



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of October 25, 2020

Issue 781

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

TRUNK-OR-TREAT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 4 PM –5:30 PM

Fun for all ages is just around the corner, with our first Trunk or Treat event!

Come with your best Halloween-themed car trunk and pass out candy in the church parking lot.

Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes, safely collect candy, and vote on their favorite trunk, most original and funniest.

Prizes for our best car-trunk will be awarded.



Not able to join us? Candy donations can be dropped off at the church.

If you would like to sign up your vehicle and reserve your spot, please contact Rev. Sarah at the church at 294-3121 or email her at sbishop@firstpreswh.org.

Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing.

VIRTUAL COFFEE GATHERING NOVEMBER 1, 10:20AM – 10:45AM

Grab your morning beverage of choice and log-in to Zoom for an informal gathering with your church family! Follow this link Sunday morning, Nov. 1 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!'



Opportunities this Week

Sunday, October 25

- 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)
4:00 pm Trunk or Treat (Parking Lot)

Monday, October 26

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
10:00 am Prayer Shawl (MH)

Tuesday, October 27

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
4:00 pm Music Director Search (MH/Zoom)
5:00 pm Stephen Minister Leaders (MH)
6:00 pm Stephen Ministers (MH)
6:15 pm Worship & Music (Zoom)

Wednesday, October 28

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
2:00 pm PW Bible Study Leaders (MCR)
4:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)
5:00 pm Confirmation (MH/Zoom)
5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group
(GC Backyard)
5:30 pm Community Outreach (MCR)

Thursday, October 29

Friday, October 30

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, October 31

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



*Our sincerest sympathy
goes to Betty Lewes
upon the death of her mother,
Caroline Beckley who died on
Sunday, September 6, 2020.*

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 |

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

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

Relatives & Friends

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| John & Brenda Accardi | Jeri & Tom Oldt's friends |
| Bruce Bachman | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |
| Joe Boyce | Mary & Greg Mars' friend |
| Sheri Braun | Margaret Braun's friend |
| Robert Carolan | Amy Speer's father |
| Maryann Cassell | Candy Marshall's friend |
| Connie Craig | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| John & Muriel Davis | Dick & Anne McCauley's friends |
| Katie Derthick | Marile Weeks's great-niece |
| Margaret Dorman | Brenda Darte's mother |
| Andra Douglas | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Susie Fisher | Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin |
| Donald Gaitlin | Pat McCarty's friend |
| Bonnie Gaudet | Bob Howard's sister |
| Lynda Giles | Polly Wilson's niece |
| Paul & Betty Gilliam | Debbie Anderson's parents |
| Kristen & Dave Hall | Judy Winfree's friends |
| Sidney Hilliard | Tillie Montney's mother |
| Lynda Holyk | Paul Montgomery's sister |
| LuAnn Hurley | Sandy Hoffman's friend |
| Frances Jewell | Bob & Shirley Hines' friend |
| Lottie Johnson | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Helen Lake | Sandy Hoffman'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 |
| Sam Vac | Marcie Dershimer's friend |

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Due to many new recipients in the Winter Haven area that need meals, we need new meal delivery volunteer drivers.

WHO CAN DELIVER MEALS?

Individuals, Couples, Groups, Any Age
(17 or older to drive, young people can deliver along with an adult)

Please call 299-1616 for more information.



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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Lydia and Joy circles have begun a new Bible Study:
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 will be 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.



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!



REMEMBER ~ FIRST PRES IS LIVE ON FACEBOOK!



Heading out of town, but still desire to be part of this worshipping 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.

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 esynder@firstpreswh.org.

HAVE YOU LOST GLASSES...

Prescription, reading, or sunglasses?

Maybe it was last week, last month, or even last year? If so, we could have them.

We have a collection that has been found over time and would like to find their rightful homes. Please check the desk next to the maintenance office.



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: _____

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 our 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) The worship services will be shown by livestream video in McLeod Hall, which will have worship site seating in 8-foot separation for over-flow or late-arriving worshipers.
 - k) Worship will be modified by restricting singing and choir, in accordance with best practices, to reduce the threat of airborne virus spread.
 - l) 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.
 - m) Immediately after the sanctuary is vacated following the Heart of Worship service, sanitation teams (our custodian, Tonia, and trained volunteers – all of whom will wear protective eye wear, masks, and gloves) will disinfect all surfaces which have been touched in preparation for the arrival of the next worshipers.
 - n) The pastors will have exited immediately following the benediction via the front doors and proceeded to the porte-cochere for socially distanced farewells to 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
637 6th Street, NW
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 10/23/20.

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1162

Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 106 bag lunches
the week of 10/12/20.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 70 people on 10/17/20.

Return Service Requested

NEXT PRAYER SHAWL MEETING IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 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.

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. November is now on the church website. Check the Children's tab under Connections.