



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of February 7, 2021

Issue 803

135 Years of Ministry

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

Emily G. Snyder
Director of
Student Ministries

Robin D. Miller
Director of Finance &
Administration

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant
Director of Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry
Custodian

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING YOUTH VS. GEEZERS

We are collecting canned goods and money donations for our annual *Souper Bowl of Caring* fundraiser. This fundraiser benefits our Soup Kitchen ministry as well as Family Emergency Services. This year, we are postponing our Youth vs. Geezers flag football game until summer. Instead, we are doing a competition to see who can collect the most donations.



Collection areas are in McLeod Hall: one box for the Youth and one box for the Geezers. You may choose which box to place your donation in. **We will be collecting until February 28!** Thank you for your help in supporting this incredible ministry!

PANCAKES IN THE PARKING LOT



Our Shrove Tuesday celebration will look a little different this year. Since we can't safely gather together to enjoy a pancake supper, we invite you to celebrate the feast before the fast with Pancakes in the Parking Lot.

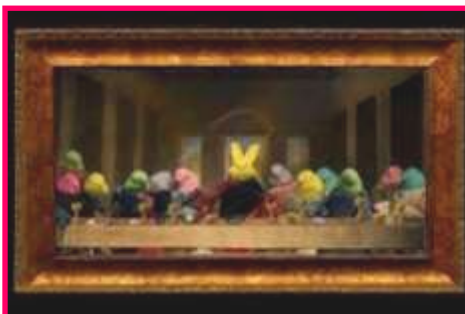
On Tuesday, **February 16**, drive by the church between **5:30 pm and 6:30 pm** to pick up a pancake dinner, a Lenten home devotional guide, and information about our upcoming worship experiences in Lent.



PEEPING THROUGH LENT 2021 DEVOTIONAL AND KIT



Starting **Sunday, February 14** our Lenten Devotional – *Peeping Through Lent* will be available. Pick up a copy at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake drive-by or stop by the office. Included will be a booklet and small items to focus your devotions this Lent. Also, join in the Peeping Through Lent challenge by creating marshmallow Peep dioramas of the Bible stories! Here are some images to inspire you and be sure to share your creation as a family, individual, or couple with Rev. Sarah!



Opportunities This Week

Remember in Prayer

Sunday, February 7

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 9:25 am Children's Sunday School (CE 207)
- 10:20 am Adult Bible Study (MH/Zoom)
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, February 8

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 10:00 am Lydia Circle
- 6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating
Committee (MH/Zoom)
- 6:30 pm Christian Education (GR)

Tuesday, February 9

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
- 5:30 pm Stephen Minister Training (GR)
- 6:00 pm Personnel (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 10

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (MH)
- 12:00 pm Buildings & Grounds (MH/Zoom)
- 3:00 pm Community Outreach (MH)
- 4:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
- 6:00 pm Financial Peace (MH)

Thursday, February 11

Friday, February 12

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, February 13

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

MEMBERS

Marie & Roger Able	Jane Hammette	Dick McCauley
Melvin & Debbie Anderson	Jane Hayman	Bob McClew
Kathy Andrews	Joyce Hayman	Edna Mitchell
Marty Bentley	Frances Heath	Richard & Judy Moots
Pat Berrell	Kay Hedden	Arletta Oriani
Jonye Briggs	Doris Hill	Barbara Roberts
Orrin & Helen Champlain	Bryan Howard	John Schleifer
Carl Cheatham	Isobel Hubbard	Joyce Shirah
Charlie Darte	Jim Huff	Dale Smith
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Scott & Becky Irvin	Joel & Barbara H. Smith
Zan Dismuke	Martha Johnson	Christine Stevens
Jana Easterling	Dena Lancashire	Jean Strang
Dana Elmore	Eric Lindstrom	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Bill Everhart	Spike & Jane Lucia	Lorraine Todd
John Gray	Candy Marshall	Mike Vibral
	Anne McBride	Gwen Waters
	Pat McCarty	Sug Zowarka

Relatives & Friends

Bruce Bachman	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Connie Craig	Lynn Oakley's friend
Susie Fisher	Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin
Mel Howell	Judy Lindsay's friend
Verona Jones	Lynn Oakley's friend
Mary Lenari	Bill & Becky Everhart's friend
John Linn	Sharon Mann's brother
Sue Miller	Lynn Oakley's friend
Frank Myers	Pam Wilkinson's father
Don Nash	Jeff Bowen's friend
Sandy Payne	Lynn Oakley's family member
George & Krysti Rowker	Mary Ellen Rowker
Eddy Ruperti	Lynn Oakley's friend
Louise C. Schutt	Larry Davis' mother
Chet Spires	Mary Ellen Rowker's friend
Jim Steele	Bob Steele's brother
Nicole Upson	Amy McKee's friend
Sam Vac	Marcie Dershimer's friend
Carol Wilhelm	Greg & Mary Marrs' friend
John Willson	Mary Marrs' brother

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

If you would like
information regarding registering
for the COVID-19 vaccine,
you can visit register.polk.health
or call 863-298-7500.

MILITARY

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



ARE YOU SKILLED AT SHARPENING KNIVES?

We are looking for a volunteer to sharpen our kitchen knives.

If you would like to help, please call the church office at 294-3121 to set up a time.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Lydia and Joy Circles Bible Study is
Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament
by P. Lynn Miller.



The Lydia Circle meets on the **2nd Monday** of each month and will meet on
February 8 at 10:00 am in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

The Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month and will meet on
February 16 at 9:30 am in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

WE PREPARE TO SAY GOOD BYE



For the past 23 years, God's House and the surrounding property here at 637 Sixth Street NW has been maintained incredibly by **Sammy Bryant**, our Director of Facilities and Maintenance. This faithful servant of Christ has decided to retire near the end of March. We will miss Sammy dearly, and plans our underway for the members of our church to celebrate his ministry and honor him as he retires.

We have begun the **search for our next Director of Facilities and Maintenance**. If you know someone who possesses the skills and temperament to fill this position, please have them contact Robin Miller, our church's Director of Finance and Administration (rmiller@firstpreswh.org), to find out how to apply.

AVAILABLE FOR LOAN



Over the years, church members have donated wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, potty chairs, and other medical equipment to the church. They are available to loan to people in the First Pres family who have a short-term need.

If you wish to borrow some useful equipment, contact the church office at 294-3121 and a staff member can help you go through available items.



CALLING ALL YOUTH!



Youth groups have started meeting (socially distanced & safe) in-person again! We are so excited to be gathering outside the youth house.

MSYG meets Wednesdays from 5:30 until 7:30 pm

HSYG meets Sundays from 5:30 until 7:30 pm

Come join us for food, fellowship, and faith building. So far it's been another awesome year with our youth!

If you have any questions or would like to sign up to provide a meal for our students, please contact Emily Snyder at 224-4403 or esnyder@firstpreswh.org.

CHRIST KIDS - WEDNESDAYS AT 4 PM

Christ Kids – our faith-filled and safe, after-school program for children 4 years through 5th grade is going on. The fun happens **Wednesdays at 4:00 pm** with a majority of out-door activities and Bible study.

Permission slips for children are on the church website, so spread the word and don't forget to join us as an Adult Volunteer!



Questions? Contact Rev. Sarah via email sbishop@firstpreswh.org or call the church office 294-3121.

FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Join Rev. Sarah in our virtual Sunday School classroom, with Jesus and His disciples sharing the good news! Our lessons will include links to make playdough at home, as well as marble mazes and some time to pray.

Visit the link on our church website at firstpreswh.org; under connections & children tabs.

MEN'S LUNCH IS HYBRID, TUESDAYS AT NOON

You can join us socially distant in McLeod Hall.
OR

Join us virtually on Zoom. If you are not already receiving the Zoom invite, please contact the office at 294-3121 or office@firstpreswh.org and ask to be added to the list.



SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE CARD

Couples may use one form, please include both names.

Heart of Worship at 9:00 am; Traditional Worship at 11:00 am

For the safety of all entering the church facilities for in-person worship, please complete this brief survey. (If you answer yes to any of the questions, please return home and join us for virtual worship on Facebook Live.)

Individual #1 Individual #2

Yes No Yes No Have you had a fever, dry cough, or shortness of breath in the last 14 days?

Yes No Yes No Have you been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Yes No Yes No Have you traveled to a COVID-19 hotspot in the past 14 days?

Name (Please print): _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

First Time Visitor Address: _____

Thank you for helping us provide for the safety of the entire church family.

REMEMBER ~ FIRST PRES IS LIVE ON FACEBOOK!



Heading out of town, but still desire to be part of this worshiping community on Sunday?
 Heard something lovely said or played in worship and would like to hear it again?
 Want to share with a friend a taste of worship with First Pres?

Then visit our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FPCWinterHaven/>! Every Sunday, we will be live-streaming the **9:00 am Heart of Worship** and **11:00 am Traditional** worship services on our Facebook page. These services will be available as videos after worship as well.

The church website at www.firstpreswh.org will also continue to have recordings of Sunday's worship on the main page. Scroll down to "Latest Videos" at the bottom.

Either way, there are opportunities to worship with your church family when you cannot be present in person.



2021 ADULT BIBLE STUDY & PREACHING THEME

TWO opportunities to discuss *A Year of the Bible*

Join your pastors and church family as we take the year to read the Bible beginning in Genesis and the Old Testament through Revelations and the New Testament. In each month, we will alternate between chapters in the Old and New as well as the Psalms. A reading plan can be followed by picking up your copy of *A Year of the Bible* for \$10 from the church office. It offers an introduction chapter you may read at any time. You can also download the reading plan for the whole year from our church website, or follow the plan below. We invite you to join a class for deeper discussion!

Classes are **Sundays at 10:20 am** as well as **Wednesdays at 10 am**.

If you can't join us in person, you can join us virtually for each class by following the steps below.

SUNDAY CLASS

1. go to <https://zoom.us/join>
2. enter Meeting ID **959 6689 0482**
3. click **Join**
4. click **Open Zoom Meeting**
5. enter your name and Meeting Password **637**
6. click **Join Meeting** and wait to join
7. see your church family and wave "hi"

WEDNESDAY CLASS

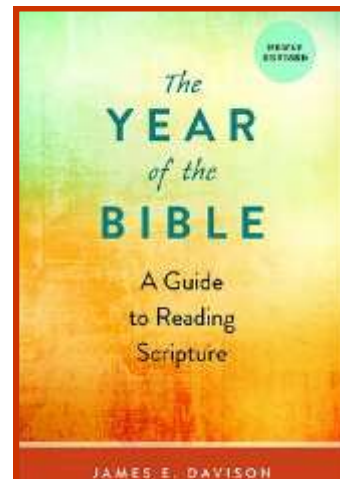
1. go to <https://zoom.us/join>
2. enter Meeting ID **927 8723 9542**
3. click **Join**
4. click **Open Zoom Meeting**
5. enter your name and Meeting Password **637**
6. click **Join Meeting** and wait to join
7. see your church family and wave "hi"

Reading Plan For Week 5

Below is a breakdown list of readings to prepare for this week's class. Class will be loosely structured as gathering, prayer, sharing your questions, and discussion on that week's reading led by a pastor

WEEK 5

DAY	OLD Testament	NEW Testament Psalms
1	Exodus 9, 10	Matthew 21
2	Exodus 11, 12	Matthew 22
3	Exodus 13, 14	Matthew 23
4	Exodus 15, 16	Psalms 15, 16
5	Exodus 17, 18	Matthew 24
6	Exodus 19, 20	Matthew 25
7	Exodus 21, 22	Psalms 17



INTRODUCING OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

At the conclusion of a nationwide search, we are excited to be welcoming **Mr. Jeremy Rath** as our new Director of Music Ministries.

Jeremy is an excellent organist, pianist, and vocalist who accompanied his first worship service in the eighth grade on his home church's small pipe organ. In the years since, Jeremy has earned a Bachelor of Science in Music Education (Concentration in Organ and Voice), and a Masters degree in Music Education. In upstate New York (Brockport), Jeremy has taught music to children, youth, and adults, and directed church music programs.

We will all have the opportunity to meet Jeremy in person when he arrives in Winter Haven in this month to begin his ministry with us.

We thank the Director of Music Ministries Search Committee (**Mike Harris, chair, Devin Thompson, Sean Ivey, Lia Gray, Nat West, Sarah Hanks, Karen Premuto, Mike Seney, and Ed Smith**) for their dedication in helping us call our newest ministry partner.

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!

ANGELS CARE We 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.



LOCAL MINISTRIES NEED OUR HELP

The ministries supported by our church can use our help now more than ever. The Deacons have been in contact with those ministries to inquire about their current needs. If you wish to help, please consider the needs of these valuable partners in our community and reach out to them directly.



Meals on Wheels (299-1616)

Volunteer for Meal Delivery, Kitchen Prep & Packing, Thrift Store.

Polk Training (956-1620)

Call to see how you can help this program for adults with developmental disabilities.

Project Love (280-6947)

Donations of gift cards to Publix, Aldi, or Walmart.

The Mission (299-2348)

Donations of premade meals in large chef pans to serve about 100 people for lunch.

Habitat for Humanity (292-2256)

Receiving donations 9-10 am and 2-4 pm Tuesday through Friday.

Dear Friends and Members of First Pres:

Knowing that “maintaining public worship” is one of the Great Ends of the Church, your pastors and Session members have prayerfully attempted to offer safe and spiritual opportunities for worship during this trying year.

We suspended in-person worship in March and celebrated on-line worship together each Sunday in the early days of the pandemic.

We kept our vibrant virtual worship as an option for our congregation as we re-opened the sanctuary to in-person worship in June. At that time, among our guidelines for in-person worship we:

Asked all worshippers at our 9 and 11 am services to maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship.

Required face coverings to be worn while in the building for Sunday worship.

Asked people not to sing.

Last month, we amended our guidelines to allow singing while we continued to wear face coverings.

After hearing concerns about the experience of in-person worship from a number of participants, we are further amending our worship participation guidelines as follows:

People who wish to attend in-person worship at 9 AM will be asked to:

Maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship

Wear a face covering while entering, exiting, and moving around in the building for worship. Once people are seated, socially distanced from all people except those in their chosen seating group, they may remove their face mask, if they choose, for that portion of the worship service.

If any person wishes to sing hymns or responses, we ask that you replace your face covering while singing.

And people who wish to attend in-person worship at 11 AM will be asked to follow our current worship guideline which include:

Requiring all worshippers to maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship.

Requiring face coverings to be worn while in the building for Sunday worship.

Worshippers are invited to sing while wearing face coverings.

We hope that these modifications will allow all of us to safely worship God in a style that is meaningful and helpful in your faith life. And of course, our vibrant virtual worship experience will keep us all connected.

In Christ,
Steve Negley

Our Purpose Statement

First Presbyterian Church
637 6th Street, NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881
863-294-3121
FAX 863-294-1105
www.firstpreswh.org
office@firstpreswh.org

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 2/5/21.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 118 bag lunches
the week of 1/25/21.

We gave out 457
bag lunches in January, 2021.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 80 people on 1/30/21.

We fed 368 in January, 2021.

Return Service Requested



CURCH COMMUNICATION SURVEY!

The challenges of this pandemic have reminded us of the importance of good communication. As we reflect on our current communication efforts and consider our plans for the coming year, we want to make sure we are meeting your needs. Your views matter! Please take 2 minutes to complete this 3 question survey by **Friday, February 5**. You can drop off this form on Sunday when you sign in or during the week in the office, or email your response to office@firstpreswh.org.

**How do you currently receive and read communication/information from the church?
(please check all that apply)**

- Tower Chimes Weekly Newsletter (mailed paper copy)
- Tower Chimes Weekly Newsletter (email/digital format)
- Emails
- Announcement Slides prior to Sunday Worship
- Facebook
- Website
- Other: _____

How often would you like to receive communications?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Other: _____

**How would you like to receive communications from the church?
(please check all that apply)**

- Tower Chimes (mailed paper copy)
- Tower Chimes (email/digital format)
- Emails
- Announcement Slides prior to Worship
- Website
- Texts
- Mailed Postcards
- Facebook
- Other social media (Instagram, Twitter, etc.)
- Phone Call (automated message)
- Other: _____