



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of November 15, 2020

Issue 784

134 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



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 at 12:15

Following the 11:00 Traditional Worship Service

Help us decorate First Pres for the upcoming Christmas season. We will meet at 12:15 in McLeod Hall for a boxed lunch, and then use our talents as we spread out to put up the Christmas trees and hang the garland and wreaths.

Let us know (office@firstpreswh.org) if you plan to join us.



COME TO THE STABLE CHRISTMAS STROLL

**Saturday, December 12
6-8 pm**

Join us for an enchanted evening as we welcome you to "Come to the Stable Christmas Stroll" in the First Pres parking lot. See the beauty of the nativity come to life before your eyes.

Live actors and animals, as well as music will bring the spirit of Jesus into your hearts this joyous season. This event is open to the public. Tell your neighbors and friends. Invite them to see what First Pres is all about. Share in the joy of the Christmas season!

Opportunities this Week

Sunday, November 15

3 CENTS-A-MEAL

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 9:25 am Children's Sunday School (CE 203)
- 10:30 am Call Session/Receive New Members
(MH/Zoom)
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group
(GC Backyard)

Monday, November 16

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Tuesday, November 17

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
- 9:30 am Joy Circle (MH/Zoom)
- 12:00 pm Finance (UR/Zoom)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
- 6:30 pm Deacons (MH/Zoom)

Wednesday, November 18

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 4:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group
(GC Backyard)
- 6:15 pm Worship & Music (Zoom)

Thursday, November 19

Friday, November 20

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, November 21

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

OUR PASTORS ARE EAGER TO VISIT OUR HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP

The tightening of HIPAA regulations has meant that we have missed visiting some of our members during their hospital stay. If you are a member or a friend of this congregation, or you have a family member admitted to *any* hospital, please call the church office and let our pastors know.



**Thank you for helping us stay in touch
with the congregation!**

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Marie & Roger Able | Jane Hayman | Bob McClew |
| Melvin & Debbie Anderson | Joyce Hayman | Edna Mitchell |
| Kathy Andrews | Frances Heath | Bethany Owen |
| Pat Berrell | Kay Hedden | Barbara Roberts |
| John Brack | Doris Hill | George Seagreaves |
| Orrin & Helen Champlain | Bryan Howard | Bob Sheffield |
| Carl Cheatham | Isobel Hubbard | Joyce Shirah |
| Charlie Darte | Jim Huff | Dale Smith |
| Dave Davidson | Scott & Becky Irvin | Joel & Barbara H. Smith |
| Marjorie DiLorenzo | Martha Johnson | Linda Stavres |
| Zan Dismuke | Dena Lancashire | T. Michael Stavres |
| Jana Easterling | Betty Lewis | Christine Stevens |
| Dana Elmore | Eric Lindstrom | Pam Tallent-Blackburn |
| Bill Everhart | Spike & Jane Lucia | Mike Vibral |
| Lynda Giles | Beth Luxford | Gwen Waters |
| John Gray | Mary & Greg Marrs | Carson Weeks |
| Jane Hammette | Anne McBride | Sug Zowarka |
| | Pat McCarty | |
| | Dick McCauley | |

Relatives & Friends

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| John Brack | John & Doris Brack's son |
| Curtis Capers | Pat McCarty's friend |
| Connie Craig | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Sherry Dart | John & Doris Brack's friend |
| John & Muriel Davis | Dick & Anne McCauley's friends |
| Margaret Dorman | Brenda Darte's mother |
| Susie Fisher | Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin |
| Donald Gatlin | Pat McCarty's friend |
| Bonnie Gaudet | Bob Howard's sister |
| Lynda Giles | Polly Wilson's niece |
| Lynda Holyk | Paul Montgomery's sister |
| LuAnn Hurley | Sandy Hoffman's friend |
| Frances Jewell | Bob & Shirley Hines' friend |
| Lottie Johnson | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Susan Lobdell | Jonathan Owen's friend |
| Sue Miller | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Michael Oriani | Joe Oriani's brother |
| Paula Penna | Steven Lockhart's friend |
| Joan Richter | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Sonny & Nancy Robinson | Susan Singleton's friends |
| Jane & Mario Scarpa | Judy Winfree's friends |
| Toni Shaw | Candy Marshall's friend |
| Barbara Sjolander | Judy & Richard Moot's friend |
| Bennie Spangers | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |
| Jim Steele | Bob Steele's brother |
| Nicole Upson | Amy McKee's friend |

MILITARY

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

3 CENTS-A-MEAL THIS SUNDAY

We will collect the **3 Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering** during worship services this **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15.**

This offering is divided between our Soup Kitchen/Bag Lunch Ministry, Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry, and Honduras.



WHAT'S NEW WITH SECUREGIVE?



SECUREGive
Giving Made Simple

With each transaction, there are fees charged by the credit card processing companies. Securegive now has a "Separate Fee Offset" option when giving online. This option, if chosen, will increase the transaction to help offset transaction fees, the fee amount will be calculated based on the selected payment method. These fees are up to 2.5% of the transaction depending on the card used (the amount will be shown once the option is chosen).

New donors will see this as one of their options and they must select yes or no. If you are currently using the online service you will need to go into your account and update your information, as it is not automatic.

The total amount will be considered a donation and will appear on your quarterly statement. If you have any questions, call Robin, (863)294-3121.

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.



VIRTUAL COFFEE GATHERING DECEMBER 6, 10:20AM – 10:45AM

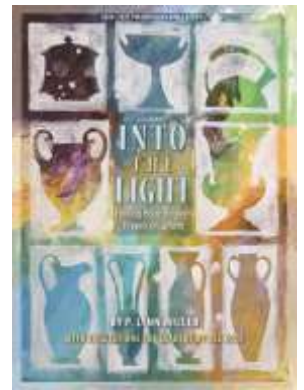
Grab your morning beverage of choice and log-in to Zoom for an informal gathering with your church family! Follow the link below Sunday morning, Dec. 6 at 10:20am and say hello! Those comfortable gathering in-person can grab a seat in McLeod Hall and join the conversation as well. To join by Zoom, follow the steps below:

1. Go to: <https://zoom.us/join>
2. Enter Meeting ID: **943 8130 1830**
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 say 'hi!'



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 Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month and will meet on **November 17 at 9:30 am** in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

The Lydia Circle meets on the **2nd Monday** of each month and will meet on **December 14 at 10:00 am** in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

The study books are available at a cost of \$10. Contact either Sue McClew at (863)604-1610, Carol Carter at (863)206-7095, or the church office (863)294-3121 to purchase your copy. Our groups are open to any and all women of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.

If you prefer to join by Zoom, please call Sue for the Lydia Circle, Carol for the Joy Circle, or Connie in the church office to provide your email. You can also email your request to cshipley@firstpreswh.org. Be sure to indicate which circle you wish to join.



NEXT PRAYER SHAWL MEETING IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 10:00 AM In McLeod Hall at a safe, social distance.

If you feel comfortable and like to knit/crochet, we would love to have you join us. But... you don't need to be able to meet with us to participate.

You can knit or crochet at home. There is lots of yarn in the closet at the church. So please help us bring comfort to others with the lap robes and prayer shawls that we create. Any pattern you would like to use would be fine, but we usually keep things pretty simple.

We want to continue to be able to meet the need for the prayer shawls so your help will be greatly appreciated! Call the church office at (863) 294-3121 if you have questions.

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.



MEN'S LUNCH IS HYBRID

You have two ways to attend the
First Pres Men's Lunch on Tuesdays at noon.

You can still Zoom and the invite will continue to be sent Tuesday mornings. The Zoom connection will be on the flat panel TV at the end of the table in McLeod Hall. You will be seen and heard as a full participant in the Men's Lunch. If you would like to join us by Zoom and have not been receiving the invites by email, please contact the office at 294-3121 or office@firstpreswh.org and ask to be added to the list.

OR

You can join us in person at our socially distanced table in McLeod Hall.

- You will need to wear a mask.
- We will be seated around the tables – six feet apart.
- We'll get to see each other face-to-face (or at least eye to eye) like we can on Sunday mornings.



We hope you'll join us with one of these options as we continue meeting together as brothers in Christ. And don't forget your lunch!

DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Starting January 13, 2021—Wednesdays—6 PM



Worried about this year's financial impact and wanting to build a healthier conversation around money in your household? Need help and support in creating a family budget and getting real about planning for the future? Just want to be honest about questions with those who have been there for financial blunders? Then it's time for Financial Peace!

Join Pam and Lee Wilkerson for this 9 week class to talk about these issues and so much more. No judgement and no shame as we start Wednesday, Jan. 13th., meeting in McLeod Hall at 6pm. You need to sign up now to get the work binder and the benefits of membership to FPU. Sign up NOW before the class starts at fpu.com/1124153

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:20-10:20 AM

AND

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM FOR NOVEMBER IS UP!

Sunday School continues for our children (PreK-5th grade) after the time with younger disciples in the Heart of Worship service.

This One Room Class will be meeting in **Room 203**. And ART on the third Sunday will be meeting in **Room 207**. Rev. Sarah has also set up a virtual classroom for families to do Bible Study at home! Monthly lessons will be available at the start of each month.



CHRIST KIDS



The school year has started and you know what that means?!? 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.

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 and can't wait to see all of you soon.

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. We can't wait for 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.



*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,
For his steadfast love endures forever.*

Psalm 136:1



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.

Re-Opening First Presbyterian Church to Public Worship

When confronted by COVID-19 posed a significant threat to the health and safety of the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, the Session suspended the gathering for public worship, initiating virtual worship services exclusively beginning March 22, 2020.

With a continued concern for the health and welfare our church family, seeking to maintain robust virtual worship while also providing the safe opportunity for those who wish to again assemble in God's house for praise and prayer, the Session appointed a Task Force on the Re-Opening of First Presbyterian Church for Worship, and re-entry in public gatherings.

Moving toward opening the doors of God's house once again for services of public worship, the Task Force met for prayerful research and reflection on two questions:

- 1) What criteria should be used for allowing the return to public worship?
- 2) What will public worship look like as we first return?

On June 2, 2020, the Session met for discussion on the Task Force recommendations and adopted the following **Plan for Re-opening:**

- 1) Guided by Polk County statistics on the efforts to combat the COVID-19 virus, as evidenced in a steady or downward trend in the number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations and in the percentage of positive cases (as compared to total tested) reported, **the church re-opened our doors to those who wish to attend in-person worship on Sunday, June 14, 2020.** (We are also continuing our vibrant virtual on-line worship experience on FaceBook Live)
- 2) **As we return to public worship in our church facility, we have implemented the following measures** to provide for the health and safety of our sisters and brothers in Christ.
 - a) Our worship schedule includes 2 Sunday worship services in our sanctuary - **Heart of Worship at 9:00 am** and **Traditional Worship at 11:00 am.** (This time change for Heart of Worship service allows for thorough cleaning between services.)
 - b) The second-floor exterior doors leading to the walkway to the CE building will remain open to increase the flow of fresh air into our ventilation system.
 - c) All worshipers will be greeted under the porte-cochere at the west entrance with a brief health questionnaire.
 - d) All worshippers will be asked to complete or bring a daily attendance card.
 - e) Out of concern and care for all who gather for worship, all worshipers ages three and older will be required to wear a face covering (covering mouth and nose) while inside the church buildings.
 - f) Hand sanitation stations will be located throughout the church facility with all encouraged to use upon entrance and exiting facility and other designated area (water fountains, restrooms, elevator buttons, stair rails, etc.)
 - g) All paths leading to the worship space will be marked with six-foot separation stripes.
 - h) The sanctuary will be marked with "worship sites for family units" (a single person, couple, or family grouping) with 8-foot separation in all directions for safe social distancing. (The first row of the balcony will be left vacant)
 - i) Ushers (observing a six-foot separation) will escort worshipers to the next available worship site, filling the sanctuary from front to back, to minimize contact in passing by other worshipers.
 - j) Worship will be modified in accordance with best practices, to reduce the threat of airborne virus spread.
 - k) Following worship, ushers will dismiss the congregation starting at the back of the sanctuary and proceeding to the front, encouraging those who need to use the elevator to proceed to that location with safe distancing and asking those who can traverse the stairs to proceed to the north or south side stairwells.
 - l) Immediately after the sanctuary is vacated following the Heart of Worship service, sanitation teams will disinfect all surfaces which have been touched in preparation for the arrival of the next worshipers.

The Session will continue to monitor the progression of the COVID-19 virus in our community, and will meet regularly to discuss any modifications to our public worship plan. The Session will also be making decisions on the resumption of other in-person activities here in our church facilities. We look forward to our continued life together as Christ's body.

First Presbyterian Church
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863-294-3121
FAX 863-294-1105
www.firstpreswh.org
office@firstpreswh.org

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.

Adopted by Session, 2003

This newsletter is published weekly.

Summer months and holidays published bi-weekly.

Church dated material, please deliver by 11/13/20.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 125 bag lunches
the week of 10/26/20.

We gave out 497
bag lunches in October, 2020.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 80 people on 10/31/20.

We fed 358 in October, 2020.

Return Service Requested

YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT FIRST PRES...

amazon smile



You shop. Amazon gives.

**Go to
smile.amazon.com**

**Then search
Winter Haven First Presbyterian Church**