



# TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN  
WEEKLY NEWSLETTER | MARCH 23, 2025 | ISSUE 1001

## 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.

## 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.

## EASTER EGG COLLECTION



The Christian Education Committee is collecting plastic Easter Eggs and individually wrapped candy (no chocolate, please) for our Church Easter Egg hunt on **April 20 at 9:30 am**. Please drop off your donations in the plastic bin in the Narthex.

## 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.

## 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 23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

- 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)
- 5:30 pm The Chosen Roundtable (UR)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

### Monday, March 24

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CR)

### Tuesday, March 25

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (UR)
- 5:00 pm Stephen Minister Leaders (MCR)
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministers (MCR)
- 6:15 pm Worship and Music (UR)

### Wednesday, March 26

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CR)
- 10:00 am Chapel Chat
- 1:00 pm American Mah Jongg (GSH)
- 3:30 pm Christ Kids (Playground/CE)
- 5:00 pm Confirmation (GC)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
- 6:00 pm He Chose the Nails Bible Study (GR)
- 6:00 pm Chancel Bells (BR)
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir (CR)

### Thursday, March 27

- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (BR)
- 6:00 pm Women's Book of James Bible Study (GC)

### Friday, March 28

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CR)
- 5:30 pm Pizza Before Movie (UR)
- 7:00 pm The Chosen: Last Supper~Part 1 (Off-site)

### Saturday, March 29

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

## 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.

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Mark your calendars for *Hometown Nazareth Where Jesus Was a Kid Vacation Bible School* (Monday, June 16 - Thursday, June 19) from 5:30-8 pm. More information to come!!



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### MEMBERS

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

### 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
Kline Roberts.....	Jim Threlkel's 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	Stephanie Gillie	KaitLin Marotti
Brenden Anderson	Eddie Gray	Mathew Massam
Christian Anderson	Daniel Harp	John Portlock
Zach Drum	Sean Harp	Colton Powers
Robert Ferguson	David Knowles	Diane Secord
	John Marotti	Shad Skinner

## ALL CHURCH RETREAT



Do you know the original name of **Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center**?

In 1971, the first summer camp was held on the current site and was affectionately called "Camp Pic-a-tic" later to be renamed Cedarkirk. Kirk is the Scottish word for church so the name literally means "Church in the Cedars." This significant name is a nod to our Presbyterian heritage and the native Cedar trees that are on the grounds at Cedarkirk.

Our annual church retreat is coming up on **Saturday, April 5**. Check-in begins at **9 am**. Although only a day event this year, there is much fun planned through meaningful study, zip line, swimming and as always good Cedarkirk food and conversations.

The cost is: Adults \$34, Youth \$29, & Family \$102. The fees include two meals and all activities.

To RSVP or for further information, please contact our church office or contact Rev. Callie Weber at [cweber@firstpreswh.org](mailto:cweber@firstpreswh.org).

## CHAPEL CHATS



Chapel Chats is a special worshipful discussion time that is offered on **Wednesdays at 10 am** during the Lenten season. For those who are looking for a little more time for reflection and exploring scripture, these hour-long chats are a great way to engage using worship, music, discussion, and meditation during this special season in the Christian calendar.

For the 2025 Lenten season, Chapel Chats are focused on the different types of Psalms. Through your Bible reading, you have probably noticed that there are a variety of Psalms that focus on different aspects of the human experience. Psalms include themes of praise, wisdom, confession, lament, and thanksgiving as well as some other topics. Our Chats focus each week on one or two of different Psalm themes and highlight how these themes are part of our lives and a reflection of our faith.

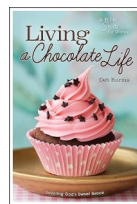
**Week Three (March 26):** In our lives, we often go to God in need of help. This week's Chapel Chat will focus on the lament Psalms. Lament is often defined as grief and sorrow which is very much part of our human experience. We lose a lot through the course of our lives: people we love, abilities, relationships, material possessions, and even dreams. The lament Psalms give us voice to these pleas for God's presence in our loss and our reassurance in God's ever-loving arms and omnipotence through our tears.

## 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 **April 15 at 10 am** at Carol Carter's house.

*The Lydia Circle* meets on the **3rd Thursday** of each month. The next meeting is **April 17 at 10 am** in the Manor Conference Room in the church office.



## 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 EACH TUESDAY

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.



## EASTER LILY FORM

It is time to order your Easter lily for **Easter Sunday, April 20**. To purchase a lily "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one or friend, please fill out this order form. The cost is \$16 per plant. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Easter Lily Fund".



Please turn form in by **Monday, April 14**.

A complete listing will be available Easter Sunday. We will again remove the yellow stamen from each lily so it will not bother your allergies.

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

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

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

Number of plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

First Presbyterian Church  
637 6th Street, NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
863-294-3121  
www.firstpreswh.org  
office@firstpreswh.org  
Facebook.com/FPCWinterHaven

Non-profit Org.  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 1162  
Lakeland, FL

**This newsletter is published weekly.**  
Church dated material, please deliver by 3/21/25.

**Return Service Requested**

#### **Bag Lunch Ministry**

We gave out 227 lunches  
the week of 3/10/25.



#### **Soup Kitchen Ministry**

We fed 78 people on  
Saturday, 3/15/25.

## **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.

## **SOUP KITCHEN HELP NEEDED**



Would you like to help love and serve those who hunger? We need **helpers** for **April 19 and all of May**.

If you can help with this very important ministry, please sign up in McLeod Hall or call 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!

