



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Weeks of December 22 & 29, 2019

Issue 739

133 Years of Ministry

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



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.

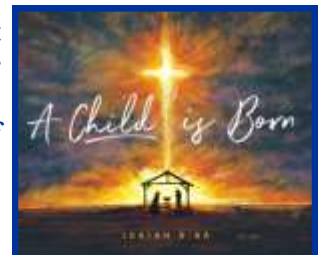
On **December 22**, the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, we will *Behold! Go Tell! Shine!*

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



CHRISTMAS 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.



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.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 22 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 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)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, December 23

Tuesday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 5:00 pm Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
- 9:00 pm Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, December 25 CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, December 26

- 3:00 pm Choir Leaves for EPCOT

Friday, December 27

- 5:00 pm Praise Band (Sanctuary)

Saturday, December 28

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

Sunday, December 29

- 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)
- 11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, December 30

Tuesday, December 31

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

Wednesday, January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, January 2

- 12:00 pm Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, January 3

- 5:00 pm Praise Band (Sanctuary)

Saturday, January 4

- 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)

*Congratulations to
Thom & Amanda Rivers on the
birth of their daughter,
Kathryn "Katie" Jane
born December 9, 2019.*

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

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

Relatives & Friends

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Tiffany Chen | George Butz's friend |
| Larry Durrence | George & Joyce Carefoot's brother-in-law |
| Al Ellis' family | 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 |
| Carol Moore | Roger & Marie Able's friend |
| Sal Moraco | Tom & Jeri Oldt's friend |
| Catherine Mueller | Jay & Lia Gray's niece |
| 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 | |

*We extend our deepest
sympathy to the family and
friends of Bill Patchen,
Who died on Tuesday,
December 10, 2019.*

*Our Christian sympathy goes to
Dr. George Butz and family
upon the death of their wife,
mother, and grandmother,
Helen Butz,
who died Saturday,
December 14, 2019*

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!



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.



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 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 Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month and will meet on **January 21 at 9:30 am** at the home of Carol Carter.

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 of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.*



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Our Christmas Eve offering will be accepted and directed toward medical missions around the globe.

The money collected will be divided between three medical clinics sponsored by the Medical Benevolence Foundation in Haiti, Kenya, and Bangladesh, and medical mission in Honduras.



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.





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. You can register now at fpu.com/1106335/.



SOUND BOARD OPERATORS WANTED

If technology is your thing, we have a place for you in our musical praise!! We are in need of people who would like to learn about our sound system and help during the worship services to make sure all our praise is heard! We will be holding a training session, so **contact Lynn at 701-570-1485** and let her know if you are willing to join the Sunday rotation in the sound booth. **PLEASE!!**



THE 2020 SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR IS UP IN THE NARTHEX

If your desired date is not available, there is space to sign up for placing flowers in the narthex.

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 pm**.
- * Call the church office the week before to give bulletin information at 294-3121.

FUNTIMERS AND FRIENDS



Our next gathering will be on **Tuesday, January 14**. We will travel to the **Circle B Bar Reserve** on Winter Lake Road for a tour by open tram OR you may choose to walk the paths and visit the Exhibit Hall instead. We'll have chilly weather so we suggest you dress warmly and bring a small blanket for the tram ride. We will provide bottled water and after the Reserve tour, we will travel to a local restaurant for lunch.

The Reserve tour will begin at 10 am. **We will be leaving the church by 9:15 am.**

To sign-up, call the church office at 294-3121, email to office@firstpreswh.org, sign-up at the FunTimers display in McLeod Hall, or fill out this tear-off and drop it in the offering plate or by the office.

Name: _____ # Attending: _____

Phone number: _____

I/We will travel to the Reserve by: [] bus OR [] car.

At the Reserve: I/we will ride the tram [] OR I/we will walk the Reserve trails [].

Announcing the Theme of the 2020 Advent Devotional: Christmastide Travels and Tales



Reading the stories of evangelists Matthew and Luke about Jesus' birth, we learn that there were trips taken: from Nazareth to Bethlehem, from Bethlehem to Egypt, and from Egypt to Nazareth. Holiday decorations, special events and programs often lure us to travel. We would like you to share a tale of a holiday destination, of travel just prior to Thanksgiving to Epiphany (January 6). Examples: visiting Christmas Markets in Austria or Germany, going to NYC to see the Rockettes, attending a special concert by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir or St. Olaf's, touring a home or estate elaborately decorated or watching young Greek men dive for a cross at Tarpon Springs.

We invite you to share your Christmastide Travels and Tales with us. As in the past, to your stories we will add scripture readings and prayers to complete each day's devotional reading. We believe this will be a most enjoyable devotional and we hope you will write a paragraph or as much as a page about your travels and tales at Christmastide. We will need at least 26 submissions. Please take a few moments and write these reflections down while "in the Christmas mood." Submit them to cshiple@firstpreswh.org or aharvey@firstpreswh.org and we will take them from there. We would also love it if you included a photo.



STAMP CLUB THANK YOU

The Winter Haven Stamp Club has held their meetings here at First Presbyterian Church for decades. In appreciation for our church's hospitality, the club regularly provides snacks for the children in our Christ Kids programs. And, again this year, the Winter Haven Stamp Club has made a generous donation to assist our youth in attending summer camps and conferences. Pictured here is Stamp Club and church member **Orrin Champlain** presenting the summer camp donation to church pastor Steve Negley. Thank you, Stamp Club, for your generosity.



COME TO THE STABLE THANK YOU

It was truly a beautiful night for our annual Come to the Stable. God provided perfect weather, and the friends and members of First Pres. made our telling of the story of the birth of our Savior all come together wonderfully. Special thanks to the children and youth who acted out the holy drama, and to the cast of dozens who working in supporting roles. (Thanks to those who worked in construction, sound, lights, music, narration, costuming, refreshments and hospitality, greeting, clean-up, and prayerful planning and coordination.) Thank you all for sharing the story we love this holy season.



January

Birthdays

1/1	Orrin Champlain Jim Francis Adam Frost Kathy Girouard Caitlin Seney	1/8	Nanette Rodgers Rebecca Wilson	1/18	Marilyn Riggs Ed Smith Taylor Threadgill Sug Zowarka
1/2	Debbie Anderson Erin Cranmer Nicole Voltapetti Heather Whitney	1/9	Lizzy Duce Loretta Smith	1/19	Connor Clinch Kim Salomon Taylor Thompson
1/3	Allison Burke Shawn Swango	1/10	Rob Baker Annette Chilton Sophia Chilton Stella Chilton Michael Premuto Christine Stevens Carol Switalski	1/20	Sarah Jorgensen Jenny Kellett
1/4	Meredith Baragona Ally Britt Meredith Curtiss Jana Easterling	1/11	John Adams Trey Braswell Chad Pearson Charlie Reineke Adam Snively	1/21	Emma Cornejo John Reineke
1/5	Megan Kennedy Norma Martin	1/12	George Dunham Candy Marshall Carley Rabern	1/23	James Dexter Reed Hoagland
1/6	Philip Batista Susan Braswell Rick Dantzler Chloe Miller Betty Shinn Betty Stephens	1/13	Dana Cole Jackie Dugger Kay Weeks Phyllis White	1/24	Sam Garner
1/7	Amanda Olmert Lisa Snyder	1/14	May Kimbrell	1/25	Kyle Bentley Anne Montgomery
1/8	Peter Coppini Shauna Gann Rob Helmick Cheryl Marchetti	1/15	Katie Sparr Jessica Strang	1/26	Gloria Allen Bud Shinn
		1/16	Meredith Clem	1/27	Callie Clinch Ava Frost
		1/17	Nichole Gainey	1/28	Jay Tackett Devin Thompson Gale Waters
		1/18	Becky Irvin	1/29	Kathy Deloach Danny Miller
				1/30	Jerry Mincey
				1/31	JoBee Hazlett Nicholas Jax Andrea Stevens

Anniversaries

1/1	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield	1/26	Drew & Courtney Croteau
1/5	Jay & Lia Gray		Argyle & Christine Stevens
1/7	Allen & Robin Miller George & Krysti Rowker	1/29	Jay & Trisha Dugger
1/18	John & Wanda Breuning	1/30	Scott and Becky Irvin
1/21	Matt & Sharon McGaffigan		John and Meg Strang

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!



First Presbyterian Church
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Winter Haven, FL 33881
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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 12/13/19.

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1162

Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 141 bag lunches
the week of 12/9/19.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 75 people on 12/14/19.

Return Service Requested

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR STAFF AT FIRST PRES!

