



# TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 25 & JANUARY 1 | ISSUE 891

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIMES: 5 & 7 PM



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

For **Christmas Eve, Saturday, 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, 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 (**Lindsey Ivey, Sean Ivey, Daniel Miller, Madey Palomaki Dillon Powell, Jeremy Rath, & Emily Snyder**), as well as **Duke Burr, Hunter Smith, T. Michael Stavres, & Nat West**.

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

## 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, as well as medical mission in Honduras.

## CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION



You are invited to join us for an All Church Gathering Worship single service with communion at **10 am** Christmas morning.

## 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. John F. Reiter  
Interim  
Associate Pastor

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

Jeremy T. Rath  
Director of  
Music Ministries

Emily G. Snyder  
Director of  
Student Ministries

Robin D. Miller  
Director of Finance  
and Administration

Connie J. Shipley  
Administrative  
Assistant

Rose S. Flynn  
Office Assistant

Daryl D. Fenley  
Director of  
Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry  
Custodian

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sunday, December 25**  
**CHRISTMAS**  
**COMMUNION**

10:00 am All Church Gathering Worship  
 (Sanctuary/Facebook)

**Monday, December 26**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tuesday, December 27**

9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)  
 10:00 am Poinsettia Delivery (MH)

**Wednesday, December 28**

**Thursday, December 29**

**Friday, December 30**

**Saturday, December 31**

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

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**Sunday, January 1**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

10:00 am All Church Gathering Worship  
 (Sanctuary/Facebook)

**Monday, January 2**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Tuesday, January 3**

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

**Wednesday, January 4**

**Thursday, January 5**

**Friday, January 6**

**Saturday, January 7**

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



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Pam Gray	Jackie Pinkney
Debbie Anderson	Jane Hayman	John & Marilyn
Pat Berrell	Jim Huff	Schleifer
Helen Champlain	Scott & Becky Irvin	Dick Shaw
Ellie Crowder	Jill Kosmensky	Joyce Shirah
Charlie Darte	Dena Lancashire	Susan Singleton
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Ray & Gladys Larson	Dale Smith
Zan Dismuke	Pat McCarty	Katie Sparr
Rob Donaldy	Dick McCauley	Kathy Taber
Dana Elmore	Pat Miller	Barbara Tackett
Bill Everhart	Edna Mitchell	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Lynne Graddy	Jeri & Tom Oldt	Pat Vobornik

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Billy Bennett ..... Rossanne Gorsky  
 Philip Burkhart ..... Lynn Oakley's friend  
 Rick Colen ..... Rossanne Gorsky's friend  
 Bill Fisher ..... Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin  
 Flo McNeer Hamilton ..... Peggy Davis' friend  
 Alisa Hart ..... Zan Dismuke's daughter  
 Keaton Haywood ..... Dale & Marcia Smith's friend  
 Jim & Belinda Hurst ..... Tom & Jeri Oldt's friends  
 Jim Joiner ..... Ann Meadows' friend  
 Mitch Katros ..... Lisa Endres' uncle  
 Reed & Trish Layne ..... Larry Davis' friends  
 Khyla Martinez ..... Jim & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter  
 Jackie & Harold Murphy ..... Lynn Oakley's friend  
 Christy Noll ..... John & Gail Van Allen's niece  
 Brynne Nowroozi ..... Cindy Curry's friend  
 Les & Alison O'Neal ..... Sandra Hoffman's friends  
 Ray Owen ..... Johnathan Owen's father  
 Carol Redner ..... Rossanne Gorsky's friend  
 Jack Snively ..... Bob & Lisa Endres' friend  
 Seretha Tinsley ..... Tom & Jeri Oldts' friend  
 Lou & Travis Whitehead ..... Ron & Gail Damkjer's friends  
 Jess Wilkinson ..... Lee Wilkinson's brother

## 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. 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!

### PLEASE NOTE

We update the Family & Friends prayer list periodically. If there is someone who needs to remain on the list, please call the church office.

### 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	

# THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who made Come to the Stable: A Living Nativity such a success. It truly was a magical night!



## 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 27 starting at 10 am** to take the plants to as many people as you would like.

## SAVE THE DATES

We hope you can join us for these up-coming *All Church Gathering Worship services at 10 am.*

**January 1 and January 8.**



## FOLLOW ME: A PREACHING SERIES



We will begin 2023 with a sermon series (Follow Me) focusing on the disciples of Jesus. From **January 8** to Easter, we will be exploring faith with those who first answered the call to Follow Jesus as Lord. Join us each week as we not only look into the lives of the 12 (or 13) and more, but also consider how we are responding to the call to "Follow Me."

## SOUP KITCHEN HELP NEEDED



Would you like to help love and serve those who hunger? We need head cooks & helpers for all of the **January** dates and most of **February**.

Please sign up in McLeod Hall or call the church office.

## COME JOIN US IN SONG!



Have you ever thought about participating in our music groups here at church? Now is your chance! Even if you don't read music (not all of our musicians read, so you'd fit right in!), you are more than welcome to join us in making music together.

**Chancel Bells** rehearses on **Wednesday evenings** from **6 - 7 pm** and **Chancel Choir** rehearses from **7 - 8:15 pm**. We are an open group of people who love making music with each other and spending our Wednesday evenings together! **Chapel Bells** is a smaller bell group that rehearses easier music. We are always looking for more members, too! We rehearse on **Thursday afternoons** at **1:15 pm**. Rehearsals will resume after the holidays on **Wednesday, January 11**, and **Thursday, January 12**.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Jeremy, our Director of Music Ministries, at [jrath@firstpreswh.org](mailto:jrath@firstpreswh.org) or by calling the church office at (863) 294-3121.

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROVIDE A YOUTH GROUP DINNER?



Do you like to cook? Are you looking for a way to help support our youth? You're in luck! We are looking for volunteers to provide dinner for our youth groups on Sunday or Wednesday evenings! If you are interested in providing a meal, please contact Emily for more information at

## CHRIST'S KIDS: RETURNS JANUARY 11



Our engaging and nurturing disciples of Jesus Christ program, Christ's Kids returns on **Wednesday, January 11 at 3:30 pm till 5:30 pm**. Starting on our playground, we support developmental relationships, continue to expand Biblical knowledge with stories, music, and movement and also caring for other children of God every Wednesday. If you'd like to learn more about volunteering or supporting this ministry, contact Rev. Sarah.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL 2023

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: RETURNS JANUARY 15



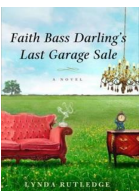
*Continuing to Grow in Faith*, Children's Sunday School will be back **January 15** following the Time with Younger Disciples in the Heart of Worship service in CE room 206. Children will be exploring people Jesus met, healings and miracles of Jesus, and of course, art! Preschoolers through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to join us and continue to grow in God's love.

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL – NEW SERIES :THE APOCRYPHAL JESUS



Got questions regarding the New Testament and why some texts are in our Bible while others, that have even been discovered recently, are not? Want to explore the early Church, teachings of Jesus and his first disciples? Join other seekers on this journey as we watch a video from an esteemed professor and discuss. Starting **January 22 at 10:10 am in the Geneva Room** and meeting every Sunday with two worship services.

## BOOK CLUB DECEMBER MEETING MOVED TO JANUARY 16



We invite you to join us on **Monday, January 16 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss **Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale** by Lynda Rutledge. We hope you will come together with us for a time of fellowship and discussion of this quirky, humorous, and warm-hearted book.

Contact **Sue Henry** at 863-656-2611 with any questions.

## CALLING ALL FUNTIMERS (OUR 55+ FELLOWSHIP GROUP)



Come out and enjoy a **Classic Car Show and luncheon** on **WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, FROM 11:30 AM TO 1 PM.**

We'll spend a little time around the lunch tables in McLeod Hall then head out to the parking lot to take a trip down memory lane with some jewels from the past. Call or email the church office so we can plan for lunch. Then come and join the fun and fellowship with your church friends and family.

## SAVE THE DATE: YOUTH TALENT SHOW FUNDRAISER!



Join us **Sunday, January 22** for a night full of laughs and fun! Dinner will be served at **5:30 pm** and the talent show will start at **6:00 pm.**

All are invited to participate in this fundraiser for the youth. If you would like to share a talent, contact Emily Snyder at [esnyder@firstpreswh.org](mailto:esnyder@firstpreswh.org) or call the church office.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to Review the Pastors' Terms of Call. We will meet in the sanctuary and by Zoom on **Sunday, January 29 at 10:55 am.** We need 101 members in attendance in this combined format to achieve our quorum for this congregational meeting. If you are joining by Zoom, look for instructions here next week. Please plan to join us.

## FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR REV. JOHN REITER



Please join us on **Sunday, January 29** as **John Reiter** delivers his last sermon as our Interim Associate Pastor. Then plan to stay after either of the worship services to join John in McLeod Hall at a reception in his honor. We will have a basket at the reception for your cards and love gifts to John, in appreciation for his over two years of ministry in our midst. Thank you, John, for sharing your life and faith with First Pres!

## THE SEARCH COMMITTEE IS HARD AT WORK



As we prepare to say "goodbye" to our Interim Associate Pastor, Rev. Reiter, it is important to note that the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee continues to meet regularly in search of our next permanent Associate Pastor. This committee began meeting in the spring of 2021 and have navigated the necessary steps to faithfully seek God's will for our church. This group is comprised of dedicated and diligent members: **Jonathan Owens (chair), Casey Cheatham, Erin Cramner, Rich Dobler, Cheryce Harris, Lindsay Ivey, Bill Lockhart, Emily Snyder, and Ann Walker.** The Holy Spirit is at work in this search and we invite you to continue to pray for this committee, the search process, and our church family.

## SAVE THE DATE: ALL-CHURCH RETREAT MARCH 25-26



Mark your calendar now for our All-Church Retreat, that's right, happening in March! Join your church family for retreat at Cedarkirk for a day or the weekend, with more details coming soon.

## MEN'S LUNCH GROUP



Every **Tuesday**, the men of the church gather from **12:00-1:00 pm** for lunch together in McLeod Hall. This fellowship group offers men an opportunity to build friendships and grow in faith.

We hope that you will join us. This gathering is hybrid; meaning you can come in person or join by Zoom. To receive the Zoom invite, please contact the office by phone or email and ask to be added to the list.

## CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES



These recent past years has reminded us all of the importance of staying in touch with those we care about. We are always looking to keep our directory current and are seeking to make sure we have your current information on file.

If you have a new phone number, home address, email, or additional contact info (such as a seasonal address), please contact the church office so we can make sure you stay informed. Thank you.

## DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN TEXT TO GIVE?



To donate, you will text a **keyword**, (those options are below and special events will be added as they come.), then a **space**, and an **amount** to **863-243-6880**. Example: Text keyword **3cents 5** for gifting \$5 to *3 Cents-a-Meal*. An auto-response will confirm your gift offering. Respond **Y** to confirm and send. Save this number as a contact for future giving.

### Keywords are:

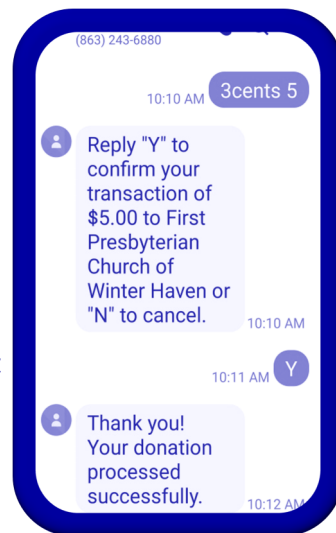
- Pledged (for your offering to be credited to your pledged amount for the current year)
- Offering (Non-pledge or undesignated gifts)
- Music (for Capital Music Campaign Organ/Music)
- 3cents (for 3 Cents-a-Meal)
- Memorial (for when donating in memory of someone)
- Special (for all other donations; example 1 time events)

If you are donating through Text To Give for the first time, you will receive a text containing a link to login or create your Secure Give account. Please save that login information.

You will then be asked to save your default payment information for giving by text. The system will confirm your donation and you will receive an email receipt.

The only time that you should have to enter your login or card information is the first time you donate through Text to Give. After your first transaction, your Secure Give account and card information will be recognized automatically and you will simply reply **Y**.

The next time you would like to give by text, simply type the keyword and amount to the number above and you will receive a request to confirm with **Y**.



## YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH...

just by shopping at this special Amazon link.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0668481>

Your shopping will support **Winter Haven First Presbyterian Church**

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know with the same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

## 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>.

Robin Miller is available to assist you during office hours or email [rmiller@firstpreswh.org](mailto:rmiller@firstpreswh.org).



# JANUARY

## BIRTHDAYS

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

## THE 2023 FLOWER CHART IS POSTED IN NARTHEX



You are invited to sign up for your important Sunday worship dates. Please be sure to call or email the church office the week before with bulletin information.

## 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 (or someone you know) are 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**.

First Presbyterian Church  
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U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 1162  
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**This newsletter is published weekly.**  
Church dated material, please deliver by 12/23/22.

**Return Service Requested**

**Bag Lunch Ministry**  
We gave out 163 lunches  
the week of 12/12/22. 

 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**  
We fed 60 people on  
Saturday, 12/17/22.

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

