



# TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 27 | ISSUE 891

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated **this Sunday, November 27, the first Sunday of Advent.**

Prepare your heart to come to the Lord's Table.

## ADVENT CELEBRATION



Join your church family for an evening of Advent preparation with dinner, a Christmas movie and crafts starting at **6:00 pm, Thursday December 1, till 7:30 pm.** Bring the whole family and gather around to prepare our hearts and homes for Christmas. Meeting in McLeod Hall.

## COME TO THE STABLE: A LIVING NATIVITY STROLL CASTING CALL



On **Saturday, December 10**, First Pres hosts an outdoor Living Nativity (including live animals!) and musical performances throughout our parking lot. Our church family retells the Christmas story with a cast of all ages. You're invited to play a part! Performers choose to be either angels or shepherds. Our leadership may ask you to be in the holy family, angel Gabriel, or even a Wise Man! This year we are encouraging it to be a family event, so consider a member of your family to join your child or youth in the cast too. There are no lines to remember. There is no prep needed; just come!

Sign-up for cast and other volunteer opportunities that night will be in the Narthex starting **November 20**. Or you can call the church office. Save the date and come to the stable!

## 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. 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

Rose S. Flynn  
Office Assistant

Daryl D. Fenley  
Director of  
Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry  
Custodian

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, November 27 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT COMMUNION

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship  
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)  
9:15 am Children Sunday School (CE 206)  
10:10 am Adult Bible Study (MH)  
11:00 am Traditional Worship  
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)  
2:30 pm Middle & High School Youth Group  
Ice Skating (Off-site)  
5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

### Monday, November 28

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

### Tuesday, November 29

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)  
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)  
4:00 pm Come to the Stable Planning (MCR)  
5:00 pm Stephen Minister Leaders (MH)  
6:00 pm Stephen Ministers (MH)  
6:00 pm Worship & Music (UR)

### Wednesday, November 30

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)  
3:30 pm Christ Kids (CE)  
5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)  
6:00 pm Chancel Bells (BR)  
6:30 pm Officer Training (MCR)  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir (MS)

### Thursday, December 1

- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (BR)  
6:00 pm Advent Celebration (MH)

### Friday, December 2

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)  
2:00 pm Praise Band Practice (Sanctuary)

### Saturday, December 3

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



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Lynne Graddy	Jackie Pinkney
Debbie Anderson	Pam Gray	John & Marilyn
Pat Berrell	Jane Hayman	Schleifer
Doris Brack	Jim Huff	Dick Shaw
Helen Champlain	Scott & Becky Irvin	Joyce Shirah
Ellie Crowder	Jill Kosmensky	Susan Singleton
Charlie Darte	Dena Lancashire	Dale Smith
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Ray & Gladys Larson	Katie Sparr
Zan Dismuke	Pat McCarty	Kathy Taber
Rob Donaldy	Dick McCauley	Barbara Tackett
Dana Elmore	Pat Miller	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Bill Everhart	Edna Mitchell	Mike Vibral
Rossanne Gorsky	Jeri & Tom Oldt	Pat Vobornik

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Billy Bennett	Rossanne Gorsky
Philip Burkhart	Lynn Oakley's friend
Rick Colen	Rossanne Gorsky's friend
Bill Fisher	Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin
Flo McNeer Hamilton	Peggy Davis' friend
Jim & Belinda Hurst	Tom & Jeri Oldt's friends
Kelly Jackson	Doris Brack's friend
Jim Joiner	Ann Meadows' friend
Reed & Trish Layne	Larry Davis' friends
Khyla Martinez	Jim & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter
Dwight McKee	Greg Marrs' uncle
Jackie & Harold Murphy	Lynn Oakley's friend
Christy Noll	John & Gail Van Allen's niece
Brynne Nowroozi	Cindy Curry's friend
Les & Alison O'Neal	Sandra Hoffman's friends
Ray Owen	Johnathan Owen's father
Carol Redner	Rossanne Gorsky's friend
Krysti Rowker	Mary Ellen Rowker's daughter-in-law
Myra Shelton	Punkin Smith's friend
Jack Snively	Bob & Lisa Endres' friend
Seretha Tinsley	Tom & Jeri Oldts' friend
Lou & Travis Whitehead	Ron & Gail Damkjer's friends
Jess Wilkinson	Lee Wilkinson's brother

### 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.

### 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	



# COME TO THE STABLE: A LIVING NATIVITY STROLL THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10, 6 - 8 PM

Don't miss out on this incredible event as we celebrate the birth of Christ and enjoy amazing holiday music. Come anytime between **6 - 8 pm** to see the story re-enacted and to walk through five stages of special music. While you stroll, enjoy a cup of hot cocoa and some homemade cookies. This event is sure to get you in the spirit as we continue to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus Christ. We hope to see you there!

## A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS



*"Christmastime is here; Happiness and cheer; Fun for all, that children call, their favorite time of year..."*

Our First Pres children and youth have been hard at work rehearsing lines, songs, and dances to share the Christmas story with each of you as they present "A Charlie Brown Christmas." What a treat it will be to see this Christmas classic performed live by our young people in our very own sanctuary.

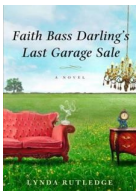
The performance will take place on **Sunday, December 18 at the 10 am Single Worship Service**. You don't want to miss the joy, laughter, and songs, as the children remind us "what Christmas is all about."

## WOULD YOU LIKE TO PROVIDE A YOUTH GROUP DINNER?



Do you like to cook? Are you looking for a way to help support our youth? You're in luck! We are looking for volunteers to provide dinner for our youth groups! If you are interested in providing a meal, please contact Emily for more information at [esnyder@firstpreswh.org](mailto:esnyder@firstpreswh.org) or call the church office.

## BOOK CLUB DECEMBER MEETING MOVED TO JANUARY 16



We invite you to join us on **Monday, January 16 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss **Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale** by Lynda Rutledge. We hope you will come together with us for a time of fellowship and discussion of this quirky, humorous, and warm-hearted book.

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

## IT IS THAT TIME OF YEAR TO ORDER YOUR POINSETTIAS!

Poinsettias are a yearly tradition as we decorate the church for Christmas, "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one or the poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for Candlelight Service on **Christmas Eve, December 24 and will remain for Christmas Day's worship service**. Please fill out the order form below. The cost per plant is \$10 and checks, marked "poinsettia fund", should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Place the order form and check in the offering plate, mail it, or take it to the church office by **Monday, December 19**.

A complete listing will be available Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Donor(s): \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

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



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEARS OUTSTANDING OLDER ADULTS!



On Sunday, November 6 in worship, the Outstanding Older Adult recognition for 2022 was actually awarded to a couple, **Jim & Pat Vobornik**. This husband and wife team has served the church, its people, and this community with steadfast faithfulness and love for years. They were longtime active members of the First Presbyterian Church in Auburndale and there she was ordained as an elder in the PC(USA). This couple joined First Pres of Winter Haven in 2014 and immediately jumped into serving in a variety of ways.

Pat is a talented florist and has an eye for design and beauty. She has served on the Membership Committee and has helped with decorating tables, reaching out with cards, and cooking food for all sorts of special events at the church. Jim is a faithful servant and an accomplished musician, sharing his talents to enrich our worship experiences and performing in the Bartow Adult Concert Band. They have both served as leaders of the FunTimers program organizing fellowship events for fellow members. This couple is devoted to their church and their family. They have been particularly skilled at encouraging others to serve with them on committees or to help with activities in the church, especially our bag lunch ministry. While they have only been members of First Pres for about 8 years, they have played an important part in the life of this congregation. When asked about this couple, fellow members rave about their warmth, welcome, and spirit of hospitality. This couple has made it easy for folks to join in with them and to help newcomers feel like they belong in this church family.

One couple said, "Simply put, they are the greatest. They are extremely welcoming to new members. Along with several other members, they made us feel at home as if they'd known us for years. They invited us to work on the bag lunches making us feel we were needed and that made us feel actively a part of our new church. Next they invited us to FunTimers, a group they helped to start at First Pres, enabling us to meet and interact with other church members. This couple openly shows agape love to all but especially those who are new to the congregation. Their outgoing and friendly manner is certainly an asset to our church. "

## LET'S WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Stephen & Carolyn Ciccarello  
560 Cheyenne Dr.  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
252-676-1436  
252-676-7064



Joanie Kooser  
650 N. Lake Howard Dr. #6H  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
863-370-3334



Richard Johnson & Linda Bors  
443 Limewood St  
Winter Haven, FL  
252-665-3751

## MEN'S LUNCH GROUP



Every **Tuesday**, the men of the church gather from **12:00-1:00 pm** for lunch together in McLeod Hall. 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 email and ask to be added to the list.

## CHRIST'S KIDS



Our faith-based after-school program, Christ's Kids, meets on **Wednesdays** at **3:30 pm** on the playground.

We give thanks to this year's faithful volunteers and can't wait till 2023!

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School for PreK thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade has begun and meets in the Christian Education Building, Room 206, **from 9:15 to 10 am.**



Join the fun on Sunday mornings following the Time with Younger Disciples in the Heart of Worship service. Sunday School does not meet on Single Service Sundays.

## ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE BIBLE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our Adult Sunday School class, meeting in the Geneva Room from **10:10 till 10:50 am**, continues its exploration of the history and archaeology of the Bible. Every Sunday, historians and archaeologists, connect the biblical story with the larger historic world, ancient literature, and archaeological findings. Join this fascinating class' interactive time with guided conversation and visits from our pastors to answer your questions. Note, no class on Single Service Sundays.

Watch for what's coming in 2023!

## YOUTH GROUPS

The **Middle School Youth Group** meets on **Wednesdays** from **5:30** until **7:30 pm.**

The **High School Youth Group** meets **Sundays**, from **5:30** until **7:30 pm.**



Come join us for another awesome year of food, fellowship, and faith building in the Golden Center youth house! If you have any questions or would like to sign up to provide a meal for our students, please contact Emily Snyder at 863-224-4403 or [esnyder@firstpreswh.org](mailto:esnyder@firstpreswh.org).

## 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. **We currently have all of December dates available.** If you have never helped before or have questions, fear not, our Deacons can address any uncertainties and help you feel comfortable in serving.

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. **The 2023 sign-up calendar is up too!**

## CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES



These recent 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.

## 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:

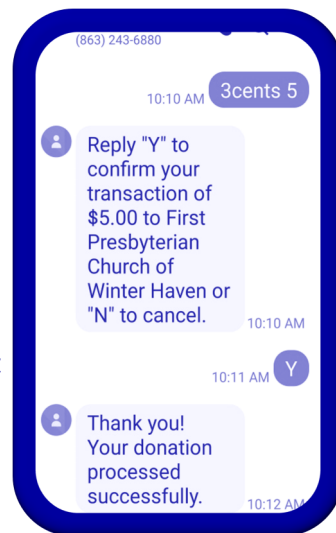
- Pledged (for your offering to be credited to your pledged amount for the current year)
- Offering (Non-pledge or undesignated gifts)
- Music (for Capital Music Campaign Organ/Music)
- 3cents (for 3 Cents-a-Meal)
- Memorial (for when donating in memory of someone)
- Special (for all other donations;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

## 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>.

Robin Miller is available to assist you during office hours or email [rmiller@firstpreswh.org](mailto:rmiller@firstpreswh.org).



# DECEMBER

## BIRTHDAYS

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

## ANNIVERSARIES

- |       |  |       |                         |       |  |
|-------|--|-------|-------------------------|-------|--|
| 12/05 | Josh & Jessica Lockhart                    | 12/21 | Jose & Alison Batista   | 12/29 | Howard & Cheryl Beckert                              |
| 12/09 | Russell & Lynn Aaron                       | 12/22 | Nat & Jane West         |       | Gale & Gwen Waters                                   |
| 12/16 | Jim & Daphne Gray<br>Ray & Gladys Larson   | 12/23 | Orrin & Helen Champlain | 12/30 | Richard & Pam Baker<br>Pete & Merry Stewart Borowski |
| 12/20 | Wiley & Sara Koon<br>Steve & Teresa Negley | 12/26 | Steve & Laura Dunham    | 12/31 | Paul & Anne Montgomery<br>John & Tracy Scheck        |
|       |  | 12/27 | Mike & Martha Seney     |       |  |
|       |  | 12/28 | Bob & Carol Carter      |       |  |

## STRESSED? FEELING DOWN? NEED ENCOURAGEMENT?



Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a major crisis. They also provide care and support for people weighed down by the little things in life. If you (or someone you know) are feeling down, lonely, stressed or discouraged, you could benefit from the care, support, and encouragement of a Stephen Minister. It's free. It's confidential. And it will really make a difference in your life!

To find out more, contact **Connie Shipley** at 863-221-2224 or one of our other Stephen Minister Leaders, **Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Barbara Perkins.**

First Presbyterian Church  
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**This newsletter is published weekly.**  
Church dated material, please deliver by 11/25/22.

**Return Service Requested**

**Bag Lunch Ministry**  
We gave out 183 lunches  
the week of 11/14/22. 

 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**  
We fed 65 people on  
Saturday, 11/19/22.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIMES: 5 & 7 PM



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

For **Christmas Eve, Friday, 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, 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 (Lindsey Ivey, Sean Ivey, Daniel Miller, Madey Palomaki Dillon Powell, Jeremy Rath, & Emily Snyder), as well as **Hunter Smith, T. Michael Stavres, & Nat West**.

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

## CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

You are invited to join us for an All Church Gathering Worship single service with communion at **10 am** Christmas morning.