



# TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 26, 2021 | ISSUE 843

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIMES: 5 & 7 PM



Both of the sanctuary worship services on **December 24** will help us celebrate our Savior's birth with the reading of the biblical story and the singing of traditional carols.

In addition to congregational singing, 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, Dillon Powell, Carley Rabern, Jeremy Rath, & Emily Snyder), as well as music from Nat West, Hunter Smith, T. Michael Stavres, & Duke Burr.

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

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 re-telling of the story of the birth of Jesus. Each service will close in candlelight.

## CHRISTMAS SOUP KITCHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25



We are looking for volunteers for this special dinner. To help serve, you can sign up on the soup kitchen sheet in McLeod Hall.

We are also looking for folks that can bake a ham or turkey (provided by the church) at home or make green bean casseroles and bring them back to the church. Please call the church office for more information.

## WOULD YOU LIKE THE POINSETTIA THAT YOU ORDERED?

If you would like to take your poinsettia home with you after the 7 pm Christmas Eve service, please pick up one from the stairwells or narthex. Or you can pick up your poinsettia on Sunday after the 11 am 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 **Monday, December 27 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. 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

Gladys N. Valle  
Office Assistant

Daryl D. Fenley  
Director of  
Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry  
Custodian

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

**Sunday, December 26**  
 9:00 am Heart of Worship  
 (Sanctuary/Facebook Live)  
 10:20 am Adult Bible Study (MH)  
 11:00 am Traditional Worship  
 (Sanctuary/Facebook Live)

**Monday, December 27**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**  
 10:00 am Poinsettias Delivery (MH)

**Tuesday, December 28**  
 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)

**Wednesday, December 29**  
 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (MH/Zoom)

**Thursday, December 30**

**Friday, December 31**  
**OFFICE CLOSED**

**Saturday, January 1**  
 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)

## 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. In spite of the challenges of a continuing pandemic, 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 to a record of your giving for the year, please feel free to contact Robin Miller at the church office. Thank you!



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY WEEK 51

DAY	OLD Testament	NEW Testament Psalms
1	Micah 4, 5	Revelation 12
2	Micah 6, 7	Revelation 13
3	Nahum 1-3	Revelation 14
4	Habakkuk 1-3	Psalm 145
5	Zephaniah 1-3	Revelation 15
6	Haggai 1, 2	Revelation 16
7	Zechariah 1, 2	Psalm 146- 147



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### MEMBERS

Melvin & Debbie Anderson	Ed Gorsky	Pat Miller
Kathy Andrews	Alan & Douglas Harvey	Edna Mitchell
Pat Berrell	Jane Hayman	Richard Moots
Tom Brackett & Family	Frances Heath	John & Marilyn Schleifer
Orrin & Helen Champlain	Kay Hedden	Joyce Shirah
Charlie Darte	Bryan Howard	Susan Singleton
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Jim Huff	Dale Smith
Zan Dismuke	Scott & Becky Irvin	Emily Snyder
Kate Eelman	Martha Johnson	Lisa & Jeff Snyder
Dana Elmore	Dena Lancashire	Katie Sparr
Bill Everhart	Pat McCarty	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
	Dick McCauley	Lindsay & Aaron Thibodaux
	Amy & Mike McGee	Sug Zowarka

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Margy Allen ..... Lynn Oakley's friend  
 Margaret Carswell ..... Barbara Puckett's friend  
 Mark & Vikki Deedrik ..... Nat & Jane West's friend  
 Sydney Fenstermaker ..... Gale & Gwen Waters' granddaughter  
 Susie Fisher ..... Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin  
 Verona Johnson ..... Lynn Oakley's friend  
 Donna Kyzer ..... Janet Howard's friend  
 Joe & Helen Lewis ..... Jonathan Owen's friends  
 Vance Littrell ..... Rick & Pat Reass' friend  
 Joey McKenna ..... Lynn Oakley's friend  
 Buddy Miller ..... Barbara Puckett's brother  
 Ruth Norton ..... Gale & Gwen Waters' friend  
 Eileen O'Leary ..... The Threlkel's friend  
 Cliff Peeno ..... Orin & Helen Champlain's friend  
 Winifred McAllister Rewis ..... Cindy Steele's mom  
 Katie Sisson ..... Lisa Endres' friend  
 Joyce Snively ..... Peggy Davis' friend  
 Beth Sparr ..... Dave Sparr's sister  
 Robbie Thompson ..... Larry & Peggy Davis' friend  
 Norma Weeder ..... Jennifer Vibral's friend  
 Kandi Wiles ..... Kit Threlkel's friend  
 Jess Wilkinson ..... Lee Wilkinson's brother  
 Wood family ..... Jonathan Owen's friends  
 Bill Yost ..... Connie Shipley's significant other

### 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	Stephanie Gillie	KaitLin Marotti
Brenden Anderson	Eddie Gray	Mathew Massam
Christian Anderson	Daniel Harp	Jet Sanderson
Zach Drum	Sean Harp	Shad Skinner
Robert Ferguson	David Knowles	Drew Stapor
Ernie French	John Marotti	



*Merry Christmas!*  
*2021*

# A WORD OF GRATITUDE!

Thank you to all the folks who helped make the *Come to the Stable: A Living Nativity Stroll* event so meaningful. Incredible volunteers helped with hospitality, cookie baking, cocoa distribution, parking, set-up and takedown, live music, and the beautiful living nativity presentation. A special "thank you" to **Kelli Ivey** for all her work in organizing so many details and helping the Nativity story come to life. Thank you to all who came and enjoyed this event. This was truly a special evening as we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ on Christmas!



## CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES



The past year 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 winter address), please contact the church office so we can make sure you stay informed. Thank you.

## 2022 FLOWER CHART IS 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.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFERINGS BEGINNING JANUARY, 2022

---

### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY OF THE BIBLE STARTING JANUARY 9, 10:10 AM

The work of historians and archaeologists opens a thrilling world of discovery, as they bring their methods and insights to bear on the beloved narratives of the Bible. This illuminating series will stop at key moments of scripture, Old and New, to bring it life with the latest historical and archaeological findings. Meeting in Geneva Room throughout the Spring.

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL ~ STARTING JANUARY 9, 10:10 AM

Children's Sunday School for PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade is meeting in the Christian Education Building, 10:10 am to 10:50 am. Our children will enjoy weekly rotating lessons, learning music, and the third Sundays will feature art projects! Join the fun between worship services on Sunday mornings.

### HOW TO RAISE LIFELONG LEARNERS ~ STARTING JANUARY 13, 6:30 PM

Join other families for a hybrid 9-week class on Thursday evenings as we explore educational philosophies and guidance for us to raise intellectually curious and engaged lifelong learners. Meeting in Geneva Room, contact Rev. Sarah or Bill Lockhart ([lockhartwc@gmail.com](mailto:lockhartwc@gmail.com)) to learn more.

### GENERATIONS UNITED ~ JANUARY 15

Time to enjoy a day at the park! We'll be fellowshiping in the outdoors of Lake Kissimmee State Park! Ride together by meeting at the church at **10 am** or meet us there at **11 am**. Pack a lunch and snacks to share. Questions, talk to Rev. Sarah or Kevin Britt.

### GOD IS HERE ALL YEAR ~ FEBRUARY 6, 3-5 PM

Another afternoon of mini-VBS fun is just around the corner. Mark your calendar now and sign up on the church website for children and volunteers.



## 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:

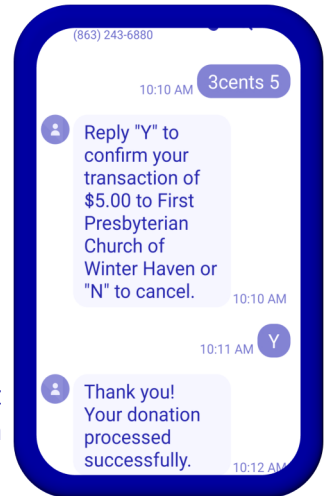
- Pledged (for your offering to be credited to your pledged amount for the current year)
- Offering (Non-pledge or undesignated gifts)
- Music (for Capital Music Campaign Organ/Music)
- 3cents (for 3 Cents-a-Meal)
- Memorial (for when donating in memory of someone)
- Special (for all other donations;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



## 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 at [rmiller@firstpreswh.org](mailto:rmiller@firstpreswh.org).

## 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).



## MEN'S LUNCH GROUP

Each **Tuesday** the men of the church gather from **12:00-1:00 pm** for lunch together. 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 [office@firstpreswh.org](mailto:office@firstpreswh.org) and ask to be added to the list.



# JANUARY

## BIRTHDAYS

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

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

## ANGELS CARE CENTER OF ELOISE



Angels Care Center continues to give out special kits to their patients and families, e.g. toiletry kits, first aid kits, children's kits, and senior bags. This is not possible without the donation of items to fill these kits! They have made and given out over 31,000 in the last 9 years!

But... in the last few months they have come up short of what is needed to fill the kits. This is a year round project and the need is great. They are in particular need of deodorant, disposable razors, small combs, quart and snack size zip lock bags, Band-Aids, washcloths, sunscreen, small hand sanitizer, and small samples from hotel/motels. Also, any and all items for the senior bags, whatever will make their senior citizens' lives easier and brighter: laundry soap, Lysol cleaning wipes, paper towels, mugs or plastic plates, bowls, teabags, oatmeal packs, crossword puzzles/activity pads, seasonal item/décor, gift cards (Walmart, restaurants, etc.) You can put these items in the Angels Care collection box located in McLeod Hall.

First Presbyterian Church  
637 6th Street, NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33881

863-294-3121  
www.firstpreswh.org  
office@firstpreswh.org  
Facebook.com/FPCWinterHaven

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

**This newsletter is published weekly.**  
Church dated material, please deliver by 12/2421.

**Return Service Requested**

**Bag Lunch Ministry**  
We gave out 35 lunches  
the week of 12/13/21. 

 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**  
We fed 207 people on  
Saturday, 12/18/21.

## SINGLE SERVICE HYMN SING: JANUARY 2, 10 AM



Join us for a single worship service as we celebrate the start of a new year with Scripture and singing seasonal favorites.

## SAVE THE DATE: YOUTH TALENT SHOW!



Join us **Sunday, January 23** for a night full of laughs and fun! Dinner will be served at **5:00 pm** and the talent show will start at **5:30 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

## 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're 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**.