



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 29, 2023 | ISSUE 899

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 this **Sunday, January 29 at 10:55 am**. Please sign in 5 minutes early. We need 101 members in attendance in this combined format to achieve our quorum for this congregational meeting. Please plan to join us.

Check our website or your email for the Zoom link, or use these 7 steps:

1. go to <https://zoom.us/join>
2. enter Meeting ID **828 4662 9280**
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 all your church family and wave "hi"

FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR REV. JOHN REITER



Please join us this **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 appreciate for his over two years of ministry in our midst. Thank you, John, for sharing your life and faith with First Pres!

CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY



Our Chosen Bible study has returned. The next gathering is this **Sunday, January 29, from 5:30-7 pm** in McLeod Hall.

Please bring a covered dish to share and enjoy an evening with your friends from First Pres. We will be watching Season 3 and focusing on previous episodes more in depth. Please join us even if you haven't watched the Chosen, we will help you catch up. Childcare will be provided.

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, January 29

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 9:15 am Children Sunday School (CE 206)
- 10:10 am Adult Sunday School (GR)
- 10:15 am Reception (MH)
- 10:55 am Annual Congregational Meeting
(Sanctuary/Zoom)
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 12:15 pm Reception (MH)
- 5:30 pm The Chosen Bible Study (MH)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, January 30

- 8:15 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating
Committee (MH)

Tuesday, January 31

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
- 6:00 pm Joint Meeting w/Elders & Deacons
(MH)

Wednesday, February 1

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 3:30 pm Christ Kids (CE)
- 5:00 pm Confirmation (GC)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
- 6:00 pm Chancel Bells (BR)
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, February 2

- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (BR)

Friday, February 3

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, February 4

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

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
THESE UP-COMING SINGLE
10 AM WORSHIP SERVICES**

**February 12 April 16
March 26 May 7**

SYMPATHIES



Our Christian sympathy goes to **Marilyn Schleifer** upon the death of her husband, **John Schleifer**, who died on Wednesday, January 18, 2023.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Pam Gray	Norm Patrick
Debbie Anderson	Jane Hayman	Jackie Pinkney
Pat Berrell	Jim Huff	Marilyn Schleifer
Helen Champlain	Scott & Becky Irvin	Dick Shaw
Ellie Crowder	Jill Kosmensky	Joyce Shirah
Brenda 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
Caren Coleman	Lynn Van Gundy'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
Kyle McKee	Greg Marrs' cousin
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
Phillip Waters	Gale & Gwen Waters' son
Lou & Travis Whitehead	Ron & Gail Damkjer's friends
Jess Wilkinson	Lee Wilkinson's brother
David Young	Lynn Oakley's friend

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	

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



Join us **Tuesday, February 21 at 5:30 pm** as we enter the Lenten season. We'll first do a little celebrating as we enter the 40 days of Lent with a Pancake supper. Kids, bring your best spatula and apron to try your hand at pancake flipping! Pancakes and sausage dinner will be in McCleod Hall. Happy Mardi Gras!

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



In the service outlined for Ash Wednesday in the Book of Common Worship, the pastor is invited to make this statement:

Friends in Christ, every year at the time of the Christian Passover (Easter) we celebrate our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent is a time to prepare for this celebration and to renew our lives in this holy mystery. We begin this season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life, and mark the penitence of this community.

We hope you will join your friends in Christ at our **Ash Wednesday** service, on **February 22 at 6:30 pm** in the sanctuary. You will hear the Word proclaimed, and have the opportunity to be marked with ashes as you begin your own Lenten journey to the cross.

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT



The season of Lent continues on **Sunday, February 26**. We will start our walk to the Cross with a celebration of the Lord's Supper at both worship services, and continuing our sermon series **Follow Me**, focusing on the disciples of Jesus. We hope you will join us throughout Lent in worship, faith formation, and Christian service.

START READING FOR OUR NEXT BOOK CLUB



We invite you to join us on **Monday, March 20 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss ***The Woman Who Smashed Codes*** by Jason Fagon. We hope you will come together with us for a time of fellowship and discussion of this incredible true story of the greatest codebreaking husband and wife duo.

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

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 on retreat at Cedarkirk for a day or the weekend. More details coming soon.

YOUTH GROUPS



The **Middle School Youth Group** meets on **Wednesdays** from **5:30** until **7:30 pm**.

The **High School Youth Group** meets **Sundays** from **5:30** until **7:30 pm**.

Come join us for another awesome year of food, fellowship, and faith building in the Golden Center youth house! If you have any questions please contact Emily Snyder at 863-224-4403 or esnyder@firstpreswh.org.

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 esnyder@firstpreswh.org or call the church office.

SOUP KITCHEN HELP



Would you like to help love and serve those who hunger? We need head cooks & helpers for all of the starting in **April**.

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**.

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

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.

CHRIST'S KIDS



Our engaging and nurturing disciples of Jesus Christ program, Christ's Kids happens on **Wednesdays** 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.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Continuing to *Grow in Faith*, Children's Sunday School follows the Time with Younger Disciples in the Heart of Worship service in CE room 206. Children will explore people Jesus met, healings and miracles of Jesus, and of course, art! Preschoolers through 5th grade are encouraged to join us and continue to grow in God's love. Meeting every Sunday with two services.

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. We meet at **10:10 am** in the **Geneva Room** every Sunday with two worship services.

SCENES FROM THE FUNTIMERS' LUNCHEON AND CAR SHOW



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:

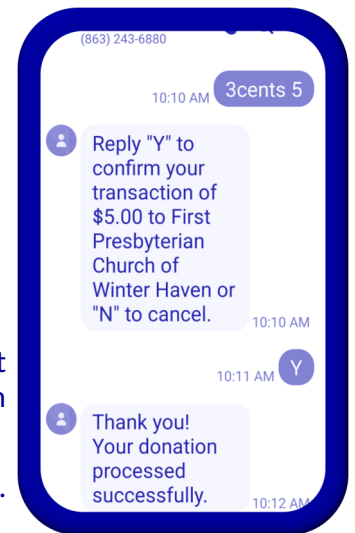
- Pledged (for your offering to be credited to your pledged amount for the current year)
- Offering (Non-pledge or undesignated gifts)
- Music (for Capital Music Campaign Organ/Music)
- 3cents (for 3 Cents-a-Meal)
- Memorial (for when donating in memory of someone)
- Special (for all other donations;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



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.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Gary Salomon	2/11 Lesley Johnston	Diane Plowden
2/2 Karen Clarke	2/12 Ron Dunham	Susan Singleton
Leah Weeks	Dave Ryan	Gail Van Allen
2/3 Marjorie Putnum	Mike Vibral	2/23 Casey Cheatham
Charlie Roe	2/13 Leland Miller	Bill Everhart
Sarah Slocum	Eric Roe	Kathryn McAllister
2/5 Kevin Britt	2/14 Marj Crittenden	Bob Sheffield
Paige Butz	2/15 Daryl Fenley	2/24 Cathey Lane
2/6 Zan Dismuke	Lucas Johnston	Teresa Negley
Ann King	2/16 Jenna Johnston	Drew Powell
Steve Lockhart	Kaden Rabern	Hunter Shinn
Tracy Scheck	JW Scheck	2/25 Thom Rivers
2/7 Tom Wales	2/17 Marie Able	Kassady von Hahmann
2/8 Steffan Bentley	2/18 Kristan Sheffield	2/26 Betts Huff
Chase Reineke	2/19 Matt McGaffigan	Addison Robinson
Argyle Stevens	Edna Mitchell	Nat West
2/9 Augie Andrews	2/21 Donna Rounsley	2/27 Joe Badnell
Vincent Centonze	Squire Smith	2/28 Pam Gray
Collins Counter	2/22 Lynn Aaron	Jane Hayman
Kevin Thomas	2/22 Winston Cranmer	
2/10 Ethan Boland	Neal McBride	

ANNIVERSARIES

2/1 Janie & Bob Hammette	2/14 Norman & Bonnie Patrick
2/2 Gus & Shannon Badnell	2/17 Ross & Jill Kosmensky
George & Kelly Butz	2/19 Ron & Kris Dunham
Greg & Shelly Prather	2/21 Hunter & Jennifer Smith
2/6 Randy & Beth Spiwak	2/22 Adam & Erin Cranmer
2/11 Bob & Shirley Hines	2/24 Bob & Lisa Endres
2/12 Fred & Kathleen Deloach	

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.**

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This newsletter is published weekly.

Church dated material, please deliver by 1/27/23.

Return Service Requested



CALLING ALL FUNTIMERS (OUR 55+ FELLOWSHIP GROUP)

Come and join us for lunch and *Name That Tune* on **Thursday, February 9, from 11:30 am to 1 pm** in McLeod Hall.



To start, we will enjoy fellowship and a catered lunch of chicken, green beans, au gratin potatoes, salad, bread, & desert. You get all of this for just \$15, collected at the door.

Then on to *Name That Tune*! Jim Vobornik and Jeremy Rath will be playing our favorite old tunes that we are sure you will recognize. The winning table with most correct tunes will win a prize. We had so much fun the last time. You won't want to miss this event.

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.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING LUNCHEON



It's time for our annual day of festivities related to *Souper Bowl of Caring*! Before we head to the field, we will enjoy food and fellowship. Our time together will include chili dogs, chips, and good conversation. We are looking for several volunteers to each sign up to bring a pot of chili. If you are willing to help, please contact Emily at esnyder@firstpreswh.org. We look forward to seeing you after church on **February 12**, following our All-Church Gathering Worship service at **10 am**.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING GAME



The annual *Souper Bowl of Caring Youth vs Geezers* football game will be **Sunday, February 12 at 1:30 pm** at the Polk State College soccer fields! Bring your canned goods donations to the church any time from now until the end of February to support our Feeding the Hungry ministry.

PS... In case you were wondering, the youth are the reigning champions for 2022. Good luck, geezers!