



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JUNE 27, 2021 | ISSUE 823



YOUTH SUMMER UPDATE

This summer is packed with activities for our youth! We will be exploring around town and venturing out to enjoy some much needed time at camp later in July.

Our high schoolers will be heading up to Montreat, NC from July 17-24 to enjoy some mountain air, faith, and fellowship while participating in the Montreat Youth Conference.

Our middle schoolers will be heading to Ocklawaha from July 26-30 to unplug from their busy lives, enjoy time with one another, and to grow in their faith while attending The Great Escape.

Thank you for all of your support in making these trips possible! We would appreciate your prayers for safe travels, faith building, and fun times for our upcoming summer events!



COME JOIN US IN SONG!

"Music is a form of prayer, uniting people everywhere. Transcending language, time, and race - rhythm building at a pace will transform most any place into a holy, sacred space." - Joanne Fink.

The Choirs have all been enjoying fellowship, camaraderie, praise, and prayer together as we have resumed rehearsals here at First Pres. It has been such a blessing to be able to make music and praise our God together in song! All ensembles have decided to rehearse and assist in Sunday morning worship throughout the summer months. If you've been thinking about joining us, now is the time!

Chancel Choir rehearses **Wednesday** evenings at **7:00 pm** in the Choir Room on the Third Floor. Our rehearsals usually run for an hour to an hour and fifteen minutes. If you've been thinking of joining us, don't be shy!

Chancel Bells rehearse prior to Choir rehearsal at **6:00 pm** on **Wednesday**. This group works on more difficult music, but all are welcome (even first-time ringers!).

The **Chapel Bells** practice on **Thursday** afternoons at **1:15 pm** in the Bell Room on the Third Floor. This smaller group plays less advanced music than the Chancel Bells, but still celebrates the joy of making music together. Again, all are welcome to come give it a try!

We do have a few scheduled rehearsals off throughout the summer, so be sure to check in with Jeremy or a choir member before you show up to a rehearsal. Contact Jeremy at jrath@firstpreswh.org or 863-294-3121. Come make music with us!

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

Daryl D. Fenley
Director of
Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry
Custodian

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.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, June 27

- 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, June 28

- 10:00 am Congregational Care Cooking
(Kitchen)
- 6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating
Committee (MH)

Tuesday, June 29

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

Wednesday, June 30

- 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (MH/Zoom)

Thursday, July 1

Friday, July 2

Saturday, July 3

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

FLOWER CHART IS IN NARTHEX

You are invited to sign up for your important Sunday worship dates.

Please be sure call the church office the week before with bulletin information.

A YEAR OF THE BIBLE YOU CAN STILL JUMP IN!

We are about halfway through the year and our reading plan to explore the Bible. How has it been going for you? Have you been able to keep up with the schedule? Did you not join in at the beginning, but now want to get started? Did you start earlier this year, but are now struggling to get those readings in?

Don't worry! You can join at any point. If you have fallen behind and worry about catching up, just jump in where we are now. If this becomes an enjoyable spiritual discipline for you, you can always go back later and pick up the readings you missed. So again, we invite you to join us using the schedule in this Tower Chimes. Just pick a day and start discovering what God's Word might say to you today.

MEMBERS

Marie & Roger Able	John Gray	Dick McCauley
Melvin & Debbie Anderson	Jane Hayman	Bob McClew
Kathy Andrews	Frances Heath	Pat Miller
Pat Berrell	Kay Hedden	Edna Mitchell
Orrin & Helen Champlain	Doris Hill	Richard Moots
Charlie Darte	Bryan Howard	Arletta Oriani
Larry Davis	Isobel Hubbard	Kline Roberts
Kathy DeLoach	Jim Huff	John Schleifer
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Scott & Becky Irvin	Joyce Shirah
Zan Dismuke	Martha Johnson	Dale Smith
Dana Elmore	Dena Lancashire	Amy & Sawyer Speer
Bill Everhart	Judy Lindsay	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Ed Gorsky	Eric Lindstrom	Gwen Waters
	Spike & Jane Lucia	Sug Zowarka
	Pat McCarty	

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Sophie Allen.....	Bill & Gloria Allen's great-granddaughter
Carl Barrett.....	Don & Norma Martin's friend
Erin Cherry	Jonathan Owen's friend
Tommy Cooper.....	Jane Hammette's brother-in-law
Mark & Vikki Deedrick	Jane West's friend
John Henry Doughty	Dena Lancashire's brother
Marilyn Harris	Mike Harris' mother
Chris Hazelwood	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Cheri Katz	Don & Norma Martin's daughter
Susanne Miller	Lynn Oakley's friend
Anne Davis Ogburn	Janis Barry's cousin
Stephanie Roberts.....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Diane Secord	Gail Van Allen's friend
Lynn Davis Van Gundy	Janis Barry's cousin
Kelly Walker.....	Tommy Oakley's sister
Bud Willson	Mary Marr's brother
John Willson.....	Mary Marr's brother

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	

WEEK 25



DAY	OLD Testament	NEW Testament Psalms
1	2 Chronicles 1, 2	Galatians 4
2	2 Chronicles 3-5	Galatians 5
3	2 Chronicles 6, 7	Galatians 6
4	2 Chronicles 8, 9	Psalms 72
5	2 Chronicles 10-12	Ephesians 1
6	2 Chronicles 13-15	Ephesians 2
7	2 Chronicles 16, 17	Psalms 73



A CROCODILE SIZE THANK YOU

Grateful to have been able to rock the dock at Crocodile Dock VBS -where fearless kids shined God's light! We are so grateful for all the volunteers who safely made this week great!

We sang some rocking music with **Mr. Jeremy**. We are reminded daily that God is with us, FEAR NOT at Bible Bayou with **Dr. Steve** and **Rev. John**. At the Snack Shack, **Nell Spear**, **Jackie Duggar**, **Cheryce Harris**, **Hanley Renney**, and **Riley Rowker** demonstrated how God cares for us (FEAR NOT!). **Katie Sparr**, **Elizabeth Nepute**, **Mary Ellen Rowker**, and **Chloe Miller** lead creative and fun crafts at Crawfish Crafts where we also shouted – God is faithful (FEAR NOT!). And don't forget at Gator Games where **Philip Batista**, **Alex Maggard**, **Calen Nowroozi**, **Braydon Olmert**, and **Andrew Bryant** lead some fun games; where they learned another Bible point, God is powerful. (FEAR NOT!)

This group of children from 3 years to graduating 5th grade were faithful led with lots of smiles by fantastic Bayou Crew leaders, **Amy McKee**, **Marsha Smith**, **Erin Cramner**, **Ava Frost**, **McKenzie Cinquanti**, **Katie Nepute**, **Michelle Flores**, **Mia Cinquanti**, **Devin Thompson**, **Cindy Rowker**, **Becca Alexander**, **Erin Miller**, **Victoria Warner**, **Peyton Warner**, **Remy Jacobson**, **Sarah Canter**, **Lindsey Ivey**, **Landon Olmert**, and **Lori Roe**.

A special shout out to **Emily Snyder** who took these great photos throughout the week! We closed it all with a 14 foot water slide and sent our kids out into the world to let their lights shine! Thank you again for an incredible bayou bash at VBS 2021!





A CONFIRMATION JOURNEY

We celebrate an important point in faith with 14 young people in our congregation, Confirmation. This is unique group as it includes our confirmation classes from both 2020 and 2021. The pandemic interrupted this experience for last year's group. They had to meet via Zoom for the majority of their time together. In 2021, we started with our next group and fortunately, we were able to bring both classes together for our Confirmation Retreat serving as a capstone for this important journey. It was a joy to walk with both these classes as they explored their faith.

On each Wednesday afternoon, several of our church's sixth, seventh, and eighth grade youth – **Landon Allen, Lydia Badnell, Drew Fenley, Jackson Gainey, Brianna Hunter, Remy Jacobson, Jenna Johnston, Grady Martin, Chloe Miller, Ellisande Nowroozi, Taige Nowroozi, Brayden Olmert, Drew Powell, & Camryn Swango** joined with our pastor, Dr. Negley, and church members Connie Shipley and Susan Singleton, for an exploration of faith. Early on, each young person was presented a new Bible from the congregation of First Presbyterian Church. These compact, hardcover New International Version student Bibles contain a wealth of study aids suited for believers of this age. Three weeks of our Confirmation training were spent “shaking hands with the Bible.”

As our months of meetings unfolded, we discussed the Christian year, the history of the Christian church and the PC(USA), worship, and personal faith. We also conducted a historical scavenger hunt around the church property, and looked at our church's confessions as we studied some banners and climbed to our church's secret hiding place. We made stoles that help express our faith in symbols. The young people selected six symbols with which to adorn these.

One of our Confirmation highlights was our Retreat. This year included our two classes from 2020 & 2021. From 6:00 pm on Friday, May 21 to 6:00 pm on Saturday, May 22, our group along with Steve and Connie, were marvelously busy. After climbing the steeple and enjoying an “organ crawl” hosted by Jeremy Rath, our Director of Music Ministries, we started work on writing individual statements of faith. Each Confirmand was invited to respond in writing to the prompt “To me God is ...” In this newsletter you will find excerpts from the statements of faith that each of these young people composed during Confirmation. (The full copies of their statements of faith are posted on a bulletin board in McLeod Hall.)

The confirmation retreat also included an early morning trip to Publix where we shopped for food for the Saturday Soup Kitchen. For the last four hours of the 24 hour retreat, families of the Confirmands joined us as we prepared and served the meal for our Saturday Soup Kitchen.

Finally, on June 2 our young people were invited to meet with the Elders of our church. The conversation that night revolved around what we believe. The Session members read the statements of faith, and then joined them in responding to the questions which form the basis for membership in our church: Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior? Do you trust Him? Do you intend to be His disciple, to obey His Word, and to show His love?

Please pray for these young people as they continue in their life of discipleship.



To Me God Is...

God is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. He is the creator of all life on Earth. He is my Lord and my Savior, but most of all to me He is my Rock, my Protector, and the one I will always love.

To me God is The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. The father represents the creator. The Son stands for Jesus Christ, God's only son. The Holy Spirit is part of a trinity, that is what God is to me.

He also is a
* savior to me
o cool person to me
o kind person to me
o Heavenly Father to me
o and a protector and healer



The light that lead me out of the darkness, forgiver of my sins, and a miracle maker. My faith and love belongs to Him.

He created my life. So I would not even be here if it was not for God. God protects me and he will never stop protecting me, or you. He is the power of love all around. He loves me. He loves my family. He loves my friends. He loves you.

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[am. a. daughters of a. King!

Sometimes we rebel from God, ignoring his commandments, accepting lies as the truth, and harming the Earth. But yet God acts with justice and shows mercy to redeem creation.

He is my friend. God has taught me do's and don'ts. God is someone who treats everyone equally, no matter what race, gender, everyone is equal, even if the poorest of the poor or the richest of the rich. We are all equal in God's eyes

We were made in God's image and he doesn't just look at the outside of us. He sees us and our inner soul. Maybe the soul that we thought we had locked up forever, but God can break that lock with His touch.

He plans our lives to help us through and come to him in Heaven and grant us the everlasting life through faith.

God is the ultimate forgiver, and the best friend, I will ever have. My favorite verse is Proverbs 27:19, "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart". I have devoted my life to you, and with that, to me God is a faith that will live in my heart, for years and years to come, and forever and more.

To me, God is my savior and protector. He brought us here to keep company. He's always with you everywhere you go.

I love God and he loves me.

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:

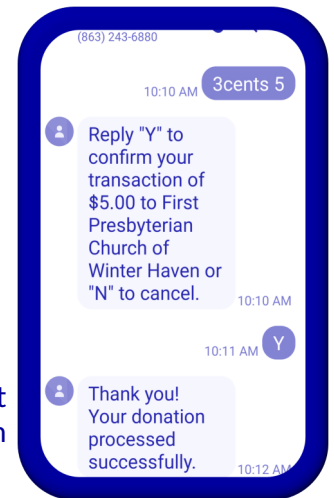
- Pledged (for your offering to be credited to your pledged amount for the current year)
- Offering (Non-pledge or undesignated gifts)
- Music (for Capital Music Campaign Organ/Music)
- 3cents (for 3 Cents-a-Meal)
- Memorial (for when donating in memory of someone)
- Special (for all other donations;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

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 and ask to be added to the list.

WE HAVE AN EXTRA WAY OF GIVING!

Go to our Church website at www.firstpreswh.org 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.

BIRTHDAYS

7/1	Dorothy Leavitt Gannon Olmert Bill Ussery	7/15	Jeremiah Johnston Ann Walker	7/23	Jim Huff Landon Olmert
7/2	Bill Johnston Tim Swango	7/16	Larry Davis Elizabeth Nepute Bethany Owen	7/24	Bob Bentley Jim Threlkel Kenneth vonHahmann
7/3	Brock Johnston	7/17	Janet Howard Chuck Watson	7/25	Kathy Andrews Weegie Bentley Sarah Dugger Markie McCann Bob Steele
7/4	Cameron Badnell	7/18	Charlie Darte Jean Strang	7/26	Sharon Mitchell Danielle Thompson
7/5	Cindy Steele	7/19	Justin Hoagland Tanner Owens Brooklyn Porter Scott Saterbo	7/27	Landon Allen Gail Damkjer Bob Doyel Joann Gray Pete Snively
7/6	Pat McCarty	7/20	Gladys Larson David Nicholson Cynthia Saterbo Angela Scamehorn	7/28	Kathy Cheatham Timothy McKee T. Michael Stavres
7/7	Margaret Braun	7/21	Billy Johnston Mary Marrs Kaye Stine	7/29	Ray Garcia Dena Lancashire Katie Nepute Lois Russell
7/8	Bob McClew Ken Miller Lori Roe	7/22	David Dismuke Robin Miller Doug Purnell Linda Stavres Susan Vickers	7/30	Anne McCauley John Scheck
7/9	Sarah Abbott Ed Gorsky Reagan Scheck	7/23	Riley Hicks	7/31	Lisa Endres
7/10	Marjorie DiLorenzo Sharon Mann Tami O'Neal Lauren Schwenk				
7/12	Kate Eelman Sean Ivey Len Porter				
7/13	Kelly Bogey Melody Johnson				
7/14	Emily Alexander				
7/15	Toni Barger				

ANNIVERSARIES

7/4	Jim & Pat Vobornik	7/16	Dave & Bonnie Ryan	7/21	Rod & Betty Lewis
7/5	John & Marilyn Schleifer	7/17	Dave & Katie Sparr	7/23	Stuart & Judy Fitzgerald
7/7	Tim & Glynn Swango	7/20	Randy & Roxane McCann		Bill & Karen Siegel
7/9	Mike & Amy Speer	7/20	Billy & Leah Melvin Randy & Karla vonHahmann	7/28	Ed & Loretta Smith David & Mandy Matha
7/10	Bob & Judy Winfree	7/21	Janet & Bob Howard Kenny & Lynn Lasseter		
7/13	Mal & Lynn Boland				
7/14	Richard & Sharon Bogey				



HOW ARE YOU DOING?

Our newly commissioned Stephen Ministers have begun monthly supervision and continuing education. Pray for them as they begin their first caregiving assignments and continue to grow as caregivers. Here are the topics they'll be covering in continuing education in the coming months: Ministering to the Dying and Their Family and Friends; Caring for People Before, During, and After Hospitalization; Ministering to Those Experiencing Losses Related to Aging; Ministering to Persons Needing Long-Term Care; Ministering to Those Experiencing Divorce; Crises of Pregnancy and Childbirth; and Providing Spiritual Care.

Are you struggling? Do you need someone to talk to? To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, call **Connie Shipley** at 863-221-2224 or speak to one of our other Stephen Minister leaders: **Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Barbara Perkins.**

First Presbyterian Church
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Lakeland, FL

This newsletter is published weekly.
Church dated material, please deliver by 6/25/21.

Return Service Requested

Bag Lunch Ministry 
We gave out 101 lunches
the week of 6/14/21.

 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**
We fed 44 people on
Saturday, 6/19/21.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!

Our Soup Kitchen provides an incredible outreach and positive impact in our community. Every Saturday, this church helps to feed 80-100 hungry people. For many, this meal is one of the few of significant substance that they will eat all week.

Many of our members volunteer just a few hours of their time to help prepare the food and serve those in need. While the majority of Soup Kitchen opportunities are covered this summer, we have a few Saturdays in July (particularly **July 3** and **17**) when we still need your help. If you have never helped before or have questions, fear not, our Deacons can address any uncertainties and help you feel comfortable in serving.

In addition to volunteering, the financial gifts you provide help make this ministry a reality. You make a difference and we are grateful for the continued support of this vital effort. Interested in learning more or signing up, contact the church office, any of our Deacons, or check out the sign-up sheet in McLeod Hall.



SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR NEXT BIG EVENT!

On **August 22**, we will gather as a church family to celebrate a great summer, to kick off our school-year programs, and to lift up the start of the school year in prayer. This annual summer picnic will take place immediately **following the 11 am worship service** and will feature great food, lots of fun, and time to come together and enjoy the company of this incredible community of faith. More details will be coming soon and we hope you will make this event a priority on your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there!