



# TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN  
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 16, 2025 | ISSUE 1001

## 3 CENTS-A-MEAL THIS SUNDAY



We will collect the *3 Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering* during our worship service this **Sunday, March 16**. This special offering is divided among our Soup Kitchen & Bag Lunch Ministry, the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, and our support of the church in Honduras. We hope you will set aside your pennies to help feed those in our community and beyond.

## LENTEN CHAPEL CHATS



Join Dr. Negley, Rev. Weber, & Dr. Halde for Lenten Chapel Chats on **Wednesdays at 10 am** running through **April 9**. The theme for these weekly chats, as we journey through Lent together, will focus on the Psalms. We'll take a look at different categories of Psalms such as those that speak of Praise, Lament, Thanksgiving, Wisdom, and Prophecy. In addition to the scripture and chats, Jeremy Rath will join us to share hymns and music related to our weekly themes.

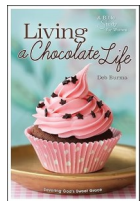
## ODD MONTH BOOK CLUB



Inviting all readers to a special meeting of the *Odd Month Book Club* to be hosted by Jonathon and/or Bethany in the Price Library on the second floor of the church building on **Monday, March 17 at 3 pm**. The Owens are hosting the meeting during the renovation and presenting good books from our own library.

Everyone is invited to share a book that you have enjoyed! Be prepared to enjoy some great personal stories and a tour of our own church's library with those who know it best.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The *Lydia and Joy Circles* Bible study is ***Living a Chocolate Life*** by Deb Burma.

**The Joy Circle** meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month. The next meeting is **March 18 at 10 am** at Carol Carter's house.

**The Lydia Circle** meets on the **3rd Thursday** of each month. The next meeting is **March 20 at 10 am** in the Manor Conference Room in the church office.

## 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. Callie C. Weber**  
Associate Pastor

**Dr. Fred R. Halde**  
Parish Associate for  
Visitation

**Jeremy T. Rath**  
Director of  
Music Ministries

**Jenna V. Wall**  
Youth Team  
Coordinator

**Robin D. Miller**  
Director of Finance  
and Administration

**Connie J. Shipley**  
Administrative  
Assistant

**Margaret H. Braun**  
Office Assistant

**Daryl D. Fenley**  
Director of  
Maintenance

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, March 16 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT 3 CENTS-A-MEAL

8:00 am Chapel Worship  
9:00 am Adult Sunday School (GR)  
10:00 am Sanctuary Worship  
10:15 am Children Sunday School (CE 206)

### Monday, March 17

3:00 pm Odd Month Book Club (PL)

### Tuesday, March 18

9:00 am Staff Meeting (MCR)  
10:00 am Joy Circle (Off-site)  
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (UR)  
6:30 pm Deacons (GR)

### Wednesday, March 19

10:00 am Chapel Chat  
1:00 pm American Mah Jongg (GSH)  
6:00 pm Chancel Bells (BR)  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir (CR)

### Thursday, March 20

10:00 am Lydia Circle (MCR)  
1:15 pm Chapel Bells (BR)

### Friday, March 21

### Saturday, March 22

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

## NEW WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY



We hope you can join us for a new Bible study, **Wednesday evenings at 6 pm** in the Geneva Room beginning **March 26** running through **April 23**.

The study guide is available on Amazon.

In *He Chose the Nails*, Max Lucado observes that the last moments leading up to Jesus' death were not left up to chance. God chose the path; he selected the nails. Our Lord planted the trio of crosses and painted the sign. God was never more sovereign than in the details of the death of his Son. And in those details are gifts Christ provided for us... The cross. The thorns. The nails. His seamless robe. The empty tomb.

God didn't have to give us all these things, you know. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet he did much more. So much more.

## THE CHOSEN RETURNS



Mark Your Calendars for Season 5 of The Chosen series! We will be watching Part 1 of this series at the CMX Theater at Spring Lake on **Friday, March 28, 7 pm**. We'll meet at the church at **5:30 pm** for pizza then head to the theater. If you're interested, we will be collecting money at our next Chosen Bible Roundtable on **Sunday, March 23, 5:30-7:00 pm**. Tickets are \$15.



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Heidi Munoz-Gutierrez	Rick Montney
John Beckman	Jane Hayman	Joe & Arletta Oriani
Orrin Champlain	Wade & Sandy Hoffman	Kim Powell
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Scott & Becky Irvin	Dick & Nancy Shaw
Rob Donaldy	Bill Johnston	Suzanne Sherry
Richard & Dana Elmore	Joanie Kooser	Katie Sparr
Bill Everhart	Ross Kosmensky	Barbara Tackett
Jim Francis	Ray & Gladys Larson	Jay Tackett
Gloria Goss	Lynn Lassater	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Caitlyn Grady	Pat McCarty	Glenn Thomas
Lynne Grady	Pat Miller	Jennifer & Mike Vibrat
Pam Gray		Gale & Gwen Waters

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Barbara Blauvelt.....Lynn Oakley's friend  
Tom Bracket.....Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend  
Glenn & Jennifer Caracappa.....Tom Oldt's friend  
Diane Conaly.....Lynn Oakley's friend  
Sean Duerr.....Saturday Nite Live Drew's friend  
Gary & Georgia Green.....Tom Oldt's friend  
Erik Johansson.....Steve & Debbie Sowards' friend  
Juan Joy.....Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend  
Misty Judd.....Lynn Oakley's friend  
Ray & Marla Kasunic.....Kit Threlkel's friends  
Tamara Keyes.....Bethany Owen's mom  
Jane Lawson.....Sara Koon's sister  
Ada Lopez-Mendez.....Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend  
Khyla Martinez.....Paul & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter  
Carroll Negley.....Steve Negley's mother  
Patty Oakley.....Lynn Oakley's daughter-in-law  
Ann Reddout.....Pat & Rick Reass' friend  
John Shoberg.....Saturday Nite Live Drew's friend  
Barbara Spinella.....Greg & Mary Marrs' friend  
Calvin Stanley.....Lynn Oakley's friend  
Beatrice Stewart.....Kyle Lease's grandmother  
Phillip Waters.....Gwen & Gale Waters' son  
Bob Wexler.....Gale Waters' friend  
Jenni Wilson.....Punkin Smith's friend

### MILITARY

Zach Anaya	Eddie Gray	Mathew Massam
Brenden Anderson	Daniel Harp	John Portlock
Christian Anderson	Sean Harp	Colton Powers
Zach Drum	David Knowles	Diane Secord
Robert Ferguson	John Marotti	Shad Skinner
Stephanie Gillie	KaitLin Marotti	Drew Stapor

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We wanted to provide an update on the ongoing construction efforts as part of our Capitol Campaign. Progress is steadily being made, and as with any renovation of a nearly 100-year-old building, we are taking a careful and methodical approach to ensure a smooth transition into the next phases of work.

## Current Progress

Over the past few weeks, we have been carefully uncovering the hidden elements of McLeod Hall. During the initial stages of demolition, we have encountered a few unexpected surprises—something that is to be expected with a building of this age.

**Structural Discovery** – One notable find was a structural column hidden within a wall, which was not documented in any of the original drawings or previous assessments. Fortunately, this will not pose a major issue, as we are able to incorporate it into our updated "as-built" drawings and slightly adjust the wall placement to accommodate it.

**Sanitary Line Repair** – During a routine inspection using a video camera to assess the underground plumbing, we discovered a collapsed sanitary line that needed to be active. This issue has been fully repaired, ensuring that all underground utilities remain in proper working order moving forward.

## Upcoming Work

Several key projects are currently underway and scheduled for completion in the coming weeks:

**Demolition & Reframing** – We are in the process of demolishing the men's restroom and closet spaces at the back of McLeod Hall. This work is expected to be completed by March 1, after which we will begin reframing the bathrooms and adjacent rooms.

**Plumbing & Electrical Upgrades** – Work has begun on the underground plumbing for the new ADA-compliant men's restroom. In the front section of McLeod Hall, we are removing column wraps and the front closet area in preparation for new electrical installations. Over the next several weeks, we will be running new electrical wiring throughout the building in conjunction with the installation of a new air conditioning system.

**Fire Alarm System** – An important safety upgrade is also in progress. We are adding a fire alarm system in the front office, which will eventually expand to cover the entire sanctuary building.

**Youth House & Soup Kitchen Renovations** – While work continues in McLeod Hall, we are also finalizing the design plans for the front facades of the Youth House and Soup Kitchen buildings along 6th Street. We anticipate submitting these modifications for permitting this spring, aiming for a summer construction start.

We appreciate your patience and support as we continue to make these essential improvements. We are excited about the transformation taking place and look forward to keeping you updated on our progress. Thank you for being part of this journey!

## SHIRTS FOR HONDURAS NEEDED



Joyce Anderson and Linda Stavres are sewing little boys camp shirts for Honduran children from donated men's dress shirts for this mission.

Long or short sleeved cotton or cotton polyester. Button down or regular collars are OK. No polo shirts. Deliver your used shirts to the church office or bring them to church any Sunday.

## WOMEN'S NIGHT TIME BIBLE STUDY

Ladies, you are invited to join your sisters in Christ for a Women's Bible Study on **Thursday evenings at 6**, meeting in the Golden Center.



We'll read the Gospel of John together, answer questions, and discuss how the message of John can impact our lives and our faith. Please direct any questions to Lisa Centonze.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH ON TUESDAYS



This is a gathering of men of faith who share and support one another through Christian fellowship and spiritual growth. Bring your lunch and join us each Tuesday at 12 pm in the Upper Room.

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**This newsletter is published weekly.**  
Church dated material, please deliver by 3/14/25.

**Return Service Requested**

#### **Bag Lunch Ministry**

We gave out 229 lunches  
the week of 3/3/25.



#### **Soup Kitchen Ministry**

We fed 90 people on  
Saturday, 3/8/25.

## **MARCH FUNTIMERS**



On **Monday, March 31**, FunTimers will visit *Bonnet Springs Park* in Lakeland. We will meet at the church at **11 am** and head to Lakeland for lunch at *The Rooftop Cafe* at the Park or a restaurant nearby. We can visit the Nature Center, History Gallery or other exhibits by a continuous tram or just take a ride around the park. We will return home by 3 pm. The only cost will be for your lunch.

## **EASTER BREAKFAST**

Easter breakfast will be served on **Sunday, April 20, 8:45 - 9:30 am**. If you would be willing to help cook or serve at breakfast please contact the church office.



## **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. We meet weekly on **Wednesdays, 1-3 pm** in the **Girl Scout House**.

If you would like to play, please contact Sue Henry at 989-725-8224.

## **HEARTS & HANDS AT WORK, AND VOICES - 2025 SURVEY TIME**



We truly value your feedback as we continue to grow and improve together. The 2025 survey is an opportunity for you to share what First Presbyterian is doing well and where our church can improve. If you've already completed the 2024 survey, rest assured that your responses are still in action and brought to life in our church. However, if you'd like to update or add to your previous answers, we invite you to fill out the 2025 survey. You can access the survey online through the QR code for easy access. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us!

