



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 26, 2023 | ISSUE 938

COME HELP US DECK THE HALLS AND GET THE STABLE SET UP



Following our **10 am** single worship service **this Sunday, November 26**, we invite you to **stay to help decorate the sanctuary and church interior** for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons, and/or work outside as we **construct the stable for *Come to the Stable***.

We will join together in McLeod Hall for a quick lunch and then the decorating and construction will begin. Feel free to dress casually or bring your favorite work clothes.

Come enjoy food and fellowship as we prepare our church and our hearts for the coming of Christ.

ADVENT CELEBRATION



Join your church family for an evening of Advent preparation with dinner, activities, and fellowship starting at **5:45 pm, Wednesday November 29 until 7 pm**.

Bring the whole family and gather around to prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas.

CHAPEL CHATS



Come join Dr. Steve and Jeremy for a deep dive on some Advent and Christmas hymns. We will be in the Chapel on **Wednesdays at 11 am on December 6, 13, & 20** during the season of Advent.

Each week, we will look at the backstory of Advent and Christmas hymns, their connections to scripture, and share a little about the composers themselves. We'll even sing together! We hope to see you in these chapel chats as we prepare our hearts and our minds in great anticipation of God's greatest gift to us!

SUNDAY SNACKS ARE BACK



You are invited to join your First Pres family after worship on Sundays under the porte-cochere. There you will enjoy light snacks, coffee, and fellowship. We hope to see you there.

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
Custodian

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, November 26

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (GR)
- 10:00 am Fall Sundays Singe Service
(Sanctuary/Facebook)
- 10:15 am Children Sunday School (CE 206)
- 11:15 am Luncheon (MH)
- 12:45 pm Deck the Halls and
Set up the Stable (Sanctuary & PL)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, November 27

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

Tuesday, November 28

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH)
- 12:00 pm Finance (UR)
- 5:00 pm Stephen Minister Leaders (MCR)
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministers (MCR)
- 6:00 pm Worship & Music
- 6:30 pm Deacons (MH)

Wednesday, November 29

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 3:15 pm Christ's Kids (Playground)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
- 5:45 pm Advent Celebration w/Dinner (MH)
- 6:00 pm Chancel Bells (BR)
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir (CR)

Thursday, November 30

- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (BR)

Friday, December 1

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, December 2

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

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY COOKBOOK



We are finalizing *The Chosen Bible Study Cookbook*, but there is still room for your recipe. If you have one that you would like to include, please email it by **Thursday, November 30** to Kelli Ivey at kivey@tampabay.rr.com.

We look forward to your submission.

SYMPATHY



Our Christian sympathy goes to **Jim & Ellie Threlkel, Kit Threlkel, & Peggy Threlkel** upon the death of their brother, brother-in-law, & uncle, **Bob Threlkel**, who died on Thursday, November 16, 2023.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Jim Huff	Mary Ellen Porter
Pat Berrell	Scott & Becky Irvin	Sharon Ramseyer
Orin Champlain	Joanie Kooser	Dick Shaw
Ellie Crowder	Ray & Gladys Larson	Joyce Shirah
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Beth Luxford	Katie Sparr
Zan Dismuke	Pat McCarty	Barbara Tackett
Rob Donaldy	Pat Miller	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Dana Elmore	Edna Mitchell	Jennifer & Mike Vibral
Bill Everhart	Heidi Munoz-	Suzan Wales
Lynne Grady	Gutierrez	Joyce Wander
Pam Gray	Jeri & Tom Oldt	Gale & Gwen Waters
Ken Hart	Joe Oriani	Stephen Winhoven
Jane Hayman	Jackie Pinckney	

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Mike Bell	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield's friend
Donna Brannen	Jill Kosmensky's friend
Bobby Calvery.....	Jeff, Lisa, & Emily Snyder's friend
Rick Cheney	Kit Threlkel's friend
Ernie French	Greg & Mary Marrs' grandson-in-law
Pam Gordon.....	Zan Dismuke's friend
Mitzi Gross.....	Gale & Gwen Waters' cousin
Juan Joy.....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
John Linn.....	Sharon Mann's brother
Ada Lopez-Mendez	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Brian Marino.....	Judy Moots' brother
Khyla Martinez	Paul & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter
Joe Morton.....	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield's friend
Ed & Anne Neumyer	Candy Marshall's friend
Durb Pearson	Tom & Jeri Oldt's friend
Dennis Ryan.....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Laurie Selling	Susan Singleton's friend
Lucinda Shelby	Lynn Oakley's friend
Joyce Snively	Larry & Peggy Davis'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	

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.

NEW: AMERICAN MAH JONGG LESSONS



Please join us for the fascinating game of **American Mah Jongg**. Spend a fun and relaxing couple of hours in fellowship with your First Pres family. Don't know how to play? No worries. We will teach you. The first gathering will be **Wednesday, December 6, 1-3 pm** and will meet weekly in the **Christian Education Building** in room **102**.

If you would like to play or learn to play, please contact Sharon Mitchell at 863-585-0170 as we will need to set up the room based on how many will be attending the initial "talk about" Mahjongg meeting.

COME TO THE STABLE: A LIVING NATIVITY STROLL



On **Saturday, December 9**, First Pres hosts an outdoor Living Nativity (including live animals!) and musical performances throughout our parking lot.

We'd love for you to be a part, whether its joining the all ages cast during the 7 pm performance, providing cookies, or being welcoming at our hospitality table or helping to keep the parking lot safe; volunteers will be needed.

Please mark your calendar and begin to think about how you can be a part of this gift to our community. Sign-ups are on the bulleting board of the narthex or call Rev. Sarah in the church office.

FUNTIMERS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM & LUNCHEON

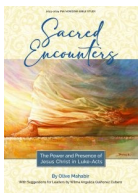


Our next FunTimers event will be **Thursday, December 14, 11 am - 2 pm**.

You won't want to miss this special Christmas program & catered lunch. The menu will be ham, scallop potatoes, glazed carrots, salad, & cake. Lunch cost is just \$15.

Please RSVP by signing up in McLeod Hall or calling or emailing the church office. And bring a friend!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDIES



The *Lydia and Joy Circles* Bible Study is **Sacred Encounters** by Olive Mahabir.

The Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month, the next meeting is **Tuesday, December 12, (special date) at 10 am** at Carol Carter's.

The Lydia Circle meets on the **3rd Thursday** of each month, the next meeting is **Thursday, December 21 at 10 am** in McLeod Hall.

Our circles are open to any and all women of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.

IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias are a yearly tradition to decorate the church on Christmas, "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one, family or friend. This year the poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on **Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24**. Please fill out this order form. The cost per plant is \$15 and checks, marked "poinsettia fund", should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. You can place the order form and check in the offering plate on Sundays, mail it, or take it to the church office by **Monday, December 18**.

A complete listing will be available on Christmas Eve at all three worship services **10 am, 5 pm, & 7 pm**.

IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Donor(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Number of plants ordered: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



Pat Campbell
293 Ruby Lake Lane
Winter Haven, 33884
863-289-1559



Benny Hines
317 Ruby Lake Loop
Winter Haven, 33884
863-258-0504



Heather Linn
6569 Crescent Loop
Winter Haven, 33884
863-514-3354



Tom & Polly Ritter
2624 Hemingway Ave.
Haines City, 33844
407-751-0963
512-818-2345



Susanne Sherry
1 Bass Cir
Winter Haven, 33881
508-243-6213

ANGELS CARE CENTER NEEDS



Angels Care Center is a free, faith-based medical clinic that serves the poor and needy of Eloise and Wahneta areas. In addition to medical care, they make and distribute toiletry kits, first aid kits and children's kits to their patients and their families. They also reach out into the greater community and give kits to additional organization serving needy people including Salvation Army, Farmworkers Ministry, HEARTH (serving homeless in schools) and others.

Angels Care Center has an ongoing need for the following items to give out in kits to patients and families. Thank you for your donations—they are a blessing to so many people, and truly an expression of God's love and care for His children. Items may be placed in the collection box in McLeod Hall.

First Aid Kits: band-aids, wet wipes, small soaps, washcloths, Q-tips, cotton balls, small bacterial soap or hand sanitizer, Kleenex, etc.

Toiletry Kits: shampoo, soap, deodorant, razors, toothbrush & toothpaste, combs, lotion, hand gel, washcloths, small samples from hotel/motels, dental floss, etc.

Children's "Jesus Kits": coloring sheets with Biblical themes, crayons, stickers, small books, small containers of Play Doh, small safe toys, toy cars, children's toothbrushes & hair clips

Miscellaneous: zip lock bags (quart and gallon sizes)



DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 12/2 Ron Damjker
Ken Henry
Teresa Renney | 12/11 Mike Lyons
Zane McCann
Jane Ray
Dave Sparr | 12/19 Megan Kosmensky
12/22 Cynthia Stroupe
Weston Thibodaux |
| 12/3 Bruce Eelman
Daphne Gray
Edward Jordan | 12/12 Kaylie Arnold
Bill Lockhart
Jackie Pinckney | 12/23 Ceci Linn
12/24 Ryan Johnson
Mary Anne Knowles
Carrie Mitchell
Stephen Winhoven |
| 12/4 Jack Scamehorn | 12/13 Dawn Fellows
Peggy Kennedy | 12/25 Carol Roe |
| 12/5 Janie Hammette
Amanda Rivers
Alee Swango
Jane Tillman | 12/15 Merry Stewart Borowski
Lia Gray
Lynn Lasseter
Griffin Powell | 12/26 David Alexander
Patti Forum
Calen Nowroozi |
| 12/6 Cathy Kegler
Avery Lockhart
Steve Saterbo
Ginger Schreier | 12/16 Marty Bentley
Randy McCann
Kim Powell | 12/27 Rusty Hart
12/28 Madison Thomas
12/29 Wiley Koon, Sr. |
| 12/9 Katie Rivers | 12/18 Geoff Roe | 12/30 Keith Putnam
12/31 Steve Sowards |
| 12/10 Marile Weeks | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 12/05 Josh & Jessica Lockhart | 12/22 Nat & Jane West | 12/30 Richard & Pam Baker
Pete & Merry Stewart Borowski |
| 12/09 Russell & Lynn Aaron | 12/26 Steve & Laura Dunham | 12/31 Paul & Anne Montgomery
John & Tracy Scheck |
| 12/16 Jim & Daphne Gray | 12/27 Mike & Martha Seney | |
| 12/20 Wiley & Sara Koon
Steve & Teresa Negley | 12/28 Bob & Carol Carter
12/29 Howard & Cheryl Beckert
Gale & Gwen Waters | |
| 12/21 Jose & Alison Batista | | |

LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU . . .



In John 15:12, Jesus says, *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."* Loving and caring for one another is not just the pastor's job, it's something Jesus calls us all to do! **Stephen Ministry** is a ministry in which people with special gifts for caring ministry can put those gifts to use in an organized way, bringing Jesus' love and care to those who most need it.

If you, or someone you know, are going through a difficult time, you can call **Connie Shipley** at 863-221-2224. Or you can talk with one of our other **Stephen Leaders: Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Barbara Perkins** about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care and to help you experience the healing power of Christ's love in your life.

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>.


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Lakeland, FL

This newsletter is published weekly.
Church dated material, please deliver by 11/24/23.

Return Service Requested

Bag Lunch Ministry
We gave out 194 lunches
the week of 11/13/23. 

 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**
We fed 75 people on
Saturday, 11/18/23.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

10 AM MORNING WORSHIP

The Fourth Sunday of Advent falls this year on **Christmas Eve!** Please plan to worship with us at our single **10 am** worship service as we complete our season of anticipating the birth of our Savior.



5 & 7 PM LESSONS AND CAROLS

We hope you will join us for worship on one of the holiest nights of the year.

For **Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24**, we will have two opportunities for worship. Both of these worship services will help us to focus on the celebration of our Savior's birth with the reading of the biblical story and the singing of traditional carols.

The **5 pm** Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will feature acoustic sounds of the season with our Praise Band and other musicians from our congregation.

The **7 pm** Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will include music from our Chancel Choir & Chancel Bells.

Jeremy Rath will be providing organ and piano renditions of favorite Christmas tunes before each service. The Time with Younger Disciples at both services will engage the children in a retelling of the story of the birth of Jesus.