



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

# Tower Chimes

Week of November 8, 2020

Issue 783

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

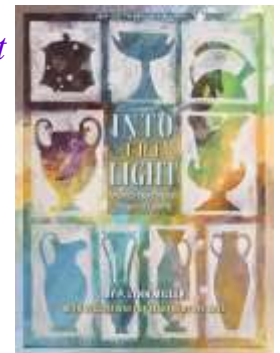
Tonia L. Milbry  
Custodian

## 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 Lydia Circle** meets on the **2nd Monday** of each  
month and will meet on **November 9 at 10:00 am**  
in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

**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 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](mailto:cshipley@firstpreswh.org). Be sure to indicate which circle you wish to join.

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

## THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM FOR NOVEMBER IS UP!



Sunday School continues for our children (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> 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. November is now on the church website. Check the Children's tab under Connections.

# Opportunities this Week

## Sunday, November 8

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship  
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 9:25 am Children's Sunday School (CE 207)
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship  
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group  
(GC Backyard)

## Monday, November 9

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 10:00 am Lydia Circle (MH/Zoom)

## Tuesday, November 10

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
- 6:00 pm Personnel (MH)

## Wednesday, November 11

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 12:00 pm Buildings & Grounds (MH/Zoom)
- 2:00 pm Membership (MH)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group  
(GC Backyard)

## Thursday, November 12

- 8:00 am Presbytery(Zoom)

## Friday, November 13

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

## Saturday, November 14

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

## 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](mailto: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!

# Remember in Prayer

## MEMBERS

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

## Relatives & Friends

Doris Brack	Doris Brack's son
Curtis Capers	Pat McCarty's friend
Sherry Dart	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
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

## 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

# 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:esnyder@firstpreswh.org).



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

Psalm 107:1



## 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.**

## 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](http://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.



## LOCAL MINISTRIES NEED OUR HELP

The ministries supported by our church can use our help now more than ever. The Deacons have been in contact with those ministries to inquire about their current needs. If you wish to help, please consider the needs of these valuable partners in our community and reach out to them directly.



### Meals on Wheels (299-1616)

Volunteer for Meal Delivery, Kitchen Prep & Packing, Thrift Store.

### Polk Training (956-1620)

Call to see how you can help this program for adults with developmental disabilities.

### Project Love (280-6947)

Donations of gift cards to Publix, Aldi, or Walmart.

### The Mission (299-2348)

Donations of premade meals in large chef pans to serve about 100 people for lunch.

### Habitat for Humanity (292-2256)

Receiving donations 9-10 am and 2-4 pm Tuesday through Friday.

## WHAT'S NEW WITH SECUREGIVE?

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.



# 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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Winter Haven, FL 33881  
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 11/6/20.

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1162

Lakeland, FL

#### Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 112 bag lunches  
the week of 10/26/20.

#### Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 65 people on 10/31/20.

Return Service Requested

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