



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 24 & 31, 2023 | ISSUE 942

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIMES THIS SUNDAY

10 AM 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.

5 & 7 PM LESSONS AND CAROLS

We hope you will join us for worship on one of the holiest nights of the year.

For **Christmas Eve**, 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 and the singing of traditional carols.

The **5 pm** Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will feature acoustic sounds of the season with our Praise Band and other musicians from our congregation.

The **7 pm** Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will include music from our Chancel Choir & Chancel Bells.

Jeremy Rath will be providing organ and piano renditions of favorite Christmas tunes before each service. The Time with Younger Disciples at both services will engage the children in a retelling of the story of the birth of Jesus. A nursery will be available for both worship services.



POINSETTIA DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Help us extend the Christmas spirit by taking poinsettias to our elderly members and shut-ins. Come to the church on **Tuesday, December 26 starting at 10 am** to take the plants to as many people as you would like.

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.*

STAFF

Dr. Steven R. Negley
Senior Pastor

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

Jeremy T. Rath
Director of
Music Ministries

Robin D. Miller
Director of Finance
and Administration

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative
Assistant

Daryl D. Fenley
Director of
Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry
Custodian

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, December 24 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE

- 10:00 am Fall Sundays Single Service
(Sanctuary/Facebook)
5:00 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
(Sanctuary)
7:00 pm Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols
(Sanctuary)

Monday, December 25 CHRISTMAS Office Closed

Tuesday, November 26

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
10:00 am Poinsettias Delivered to Shut-ins

Wednesday, December 27

Thursday, December 28

Friday, December 29

Saturday, December 30

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

Sunday, December 31

- 10:00 am Fall Sundays Singe Service
(Sanctuary/Facebook)

Monday, January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed

Tuesday, January 2

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

Wednesday, January 3

- 1:00 pm American Mahjong (CE 102)

Thursday, January 4

- 9:00 pm Undeck the Halls (Sanctuary)
1:15 pm Chapel Bells (BR)

Friday, January 5

Saturday, January 6

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

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 next gathering will be **Wednesday, January 3, 1-3 pm**. We 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.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

Stephen Abbott	Ken Hart	Joe Oriani
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-	Suzan Wales
Lynne Grady	Gutierrez	Gale & Gwen Waters
Pam Gray	Jeri & Tom Oldt	

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Mike Bell	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield's friend
Donna Brannen	Jill Kosmensky's friend
Bobby Calvery.....	Jeff, Lisa, & Emily Snyder's friend
Rick Cheney	Kit Threlkel's friend
Ernie French	Greg & Mary Marrs' grandson-in-law
Pam Gordon.....	Zan Dismuke's friend
Mitzi Gross	Gale & Gwen Waters' cousin
Juan Joy.....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
John Linn	Sharon Mann's brother
Ada Lopez-Mendez	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Brian Marino.....	Judy Moots' brother
Khyla Martinez	Paul & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter
Joe Morton.....	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield's friend
Ed & Anne Neumyer	Candy Marshall's friend
Durb Pearson	Tom & Jeri Oldt's friend
Dennis Ryan.....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Laurie Selling	Susan Singleton's friend
Emily Sheffield	Lynn Oakley's friend
Lucinda Shelby	Lynn Oakley's friend
Joyce Snively	Larry & Peggy Davis's friend
Ruth Thiebout	Lyn Swart's mother

MILITARY

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

YEAR-END GIFTS



As we approach the end of the year, we are incredibly grateful for your generosity and support of the church's ministry in this community and the world. Your gifts have enabled the church to accomplish so much in the name of Christ. You are invited to remember the church in your year-end giving as we celebrate God's presence in our world anew. Please submit your tithes to the office by **10 am, Friday, December 29**. If you would like a record of your giving for the year, please feel free to contact Robin Miller at the church office.

Thank you!

A COME TO THE STABLE THANK YOU

Many thanks go out to all who made this year's *Come to the Stable: A Living Nativity Stroll* such a wonderful success. It would be impossible to thank everyone by name.

SO, from the actors to the costumers, to the parking lot greeters, to the set-up/tear-down crews, to the people who baked/bagged/poured sweets/treats, to those who stuffed bags, to those who handled sound/lighting, to the musicians, and to all the people in our congregation who planned and prayed and invited people to join us for a wonderful telling of the story of the birth of **OUR LORD AND SAVIOR** ----- Thank You! Hundreds of people enjoyed this wonderful Christmas gift from our church and we couldn't have done it without everyone's involvement.



COME TO THE TABLE WITH OUR NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS



On **Sunday, January 7**, our congregation will celebrate the ordination and installation of our new Elders and Deacons, and celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Please prepare your hearts to come to the table.

SUNDAY MORNING HELP NEEDED IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY



Beginning **Monday, January 8, 2024**, we will be installing a new elevator at First Pres. For at least the first two months of the year, the only way to access the second floor of the sanctuary building will be the stairs or a new temporary ramp. On Sunday mornings, we will have wheelchairs available for those who would like to use the ramp.

If you would be willing to volunteer to help push people in wheelchairs up and down the ramps before and after worship, please email the church office (cshiple@firstpreswh.org) and let us know what Sundays you would be available. Thanks for your assistance.

SOUP LUNCHEON RETURNS!



You are invited to a soup luncheon on **Sunday, January 14 at 11:15 am** after our **single 10 am worship service**. The Stephen Ministers will again host this lunch of soups, salad, and dessert. It will be a great time of food, fun, and fellowship. We will also commission **Lisa Snyder** as our newest Stephen Leader in worship.

We hope to see you there!

FUNTIMERS JANUARY ADVENTURE



Our next FunTimers event is **Thursday, January 18, 11 am - 2 pm** and will be taking a ride on the **Ridge Live Steamers Outdoor Model Railroad**. We will meet at the church and take the bus to 7760 N. Scenic Highway. Bring a bag lunch. Drinks will be provided.

This will be an outside activity. It's colder on the train, so please dress accordingly. For our safety, no open-toed shoes.

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

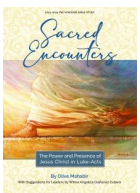
JANUARY BOOK CLUB



We will meet on **Monday, January 15 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss ***The Mystery of Mrs. Christie***, by Marie Benedict.

This is a deft, fascinating page-turner reconstruction of one of the most notorious events in literary history: Agatha Christie's mysterious 11-day disappearance in 1926.

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, January 16, at 10 am** at Carol Carter's.

The Lydia Circle meets on the **3rd Thursday** of each month, the next meeting is **Thursday, January 18 at 10 am** in McLeod Hall.

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

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUPS



Save the date for Rock the Universe on Saturday, January 27.



JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------|--|------|--|
| 1/1 | Orrin Champlain
Jim Francis
Caitlin Seney | 1/9 | Lizzy Duce
Loretta Smith | | Taylor Thompson |
| 1/2 | Erin Cranmer
Debbie Rubner
Heather Whitney | 1/10 | Rob Baker
Sophia Chilton
Stella Chilton
Michael Premuto | 1/20 | Sarah Jorgensen
Theresa Kalb |
| 1/3 | Shawn Swango | 1/11 | Adam Snively | 1/21 | John Reineke |
| 1/4 | Meredith Baragona
Ally Britt | 1/12 | George Dunham
Candy Marshall
Carley Rabern | 1/23 | James Dexter
Reed Hoagland |
| 1/5 | Norma Martin | 1/13 | Dana Cole
Jackie Dugger
Kay Weeks
Phyllis White | 1/25 | Anne Montgomery |
| 1/6 | Philip Batista
Rick Dantzler
Chloe Miller
Betty Stephens | 1/15 | Katie Sparr | 1/26 | Gloria Allen
Darla Fenley |
| 1/7 | Amanda Olmert
Lisa Snyder | 1/17 | Nichole Gainey | 1/27 | Ava Frost |
| 1/8 | Peter Coppini
Cheryl Marchetti
Nanette Rodgers
Rebecca Wilson | 1/18 | Becky Irvin
Marilyn Riggs
Ed Smith | 1/28 | Jay Tackett
Devin Thompson
Gale Waters |
| | | 1/19 | Kim Salomon | 1/29 | Kathy Deloach
Danny Miller |
| | | | | 1/30 | Carolyn Ciccarello
Jerry Mincey |
| | | | | 1/31 | JoBee Hazlett |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|---------------------|
| 1/1 | Bob & Marilyn Sheffield | 1/29 | Jay & Trisha Dugger |
| 1/5 | Jay & Lia Gray | 1/30 | Scott & Becky Irvin |
| 1/7 | Allen & Robin Miller | | John & Meg Strang |
| 1/21 | Matt & Sharon McGaffigan | | |

OUR STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE READY TO CARE FOR YOU!



Stephen Ministers are members of First Presbyterian Church who have been through extensive training and provide confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to people who are experiencing a difficult time. They will listen, care, encourage, pray with and for you, and provide weekly support for you as long as your need persists.

If you or someone you know is hurting, find out more about Stephen Ministry by **calling Connie Shipley at 863-221-2224**. Or you can talk with one of our other Stephen Leaders: **Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Barbara Perkins**. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to bring God's love and care into your life.

HOW TO EASILY ACCESS SECURE GIVE



Go to our Church website and click on **give** (top right), you will be re-directed to <https://app.securegive.com/firstpreswh> or you can go directly to the SecureGive website, <https://app.securegive.com/firstpreswh>.

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This newsletter is published weekly.
Church dated material, please deliver by 12/22/23.

Return Service Requested

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 218 lunches
the week of 12/11/23.



Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 75 people on
Saturday, 12/16/23.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR FIRST PRES STAFF!

