
Director of Finance &
Administration

Leonard A. Mosiah
Director of Student
Ministries

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative Assistant

Rose S. Flynn
Office Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant
Director of Maintenance

Kathy L. Jackson
Custodian

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT THIS SUNDAY



We hope you will join us for worship during the Advent season as we are "Called by the Carols of Christmas". On the four Sundays leading up to Christmas, the sermon and scripture will be joined with the sentiment expressed in some of our favorite carols of the seasons.

The Carol Theme for the Third Sunday in Advent, **December 16** is *O Come O Come Emmanuel*.

On **December 23**, the Fourth Sunday of Advent, we will focus on the Holy Family *In the Bleak Mid-winter*.

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

BUSY WITH CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS? NEED SOME "ME" TIME?

Our youth have set aside a day to help you! Announcing our very own
PARENTS DAY OUT!

This **Saturday, December 15**, starting at **noon** you can drop off your children at the church in McLeod Hall and **pick them up at 5 p.m. promptly.**



For a kind donation we will take care of your children (potty trained to 5th grade) while you get stuff done. All proceeds go towards our middle and high school youth trips.

For more information contact Leonard Mosiah at 863-294-3121.

MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST IS THIS SUNDAY

Have you ever so enjoyed something that you wanted your loved ones and friends to share that same experience? I, Alan, have and since I knew it would be impossible to take all of you to experience the Christmas Lovefeast at Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the Worship and Music approved a plan set forth by Lynn and me to attempt to recreate that event here.

The Lovefeast has its origin in the lives of early Christians who gathered to break bread together symbolizing union, fellowship and love. You may have heard the other name for this gathering as an agape meal. The custom of the Lovefeast originated in Marienborn, Germany, in 1747, and was celebrated in this country by Moravians in 1753. The service includes a variety of music, scripture and prayers. The meal includes a hot sweetened coffee with cream or cocoa with a slightly sweetened and spiced bun. The service concludes with candlelight reminding all that Christ said, "I am the light of the world" and "you are the light of the world - let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Please plan to join us for this special service this **Sunday, December 16 at 4 p.m.**



Remember in Prayer

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 16 3 Cents-a-Meal

Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 a.m. Chapel Worship
- 9:15 a.m. Connection (MH)
- 9:15 a.m. Heart of Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School-Children/Adults (CE)
- 11:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 p.m. Moravian Lovefeast (Sanctuary)
- 5:30 p.m. High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, December 17

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)

Tuesday, December 18

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 9:30 a.m. Joy Circle (Off-site)
- 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
- 12:00 p.m. Finance (UR)

Wednesday, December 19

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CE)
- 5:00 p.m. MSYG Music (GC)
- 5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study (MH)
- 7:00 p.m. Choir (MS)

Thursday, December 20

- 11:30 a.m. Staff Christmas Lunch (GC)
- 1:15 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, December 21

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)

Saturday, December 22

- 2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
- 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)

MEMBERS

Roger Able	Jane Hayman	Bev Morris
Kaylee Anderson	Joyce Hayman	Nancy Neale
Kathy Andrews	Frances Heath	Joe Oriani
Bill Brack	Kay Hedden	Randall Palmer
Tom Brackett	Doris Hill	Barbara Roberts
Henry Braun	Bryan Howard	Earle Roberts
Nancy Brooks	Bob & Isobel Hubbard	Elsie Savant
Helen Butz	Jim Huff	Beverly Seagreaves
Helen Champlain	Kathy Jackson	Joyce Shirah
Carl Cheatham	Martha Johnson	Susan Heyer Singleton
Tom Coffman	Joey Johnston	Mary Alice & Emma
Jane Hayman	Peggy Kennedy	Skipper
Yolanda Dyer	John Kissel	Barbara H. Smith
Mike & Jana	Toni Krieger	Mary Ann Snively
Easterling	Dena Lancashire	Christine Stevens
Bill Everhart	Spike Lucia	Jay Tackett
Walter Ferguson	Anne McCauley	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Ed & Rossanne	Jerry Mincey	Carolyn Thompson
Gorsky	Edna Mitchell	Judy Winfree
Clyde Greene	Tillie Montney	Retha Wright

IN THE HOSPITAL: Scott Strey

Relatives & Friends

John Alexander family	Lynn Oakley's friend
Wendy Andrews	Augie Andrews' friend
Dolores Clay Barton	Karen Gerber's sister
Don Breidert	Rose Flynn's friend
Lisbeth Bullington	Larry Davis' cousin
Janice Bullock	Kit Threlkel's friend
Reese Burdette	Dana Cole's cousin
Garry Dutcher	Lynn Oakley's friend
Al Ellis	Jim Threlkel's friend
Connie Flannigan	Marile Week's friend
Mary Gamgemi	Lynn Oakley's friend
Pete Kent	Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
Pearl Olszewski	Susan Singleton's friend
Judy & Bill Overlook	Kit Threlkel's friend
Don Patchen	Bill Patchen's brother
Larry Schlosser	Don & Norma Martin's
Steve Shipley	Connie Shipley's brother
Russell Snively	Peggy & Larry Davis' friend
Tibbs Swick	Amanda Olmert's father
Kristy Turner	Rick & Pat Reass' daughter
Marshall Wood's family	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend

3 CENTS-A-MEAL THIS SUNDAY

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



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



Zach Anaya
Brenden Anderson
Christian Anderson
Samuel Crockett
Zach Drum
Til Fellows
Robert Ferguson

MILITARY

Stephanie Gillie
Eddie Gray
Daniel Harp
Sean Harp
David Knowles
John Marotti
Mathew Massam

Ryan Peardon
KaitLin Marotti-Pitts
Ashton Pitts
Shad Skinner
Drew Stapor

CHRISTMAS DAY SOUP KITCHEN

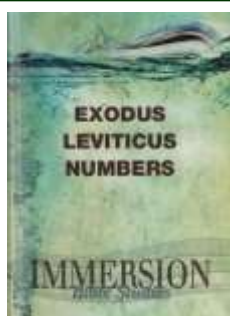
We are planning to share another wonderful Christmas Day meal for those in our area who are hungry. The dinner menu will include: turkey and gravy, ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, corn, cranberry sauce, bread, pie, cake, and Christmas cookies. **From 1:30–3:15 p.m.** we will be cooking side dishes, carving meat, cutting bread and desserts in the main church kitchen, and setting up the 737 building and tables for the meal. We will serve from **3:30–4:30 p.m.**



Volunteers are needed to

- Bake a ham or turkey at home, and bring it to the main kitchen by **2:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve** (the hams and turkeys can be picked up at the church on Sunday, **December 16**)
- Make a large green bean casserole (disposable baking pans can be picked up at the church on Sunday, **December 16**)
- Help with cooking and food and building prep. from **1:30–3:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.**
- Help serve the Christmas meal and clean up **3:30 – 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.**

If you would like to help with any of these portions of the Christmas Day Soup Kitchen meal, please sign up in McLeod Hall and plan to join us for this wonderful Christmas tradition here at First Pres.



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP IMMERSION

Join our **Wednesday** evening Bible study.

Join Rev. Sarah and additional leadership as we dive deep into scripture, continuing with the Books of Exodus, Leviticus, and Numbers.

Our adventure is **Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. December 19.**

We will start a new study **January 9.**

Questions? Contact Rev. Sarah at sbishop@firstpreswh.org or 294-3121.

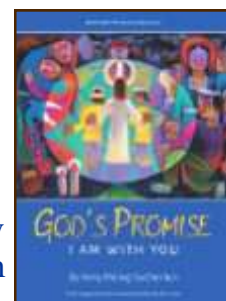
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Lydia and Joy circles current Bible study: *God's Promise – "I Am with You."*

The Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month.
and will meet on **December 18 at 9:30 a.m.** at the home of Carol Carter.

The Lydia Circle meets on the **2nd Monday** of each month and
will meet on **January 14 at 10 a.m.** in the back of McLeod Hall.

The study books are available at a cost of \$10.00. See or call either Sue McClew (875-6176) or Carol Carter (299-4253) to purchase your copy. Both groups are open to any and all women of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH WINTER RETREAT!

Cedarkirk: January 19-21, 2019



Come join us on our First Pres Student Winter Retreat! We will be going to Cedarkirk and staying in the climate-controlled lodging. We would love to see you during this amazing weekend of fun, memories, and an opportunity to grow closer to God. Fun activities include canoeing, campfires, wall climbing, zip lines, and more! This trip is under your own student leadership, so you know it will be fun and relaxed.

Please contact Leonard at 312-678-7764 or leonardmosiah@gmail.com for more information. The cost is just \$125 per person which covers transportation, lodging, and meals.

What WE do – Thanks to YOU

A celebration of generosity and ministry

As Advent and Christmas are on the horizon, we know that a wonderful new church year is preparing to unfold. Soon our pews will be filled with people gathering by the light of the Christ Candle to hear the good news of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ. And as we have done for well over a century, First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven's doors will be open to tell that story. What a wonderful way to be reminded of the ministry of a church that shares the good news of God's presence each day of the year.

Thanks to the generous support of the friends and members of our congregation, our church is always ready and able to live out our purpose of ministering to the world in the name of Jesus Christ. What began with the good news of a Savior sent to us, has become our reason for being Christ's church. When we celebrate how we have told of Christ's presence in each of our lives this year through worship, study, service, and fellowship, we give witness to our purpose as Christ's church.

OUR PURPOSE

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 the Session, 2003

Now, as this year draws to a close, the Session of our church will soon meet to adopt our annual church operating budget for 2019. I am writing to ask your assistance in completing this task.

We hope that you feel God is calling you to be a generous partner with us in accomplishing our purpose as Christ's followers into the future. So that we may make our plans for another year of working our God's purpose here in Winter Haven, we invite you to indicate that support by prayerfully considering and completing an estimate of giving card for the year 2019.

First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven operates with a unified church budget. This means that the ministry that we conduct through all our program areas falls under a single church budget, which is supported by the generosity of our members and friends in their tithes and offerings. **Every person** who gives in support of this budget is **a partner in everything** that we do.

The strength of a unified budget rests in the fact the Session makes decisions of overall significance, so that each area of ministry can function without the constant concern of how to raise funds for items which are common to and crucial for the overall life of Christ's church here. (e.g. The *worship and music area* can stay focused on God-directed worship and inspiring music, rather than trying to pay the utilities so that there will be lights and air-conditioning on Sundays, to raise money to maintain instruments, or take bulletins out for printing. The *youth program* can focus on ministry with and for young people, rather than having to raise money for the salary of the Director of Student Ministries, or providing space for our regular youth group activities, etc.)

In 2018, the extent to which we have shared our resources so that the church could be the church is revealed in our budget. If we look at one area, Facilities operations and maintenance, we see that it represents over \$140,000 of our budget, in addition to the salaries of our Church Custodian and Director of Maintenance. (These costs are monitored annually by the Buildings and Grounds Committee.) That means that providing space for all that we do, insuring that space, and appropriately maintaining that space costs almost \$20,000 a month just so that we can all share in ministry here.

Our 2018 budget can be viewed line by line to reveal how we have generously invested in our shared ministry.

OUR 2018 OPERATING BUDGET

Missions (national/international, through Presbytery, Synod, Honduras, and General Assembly)	\$24,000
Deacons Funds (local missions)	26,200
Stephen Ministry	1,000
Pastors' Fund (Congregational Assistance)	2,000
Congregational Care	800
Per Capita Support of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly	32,600
Honduras	1,000
International Mission (Strang)	3,000
Office Operation	38,400
Christian Education Programs	5,000
Youth Ministry Programs	8,000
Volunteer Screening	2,000
Library Supplies	100
Adult Fellowship/ FunTimers	300
Evangelism/Community Outreach	2,000
Hospitality and Fellowship	9,000
Membership	600
Stewardship	200
Properties and facilities operations	142,550
Worship Supplies	2,000
Music—Music Maintenance	6,000
Personnel (Salaries and Benefits)	691,227

Total 2018 Operating Budget **\$997,977**

Our investment in the Worship of God throughout the Year \$350,000

Our investment in Christian Education and Nurturing Disciples \$250,000

Our investment in In-reach and Outreach (Pastoral/congregational care and Evangelism) \$200,000

Our investment in Mission and Benevolences \$190,000

Our total church budget for 2018 represents nearly \$1,000,000 of our treasures, much of which has been generously donated by all of us in the partnership we share as a church of Jesus Christ. The prayerful support and extravagant

First Presbyterian Church

Estimate of Generosity for 2019

Last Name
First Name(s)
Envelope #

Address

City
State
Zip Code

In gratitude for God's love, I/we make the following ***estimate of generous support*** of the church, its local mission and commitment to Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly: (The amount of this ***estimate*** may be increased or decreased if your circumstances change.)

\$ _____ : Per Week Per Month Per Year

I/we want contribution envelopes: Yes No

For where your treasure is there will your heart be also.

Matt 6:21

Signature

THE 2019 SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDARIS UP IN THE NARTHEX

There is space to sign up for placing flowers in the narthex on a given Sunday, when the sanctuary flowers for your desired date have already been selected by someone else.

Please remember these important points:

- * Include your best contact number.
- * Include the name of your florist.
- * Tell your florist that the arrangement **must** be here by **Friday, 12 p.m.**
- * Call the office the week before to give bulletin information (294-3121.)



ANNOUNCING TITLES FOR ODD MONTH THIRD THURSDAY AT 3, OMTT3 BOOK CLUB FOR 2019

<p>January 17 <i>The Good Neighbor</i> <i>The Life and Work of Fred Rogers</i> By Maxwell King</p>	<p>March 21 <i>The Book of Joy</i> by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams</p>	<p>May 16 <i>The Last Castle</i> The Epic Story of Love, Loss, and American Royalty in the Nation's Largest House by Denise Kiernan</p>	<p>July 18 <i>The Little Paris Bookshop</i> by Nina George</p>	<p>September 19 <i>Grandma Gatewood's Walk</i> The Inspiring Story of the Woman Who Saved the Appalachian Trail by Ben</p>	<p>November 21 <i>Christmas A Biography</i> By Judith Flanders</p>

REMEMBER! THE STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE HERE FOR YOU!



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 Pat Reass at 206-9914. Or you can talk with one of our other Stephen Leaders: Alan Harvey, Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, Barbara Perkins, Susan Singleton, or Jean Strang.**

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 a.m. Chapel Worship

A traditional worship service held in our chapel. The service follows the same order as the 11:00 a.m. 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 - 10:15 a.m. 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 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

A traditional worship service held in our sanctuary. The service follows the same order as the 8:00 a.m. 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 A.M.

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 OPPORTUNITIES!

Children's Sunday School for PreSchoolers through 5th grade happening in the CE Building, **9:30 a.m.** (9 a.m. on the **First Sunday**.) Our children will activate faith with *Spark Lectionary* curriculum. Each class will engage the Biblical story of the day through creative, hands-on activities, interactive games, and crafts. Sunday School for preschoolers and kindergartners will meet in Room 101. Our elementary students will meet after music in Room 206. Sunday School ends at 10:30 a.m.



First Sundays – Sunday School at **9 a.m.** and sharing musical talents in worship at **10a.m.**

Adult Educational Opportunities – Sunday mornings and more!

Perspectives Sunday School Class – 9:30am in the Geneva Room

This discussion-based class is guided by Dr. Kenneth Bailey's lectures on the Parables of Jesus. Join Glenn Thomas and other leaders for this engaging class at **9:30 a.m.** in the Geneva room. Perspectives ***DOES NOT*** meet on First Sundays.



Advent – “O Come, O Come: Emmanuel”

Reflections on Four Seasonal Hymns

This Advent, adults will be encouraged to discuss the importance of four Advent hymns, explore their meaning and learn more about the hymn writers. These seasonal hymns are also reflected in this year's Advent sermon series by our Pastors. Join **Richard Baker** and other facilitators for this class in CE Room 207 at **9:30 a.m.**



(For 11 a.m. worship services.)

If you would be interested in helping welcome, greet, seat, and assist people at worship, we could use your assistance as an usher.

Please contact the church office at 294-3121 or office@firstpreswh.org.



First Presbyterian Church
637 6th Street, NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881
863-294-3121
FAX 863-294-1105
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 12/14/18.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 245 bag lunches
the week of 12/3/18.

We gave out 930 bag lunches
in November, 2018.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 94 people on 12/01/18.

We fed 479 in November, 2018.

**LAST CHANCE!!!
ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS TODAY**

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 **December 23**.

Please fill out the order form below. The cost per plant is \$11 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 17**.

A complete listing will be available **Sunday, December 24**.



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: \$ _____