



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 21, 2023 | ISSUE 914

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & ALL CHURCH GATHERING SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE



The Session has called for a congregational meeting for this **Sunday, May 21 at 9:55 am** in the Sanctuary. We will hear the report of the Nominating Committee to the class of 2024 and elect Deacons and Elders to the class of 2026. Please see bios inside.

Then join us for our *All Church Gathering Single Worship Service* at **10 am** as we praise God for the faith our confirmands: **Cody Dugger, Brooke Gunderson, Ellie Hoagland, Jackson Palomaki, and Delanie Stavres**. We will join together after worship for a reception in McLeod Hall with these newest members of our church.

3 CENTS-A-MEAL THIS SUNDAY



We will collect the *3 Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering* during our worship services this **Sunday, May 21**. This special offering is divided among our Soup Kitchen & Bag Lunch Ministry, the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, and our support of the church in Honduras. We hope you will set aside your pennies to help feed those in our community and beyond.

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY



You are invited to join us **this Sunday, May 21 from 5:30 - 7 pm** in McLeod Hall for a covered dish meal and viewing a behind the scenes discussion for season 1 of *The Chosen*. Look for other summer dates coming soon.

REGISTER NOW FOR VBS!



Vacation Bible School is **June 4-8, 5:30-8 pm**, and we will head to Babylon! Registration is open for 4 years through 5th graders as participants. Younger children may join with an adult volunteer.

Calling all teen and adult volunteers, don't forget to sign-up too! Check the church website for more information or contact Rev. Sarah.

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. 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

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, May 21 CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 3 CENTS-A-MEAL

- 9:55 am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
10:00 am All Church Gathering Worship (Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
11:15 am Confirmation Reception (MH)
5:30 pm The Chosen Bible Study (MH)
5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, May 22

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (MH)

Tuesday, May 23

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
5:00 pm Stephen Minister Leaders (MH)
6:00 pm Stephen Ministers (MH)
6:00 pm Worship & Music (UR)

Wednesday, May 24

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, May 25

Friday, May 26

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, May 27

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

ANGEL VAN DRIVERS NEEDED



We are trying to, once again, have our Angel Van offer transportation to and from our worship services on Sunday for church members who have transportation needs. We are looking for qualified drivers to help us staff this ministry.

If you have a good driving record, are at least 25 years old (to meet requirements of our church vehicle insurer) and would be willing to volunteer a couple of Sunday mornings a year before and after worship to help brothers and sisters in Christ attend worship, please call or email the church office.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Jane Hayman	Jackie Pinckney
Debbie Anderson	Jim Huff	Mary Ellen Porter
Pat Berrell	Scott & Becky Irvin	Kim Powell
Orrin Champlain	Jill Kosmensky	David Ryan
Ellie Crowder	Dena Lancashire	Marilyn Schleifer
Julie Dantzler	Ray & Gladys Larson	Dick Shaw
Brenda Darte	Pat McCarty	Joyce Shirah
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Dick McCauley	Dale Smith
Zan Dismuke	Sue McClew	Susan Smith
Rob Donaldy	Pat Miller	Katie Sparr
Dana Elmore	Edna Mitchell	Sarah Summers
Bill Everhart	Heidi Munoz-Gutierrez	Kathy Taber
Lynne Grady	Jeri & Tom Oldt	Barbara Tackett
Pam Gray	Joe Oriani	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Alan Harvey		Jennifer & Mike Vibral

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Holton & Briley Adcock..... Jeff, Lisa, & Emily Snyder's friends
Jameson Adcock Jeff, Lisa, & Emily Snyder's friend
Dolores Clay-Barton Karen Gerber's sister
Phillip Burkhart Lynn Oakley's friend
Caren Coleman Lynn Van Gundy's friend
Kenneth Damkjer Ron Damkjer's brother
Scott Davis Larry & Peggy Davis' son
Phillip Deblinger Greg & Mary Marrs' friend
Merrybeth Etherton & family Bob & Judy Winfree's daughter
Paul Gilliam Debbie Anderson's dad
Hap Hazelwood Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Stephen Houmard Rick & Pat Reass' grandson
Bruce Leinback Bill Everhart's friend
Khyla Martinez Paul & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter
Kile McKee Greg Marrs' cousin
Ginger Stanley Lynn Oakley's friend
Karen Thompson Kristen Sheffield' mother
Jack Tyler & Family Becky Irvin's brother-in-law
David Young Lynn Oakley's friend

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	

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES



These 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.

NOMINATED OFFICER'S BIOGRAPHIES

NOMINATING COMMITTEE AT-LARGE ~ CLASS OF 2024

CHERYCE HARRIS has been a member of First Pres for 30 years. She has served the church as a faithful choir and bell choir member, youth volunteer, member of the Worship and Music Committee, a Deacon and an Elder and has been on several search committees. Cheryce is honored to be nominated to represent the congregation on the Nominating Committee.

PAUL A. MONTGOMERY was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He married his high school sweetheart, Anne, earned a B.S. in pharmacy from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science in 1963 and a Doctorate in Pharmacy from Rutgers University in 1994. Paul, now retired, worked in the pharmaceutical industry managing clinical studies of investigational drugs at Wallace Labs, GSK, and Kyowa Pharmaceuticals for more than 40 years. The couple has two sons: Paul Jr., who lives in Allentown, PA and James who lives in Winter Haven since their family moved here in 2016. Paul has served as Elder at First Pres and Elder/Trustee in two Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania, enjoys golf with James and looks forward to serving the congregation again.

DILLON POWELL was born in Columbia, MD and moved to Florida at a young age. He was raised in Winter Haven where he joined First Pres and was baptized by Dr. Negley. Since then, he has been heavily involved in the life of the church with the youth group, soup kitchen volunteering, a search committee, and Dillon's personal favorite, joining the church's praise band during his freshman year of high school in which he still plays in today. He graduated from Lakeland Christian School in the spring of 2020. He currently is attending college at the University of Florida in Gainesville where he is pursuing a major in Finance. Dillon is very thankful for all the opportunities granted by the church to grow as a Christian and as a person and looks forward to serving on the Nominating Committee.

MIKE SENEY was born in North Little Rock, Arkansas and moved to Winter Haven in time to attend 8th grade at Denison Junior High School. Mike currently resides in Winter Haven with his wife, Martha. Mike and Martha are both proud graduates of the University of Florida where their oldest child, Caitlin, recently graduated. His two sons, Ryan and Kyle, are currently attending the University of Central Florida. Mike is employed by South State Bank as the Director of Appraisal Management. Mike has been a member of First Pres since August of 2001. He has previously served as both a Deacon and Elder and currently spends most of his volunteer time at the church working in the sound booth for Sunday morning worship.

KATHRYN (KAY) GRAY WEEKS was born and raised in Winter Haven. Baptized when she was a baby in this church, she is a 3rd generation First Pres member. Kay is married to Carson Weeks. Kay has recently retired from Florida's Natural Growers in Lake Wales after 36 years. She is currently enjoying spending her days with her 3 dogs and 1 cat and her retired husband when he is not playing golf! Kay has served as an Elder at First Pres and a Sunday School teacher for longer than she can remember. Kay served on the Finance Committee for many years. She has also helped at VBS and the soup kitchen. Kay is honored to be asked to serve on the Nominating Committee.

ELDER ~ CLASS OF 2026

AMY MCKEE grew up in Winter Haven and has been actively involved at First Pres her entire life. She grew up singing in the Crusader choir, attending Cedarkirk during the summer, participated in Middle School and High School Youth Groups, served as a Deacon and Youth Coordinator during college, went on three mission trips to Honduras, and enjoyed many other church-related activities. She received her Bachelors in Business Management in 2002 from the University of Central Florida and her Masters in Business Administration from Warner University in 2009. In 2012, Amy married Joe McKee. They have three children; Jonathan (8) Timothy (6) and Grace (3). Amy served as Director of Christian Education at First Pres from 2006-2016. Amy is honored that she has been asked to continue to serve as an Elder at her home church.

I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13 NIV

KEITH A. "ANDY" RAY was born and raised in Winter Haven, graduating from Winter Haven High School. He participated in the Boy Scouts of America's Police Explorer program and played tuba as a member of the Pride of Winter Haven marching band while in high school. He attended Parkland Baptist Church with his family until moving their membership to First Pres when he was fourteen. He received his associate degree from Polk State College and his bachelor degree from Florida State University. He then had a 25 year career with the Polk County Sheriff's Office, retiring as a captain, then a second career of 10 years at Auburndale Police Department, where he retired last year as the police chief. Andy is married to Sherie and has an adult son, Kasey, who grew up in the church as well. Andy has served previously as a Nominating Committee member, a Deacon, and an Elder. He currently serves as a member of the Personnel Committee and looks forward to serving again on Session.

LISA SNYDER was born in Anderson, SC. The second time she moved to Florida was in 1976. She has been a member of the First Pres for over 45 years. She graduated from USF with a Bachelor's degree in Marketing. She is married to Jeff Snyder and they have two girls; Lindsay Thibodaux and Emily Snyder. Lisa is retired from State Farm after 38 years of service. She has taught Sunday School for over 20 years and has helped with VBS and Christ's Kids. Lisa is honored to be asked to serve as an Elder.

DAVID SPARR was born in Pennsylvania and was baptized and attended Wampum Presbyterian Church. He graduated from Clarion University with a B.F.A. in Technical Theater and moved to Arizona in 2002. He moved to Florida in 2003 to start working at Walt Disney World where he has worked ever since. He married his wife Katie, who he met in college in 2004, and they both started to attend First Pres in 2008 after years of searching for a church home. They have two children Laura (13) and Abby (10) who have both been baptized at First Pres. He has served as a Deacon, on the Christian Education Committee and volunteered with the sound booth on Sunday mornings.

KALEN WEST was born in Winter Haven, FL to wonderful Christian parents (Nat and Jane) and grew up pretending to be a Cypress Garden's Aquamaid, playing sports and spending time laughing with family and friends. She graduated from Florida Atlantic University with a degree in Elementary Education and then earned her Master's in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. After college, in 1996, she moved to Atlanta, GA where she began her teaching career and grew closer to God in her work with YMCA. In 2002, Kalen returned to Winter Haven to start a family. Kalen is the proud mother of Kaden and Carley. She is currently a "Problem Solving Mathematics Facilitator", which is a fancy title for Math Lab Teacher at Brigham Academy. At First Pres, Kalen has served on VBS teams, in the soup kitchen, volunteered as the "extra adult" for the youth events, hosted Young Adult Bible Study and Game Nights, and attended church-wide retreat weekends. Kalen values the relationships she has made while attending First Pres and loves the difference our church has made in the lives of her children. She is looking forward to serve in the role of Elder.

DEACONS ~ CLASS OF 2026

DAVID FELLOWS was born in Groton, Connecticut in 1963. His father moved the family to New York after getting out of the Navy before settling in Georgia in 1976. David graduated from Mount Vernon Christian school in 1981. It was there that he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. David served in the U.S. Army as an infantryman from June '85 – May '92. He got out as a Staff Sergeant following the 1st Gulf War to attend the University of West Alabama. David earned a B.S. in Sociology with a minor in Political Science and Masters of Science in Continuing Education before moving to Florida to work for Florida Southern College in the Department of Student Life. David has been a teacher for the past 15 years. He is currently employed by Florida Virtual School as a Middle School Social Science instructor. David has three daughters, Madison, TJ, & Mele and is the proud grandfather of twin girls.

KELLI IVEY has been a member of First Pres for 35 years. She has served the church as an Elder, youth volunteer, Youth Director Search Committee, VBS volunteer, Sunday School teacher, CTTS/Nativity Director, and, most recently, assists in leading The Chosen Bible Study. Kelli's favorite activity is spending time with her children, Sean & Lindsey. They are God's blessings and the loves of her life! Kelli raised Sean and Lindsey at First Pres and they have been very active, as well, serving on Session and Diaconate, as youth group volunteers, search committees, and the First Pres Praise Band. Kelli and her family enjoy spending time with their church family and being active at First Pres. First Pres has been such a blessing to them, and Kelli is honored to be nominated as a Deacon for her First Pres family!

AUTUMN DESTINY JACOBSON was born in San Pablo, California in 1988, but grew up and lived most of her life in Arcadia, Florida. She is the youngest daughter of Ronald and Tamara Jacobson. As a young child, Autumn was baptized at The First Presbyterian Church of Arcadia. Here she participated in church activities such as youth group, VBS, and Montreat until young adult age. After graduating DeSoto County High School in the top 10% of the 2006 graduating class, Autumn went on to earn various college degrees. Autumn is the mother to Remy & Zeymond Jacobson. For the past ten years she has been employed by Crews Banking Corporation, where currently she is the Insurance Tracking and Escrow Supervisor. Autumn is blessed to be called to serve as a Deacon.

CARRIE MITCHELL was born and raised in Lexington, NC. Carrie earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In the summer of 2017, Carrie and her husband David moved to Winter Haven, FL. She has been teaching band in public schools for 11 years and since moving to Florida has spent the last 6 years as the band director at Haines City High School. Carrie and her husband David have been attending First Pres since February of 2020, and welcomed their first child, Lily, in July of 2020. Carrie feels honored to have been nominated to serve as a Deacon for First Pres!

KIM ZIMMERMAN was born in Burlington, WI and attended Cross Lutheran Church with her family. Kim moved to Winter Haven in 1985 and became a member of Hope Presbyterian where she eventually became a Deacon. She joined First Pres in 2016, where she feels honored to be a Stephen Minister and to volunteer occasionally for the Saturday soup kitchen. She has two grown children in whom she is extremely proud, and is happy they both live close by. She works as a costume designer and seamstress at Legoland and loves her job.

First Presbyterian Church
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This newsletter is published weekly.

Church dated material, please deliver by 5/19/23.

Return Service Requested

Bag Lunch Ministry
We gave out 210 lunches
the week of 5/8/23. 

 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**
We fed 102 people on
Saturday, 5/13/23.

MOM CAREGIVER NOW HIRING



We are excited for a great year at our Morning Out Mom's ministry starting in August but in order for that to happen, we need one more staff person. Know of someone who is reliable, caring, and just a joy around young children? Would they be interested in a part-time, MOM's caregiver position? Have someone in mind and they have more questions, please contact Rev. Sarah to learn more.

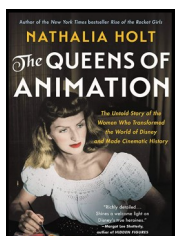
FUNTIMERS (OUR 55+ FELLOWSHIP GROUP)



Our next FunTimers will be **June 23rd, 11 am to 2 pm** in McLeod Hall. We will share our past or present hobbies through pictures, lectures or examples. Sign up in McLeod Hall or contact the church office.

A catered lunch will be served for \$15 per person.

BOOK CLUB



We invite you to join us **Monday, July 17 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss *The Queens of Animation* by Nathalia Holt.

We hope you will come together with us for a time of fellowship and discussion of this gripping story of how women's vital contributions were made to Disney's Golden Age and their continued impact on animated filmmaking.

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