



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of November 25, 2018

Issue 693

132 Years of Ministry

Dr. Steven R. Negley
Senior Pastor

Dr. C. Alan Harvey
Associate Pastor

Rev. Sarah A. Bishop
Associate Pastor for
Christian Education and
Family Ministries

Dr. James G. Manor
Parish Associate

Lynn M. McCoy
Director of
Music Ministries

Robin D. Miller
Director of Finance &
Administration

Leonard A. Mosiah
Director of Student
Ministries

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative Assistant

Rose S. Flynn
Office Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant
Director of Maintenance

Kathy L. Jackson
Custodian

DECK THE HALLS

We hope you will join us as we DECK THE HALLS and decorate First Pres for the Advent and Christmas Season.

On Monday night, November 26, EVERYONE is invited to join us for the festivities.

Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m.

Grilled cheese sandwiches will be provided.

You are invited to bring a pot of soup or chili to share.

At 6 p.m. we will divide into groups to Deck the Halls.

You can help others hang the Advent banners.

You might want to prepare the candles (placing the candles into the holders) for the Christmas Eve Service.

Your skill might be helping others hanging the garland and angels in the sanctuary, or fluffing and erecting the sanctuary Christmas trees.

There will be Christmas music playing throughout the church, and happy people everywhere Decking the Halls, preparing God's house for the holiday season.

We plan to have the finishing touches in place by 8 p.m. and hope to see you here!



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, November 25

- 8:00 a.m. Chapel Worship (Chapel)
- 9:15 a.m. Connection (MH)
- 9:15 a.m. Heart of Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School-Children/Adults CE)
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 p.m. Praise Band (Sanctuary)
- 5:30 p.m. High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, November 26

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 10:30 a.m. Prayer Shawl (MH)
- 5:30 p.m. Deck the Halls (MH)

Tuesday, November 27

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
- 1:15 p.m. Presbytery Women Bible Study Leaders (MCR)
- 5:15 p.m. Stephen Minister Leaders (MH)
- 6:15 p.m. Worship & Music (UR)
- 6:30 p.m. Stephen Ministers (MH)

Wednesday, November 28

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CE)
- 5:00 p.m. MSYG Music (GC)
- 5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
- 5:30 p.m. Community Outreach (MCR)
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
- 7:00 p.m. Choir (MS)

Thursday, November 29

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 1:15 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, November 30

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)

Saturday, December 1

- 2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
- 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Roger Able | Doris Hill | Jane Ray |
| Kathy Andrews | Bryan Howard | Barbara Roberts |
| Bill Brack | Bob & Isobel Hubbard | Earle Roberts |
| Tom Brackett | Jim Huff | Elsie Savant |
| Henry Braun | Martha Johnson | Beverly Seagreaves |
| Nancy Brooks | Joey Johnston | Joyce Shirah |
| Helen Butz | Peggy Kennedy | Susan Heyer Singleton |
| Helen Champlain | John Kissel | Mary Alice & Emma Skipper |
| Carl Cheatham | Toni Krieger | Barbara H. Smith |
| Tom Coffman | Dena Lancashire | Mary Ann Snively |
| Yolanda Dyer | Kathy Lockhart | Christine Stevens |
| Mike & Jana Easterling | Spike Lucia | Scott Strey |
| Bill Everhart | Candy Marshall | Jay Tackett |
| Walter Ferguson | Anne McCauley | Pam Tallent-Blackburn |
| Ed & Rossanne Gorsky | Jerry Mincey | Carolyn Thompson |
| Clyde Greene | Tillie Montney | Mike & Jennifer Vibrall |
| Jane Hayman | Bev Morris | Judy Winfree |
| Joyce Hayman | Nancy Neale | Retha Wright |
| Frances Heath | Joe Oriani | |
| Kay Hedden | Randall Palmer | |
| | Andy, Sherie, & Kasey Ray | |

Relatives & Friends

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| John Alexander family | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Wendy Andrews | Augie Andrews' friend |
| Dolores Clay Barton | Karen Gerber's sister |
| Don Breidert | Rose Flynn's friend |
| Janice Bullock | Kit Threlkel's friend |
| Reese Burdette | Dana Cole's cousin |
| Brenda Cape | Alan Harvey's friend |
| Katie Carter | Bob & Carol Carter's daughter-in-law |
| Al Ellis | Jim Threlkel's friend |
| Dale Szarflarski | Wade Hoffman's friend |
| Connie Flannigan | Marile Week's friend |
| Thomas & Carolyn Francis | Jim Francis' brother & sister-in-law |
| Mary Gamgemi | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Alicia Glika | Diane Repass' friend |
| Diana Hagen & baby Liam | Debbie Anderson's friend |
| Pat Harmon | Marile Weeks' friend |
| Pete Kent | Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew |
| Eduardo Lopez | Gene Aspy's friend |
| Eve H. Mills | Gannon Olmert's cousin |
| Carol Moore | Roger & Marie Able's friend |
| Kris Polak | Sandy Hoffman's friend |
| Don Patchen | Bill Patchen's brother |
| David Satterfield | Heather Whitney's friend |
| Larry Schlosser | Don & Norma Martin's friend |
| Jim Smathers | Tom & Jeri Oldt's friend |
| Arnie Spangers | Marile Weeks' friend |
| Ken Stratford | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Tibbs Swick | Amanda Olmert's father |
| Kristy Turner | Rick & Pat Reass' daughter |
| Marshall Wood's family | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |

MILITARY

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| Stephanie Gillie | Ryan Peardon |
| Eddie Gray | KaitLin Marotti-Pitts |
| Daniel Harp | Ashton Pitts |
| Sean Harp | Shad Skinner |
| David Knowles | Drew Stapor |
| John Marotti | |
| Mathew Massam | |

REMEMBER! THE STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE HERE FOR YOU!



If you, or someone you know, are sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. Men are matched with men, and women with women. (It's completely confidential too!) To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, call Pat Reass at 206-9914. Or you can talk with one of our other Stephen Leaders: Alan Harvey, Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, Barbara Perkins, Susan Singleton, or Jean Strang.

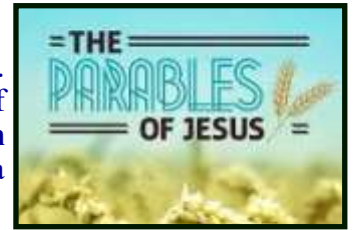


- Zach Anaya
- Brenden Anderson
- Christian Anderson
- Samuel Crockett
- Zach Drum
- Til Fellows
- Robert Ferguson

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Perspectives Sunday School Class

With 40 years of teaching New Testament in seminaries in the Middle East, Dr. Kenneth Bailey's videos discussing Middle Eastern sensitivities to the Parables of Jesus will lead this classes' conversation. Beginning **November 25**, Join **Glenn Thomas** and other facilitators for this engaging class which meets in the Geneva room at **9:30 a.m.** Perspectives *DOES NOT* meet on the First Sundays.



Advent – “O Come, O Come: Emmanuel” Reflections on Four Seasonal Hymns

This Advent, beginning **December 2**, adults will be encouraged to discuss the importance of four Advent hymns, explore their meaning and learn more about the hymn writers. These seasonal hymns will also be reflected in this year's Advent sermon series by our Pastors. Join **Richard Baker** and other facilitators for this class in CE Room 207 at **9:30 a.m.**

BUSY WITH CHRISTMAS PREPARATIONS? NEED SOME “ME” TIME?

Our youth has set aside a day to help you! Announcing our very own

PARENTS DAY OUT!

On **December 15**, starting at **noon** you can drop off your children at the church in McLeod Hall and **pick them up at 5 p.m. promptly.**

For a kind donation we will take care of your children (potty trained to 5th grade) while you get stuff done. All proceeds go towards our middle and high school youth trips.

For more information contact Leonard Mosiah on 863 294 3121.



MORAVIAN LOVEFEAST

Have you ever so enjoyed something that you wanted your loved ones and friends to share that same experience? I, Alan, have and since I knew it would be impossible to take all of you to experience the Christmas Lovefeast at Home Moravian Church in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, the Worship and Music approved a plan set forth by Lynn and I to attempt to recreate that event here.



The Lovefeast has its origin in the lives of early Christians who gathered to break bread together symbolizing union, fellowship and love. You may have heard the other name for this gathering as an agape meal. The custom of the Lovefeast originated in Marienborn, Germany, in 1747, and was celebrated in this country by Moravians in 1753. The service includes a variety of music, scripture and prayers. The meal includes a hot sweetened coffee with cream or cocoa with a slightly sweetened and spiced bun. The service concludes with candlelight reminding all that Christ said, “I am the light of the world” and “you are the light of the world – let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

Please plan to join us for this special service on **Sunday, December 16 at 4 p.m.**

FUNTIMERS DECEMBER OUTING Free Food AND Music

Join us **Sunday, December 2** after our First Sunday First Pres Fellowship Luncheon in McLeod. Then, our church van and bus will leave at **1:00 p.m.** for the **Bartow Adult Concert Band Christmas** performance. This is the 29th season of 60 Musicians playing "Pops Concert Music". The concert is free, starts at 2:30 p.m., and lasts one hour.

We hope you will join us **and** bring a friend. Please RSVP by **Friday, November 30** by calling the church office at 294-3121, emailing us at office@firstpreswh.org, or filling out this attachment and placing in the offering plate.

Name: _____

Attending: _____



What WE do – Thanks to YOU

A celebration of generosity and ministry

What WE do ... in Mission

It might be said that the entire ministry of the church of Jesus Christ is mission. From our worship to our fellowship, we share the good news of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ in our world. In a more concise definition, some people speak of mission in how the church reaches out to the world. As a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA), we see our mission field as being our local community, our state and nation, and the farthest corner of God's world.

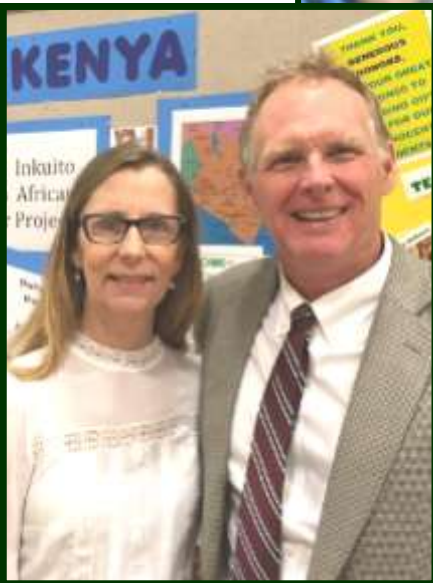
Locally, the members of First Presbyterian Church give money through our Deacons' Fund, as well as time and talent to Meals on Wheels, Family Emergency Services, Habitat for Humanity, The Mission, and Girls Inc., to mention just a few. Our deacons also coordinate our Saturday Soup Kitchen, the Bag Lunch Ministry, and Saturday Nite Live (with developmentally and physically disabled adults).



Beyond our city, we support the work of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. In this mission partnership new churches are being organized and disciples are being nurtured in Central Florida at the Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, and Eckerd College, and in our hemisphere through our Honduras mission partnership.



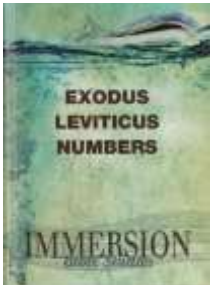
Nationally and internationally, along with over 10,000 other PC (USA) congregations, people are being trained and supported in ministry and mission personnel are blanketing the globe with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Thanks to YOU ...

In 2019, we are hoping to share \$190,000 funding ministry beyond our church walls, including mission in Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly Mission, the local benevolent work through our Deacons and the services of our pastors as they help coordinate and interpret mission for our church.

And, each year our members also engage in over 5,000 hours of volunteer service just through the local, regional, and international missions of our church.



ADULT DISCIPLESHIP *IMMERSION*

Join our **Wednesday** evening Bible study.

Join Rev. Sarah and additional leadership as we dive deep into scripture, starting with the Book of Exodus.

Our adventure is **Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. December 5, 12, & 19.**

Questions? Contact Rev. Sarah at sbishop@firstpreswh.org or 294-3121.

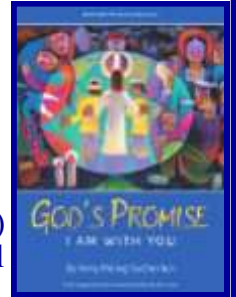
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Lydia and Joy circles current Bible study: *God's Promise – "I Am with You."*

The Lydia Circle meets on the **2nd Monday** of each month and will meet on **December 11 at 10 a.m.** in the back of McLeod Hall.

The Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month. and will meet on **December 18 at 9:30 a.m.** at the home of Carol Carter.

The study books are available at a cost of \$10.00. See or call either Sue McClew (875-6176) or Carol Carter (299-4253) to purchase your copy. Both groups are open to any and all women of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH WINTER RETREAT!

Cedarkirk: January 19-21, 2019



Come join us on our First Pres Student Winter Retreat! We will be going to Cedarkirk and staying in the climate-controlled lodging. We would love to see you during this amazing weekend of fun, memories, and an opportunity to grow closer to God. Fun activities include canoeing, campfires, wall climbing, zip lines, and more! This trip is under your own student leadership, so you know it will be fun and relaxed.

Please contact Leonard at 312-678-7764 or leoardmosiah@gmail.com for more information. The cost is just \$125 per person which covers transportation, lodging, and meals.

WE HAVE AN EXTRA WAY OF GIVING!

Here are a few ways to access this new option:

- 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>
- First time users will click on sign-up
- Complete all fields and click the blue sign-up box ** password must be a minimum of 8 characters, including numbers and uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Click donate
- Choose your donation option, under special offering you will enter your special request, i.e. pastor fund, butterfly etc
- Choose one time or reoccurring
- Enter card information (if you choose to save your information the next time you login the information will be there and make giving much easier)
- Submit (this is where you will add your additional message if needed)
- You will receive an email confirmation of your giving for your records



There's also an APP for that!

- Simply go to your App store and download the free **SecureGive Vision** (you must type in SecureGive Vision) app and follow the prompts on each screen. Once you login or create an account you will be prompted to search for First Presbyterian church by name, city and/or state, follow the steps and enter the amount you wish to donate and the designation, one-time or recurring and then enter your card information.

Robin Miller is available to assist you during office hours at 863-294-3121 or email rmiller@firstpreswh.org.

JOIN US ON SUNDAYS!!!

8:00 a.m. Chapel Worship

A traditional worship service held in our chapel. The service follows the same order as the 11:00 a.m. worship, but does not have a Chancel Choir. Musical ensembles will offer special music on many Sundays. *A Time with Younger Disciples* will be included when we have children in attendance.



9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Heart of Worship

A Praise and Worship service held in our sanctuary. Along with scripture, sermon, and prayers, a praise band will help the congregation in adoring and showing reverence to God. Following the *Time with Younger Disciples*, children will be invited to join Ms. Lynn in music and then to join in their own Children's Sunday School Classes.

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship

A traditional worship service held in our sanctuary. The service follows the same order as the 8:00 a.m. Chapel Service, and includes music from the Chancel Choir and the organ, as well as other instruments and groups.

DON'T MISS THE CONNECTION 9:15-10:45 A.M.

This fellowship time in McLeod Hall offers a coffee bar type selection with different flavored creamers, pastries, etc. It is a gathering place before or between worship and Sunday School for some folks.



SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES!



Children's Sunday School for PreSchoolers through 5th grade happening in the CE Building, **9:30 a.m. (9 a.m. on the First Sunday.)** Our children will activate faith with *Spark Lectionary* curriculum. Each class will engage the Biblical story of the day through creative, hands-on activities, interactive games, and crafts. Sunday School for preschoolers and kindergartners will meet in Room 101. Our elementary students will meet after music in Room 206. Sunday School ends at 10:30 a.m.

First Sundays – Sunday School at **9 a.m.** and sharing musical talents in worship at **10a.m.**

Adult Educational Opportunities – Sunday mornings and more!

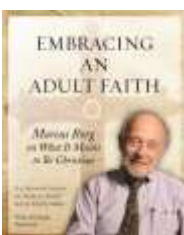
Perspectives Sunday School Class – 9:30am in the Geneva Room

This discussion-based class is guided by Dr. Kenneth Bailey's lectures on the Parables of Jesus. Join Glenn Thomas and other leaders for this engaging class at **9:30 a.m.** in the Geneva room. Perspectives **DOES NOT** meet on First Sundays.



Adult Faith Formation Class

Running through November 25



Author and Bible scholar Marcus Borg invites us to join him in revisiting Christianity's most fundamental questions: Who is God? What does salvation mean? What place does Jesus hold in contemporary Christian faith? This faith-formation class, participants enjoy the rare privilege of witnessing Marcus in dialogue with a small, diverse group of adults as they honestly — and sometimes painfully — confront the big questions and work together toward authentic answers. Each session includes a 10-minute presentation by Marcus Borg followed by interaction with the group.

Join the dialogue with **Bill Lockhart** at **9:30 a.m.** in CE Room 207.

(For 11 a.m. worship services.)

If you would be interested in helping welcome, greet, seat, and assist people at worship, we could use your assistance as an usher.

Please contact the church office at 294-3121 or office@firstpreswh.org.



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 11/23/18.

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1162

Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 212 bag lunches
the week of 11/12/18.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 151 people on 11/17/18.

“Come to the Stable and Bethlehem Square”

First Presbyterian Church's annual outdoor nativity presentations followed by social gatherings in Bethlehem Square; i.e., McLeod Hall.

Saturday, December 8th - performances at 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.

We need: actors and actresses of all ages, back-stage crew members to set-up and take down the sets, dressers to assist the performers with their costumes, men to direct parking for our guests, front-of-the-house greeters and costumed servers for our social gathering in addition to cooks to provide the food and kitchen helpers to arrange the food and make beverages for our guests. **Please select your “role” and sign-up now!** (Musicians - please sign up in the choir room.)

You are invited to CHECK the sign-up board in the Narthex to see how you can be a part of our annual celebration of the birth of Jesus.

All ages are welcome to participate in the performances; however, we also need adults and even some teens to assist in the non-acting roles.

In addition, there is **one more way you can be a part of making our nativity a success:**
Attend one or more of the performances and invite your friends and neighbors to join you!

***“Come to the Stable and Bethlehem Square”
is a wonderful way to begin the celebration of the Christ child's birth!***