



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of February 14, 2016

Issue 572

130 Years of Ministry

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

On February 14, First Pres will mark the First Sunday in the season of Lent. This forty day period of penitent self-examination leads up to the celebration of Easter.

In our congregation, we will begin Lent by coming to the Lord's Table for the Sacrament of Holy Communion at both Sunday worship services that day. During Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, Dr. Harvey and Dr. Negley will focus their preaching on stories from the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, as they are reflected in the beautiful stained glass windows of our church.

We hope you will join us throughout Lent as we follow our Lord Jesus to the cross, the empty tomb, and beyond.

Dr. Steven R. Negley
Senior Pastor

Dr. C. Alan Harvey
Associate Pastor

Dr. Raymond M. Larson
Minister of Visitation

Dr. James G. Manor
Parish Associate

Amy L. McKee
Director of
Christian Education

Dana H. Parrish
Director of
Student Ministries

Lynn M. McCoy
Director of
Music Ministries

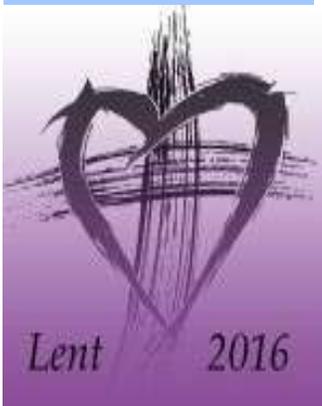
Ronda A. Lacy
Director of Finance &
Administration

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative Assistant

Rose Flynn
Office Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant
Director of Maintenance

Ann M. Quessenberry
Custodian



Church calendar

Sunday, February 14

1st Sunday in Lent

Communion

8:50 a.m. Gathering Worship
9:45 a.m. OJ Fellowship (MH)
9:45 a.m. Sunday School-Children & Youth
10:00 a.m. Sunday School-Adults
4:30 p.m. HSYG Music Rehearsal (GC)
5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)

Monday, February 15

12:00 p.m. Busy Moms of Faith (GR)

Tuesday, February 16

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
9:30 a.m. Joy Circle (Off-site)
12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
12:00 p.m. Finance (UR)
6:30 p.m. Deacons (GR)

Wednesday, February 17

8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
2:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women Bible Study
Leaders (MCR)
3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CE)
5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (GC)
5:00 p.m. Memorial Garden (MCR)
5:30 p.m. Christ Kids Ringers (CE)
5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, February 18

9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study (UR)
7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, February 19

8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)

Saturday, February 20

9:00 a.m. Stephen Minister Training (UR)
2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)
7:00 p.m. Saturday Nite Live (MH)

Remember in Prayer

members

Roger & Marie Able	Frances Heath	Bob Sheffield
Anne Burch	Doris Hill	Barbara A. Smith
Win Betrus	Camille Howe	Barbara H. Smith
Millie Carrier	Jim Huff	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Helen Champlain	Dorothy Johnson	Carolyn Thompson
Jerry Dugger	Joey Johnston	Ed Threadgill
Mary Dukes	Dena Lancashire	Shirley Turner
Jana & Mike Easterling	Spike Lucia	Mike Vibral
Jeanne Estes	Lynnis Mincey	Nat West
Bill & Becky Everhart	Joan Murphy	Lee Wilkinson
Lois Frakes	Joe Orianni	Marie Williams
Marge Goodman	Earle Roberts	
Joyce Hayman	Dorothy Ryan	

IN THE HOSPITAL: Spike Lucia

Family and friends

Antonello family	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friends
Shelly Appleton	John & Marcia Eycleshimer's friend
John & Judy Cameron	Ben Tucker's sister & brother-in-law
Jerry Cooley	Susan Singleton's friend
Mike Copeland	Jackie Pinkney's cousin
Al Ellis	Jim Threlkel's friend
Raymond Fenstermaker	Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
Morgan Griffith	Everhart-Donaldy's friend
Jean Hehn	Ellie Threlkel's friend
Chris & Tracey Johnston	Jeremiah & Jaleean Johnston's family
Misty Jones	Lynn Oakley's friend
Pete Kent	Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
Lindsey Kneubuler	John & Marcia Eycleshimer's niece
Nan Mason	Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter
Sharon & Hoyt Maulden	Judy Winfree's sister & brother-in-law
Amity McGee	Bethany Owen's friend
Anna Robinson	Punkin Smith's friend
Cash Sheaffer	Zan Dismuke's grandson
Bonnie Spires	Saturday Nite Live helper
Marshall Wood	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend

THIS IS WHAT OUR STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINEES ARE LEARNING

Our Stephen Minister training class has begun. We ask you to keep our Stephen Minister trainees in your prayers as they nurture their gifts and acquire new skills so that they can bring Christ's love and care to hurting people on behalf of our congregation. Also pray for our Stephen Leaders who will guide them through their training.



Here is what our Stephen Ministers are learning currently:

The Person of the Caregiver: an introduction to the 50 hours of training and exploring the Christ-centered foundation of Stephen Ministry.

Feelings ~ Yours, Mine, and Ours: Our trainees learn to help people recognize, accept, and express their feelings.

The Art of Listening: This class learns and practices the skill of reflecting as a valuable listening tool. They explore the many facets of listening and talk about their own experiences so as to better understand when listening is effective and when it feels fake or makes a person feel uncomfortable.

Distinctively Christian Caring: We will explore the essentials of using their Christian faith in caring for another, drawing on the resources of prayer, witnessing, forgiveness, blessings, confession and absolution, and the Bible in caregiving relationships.

AND REMEMBER, IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW NEEDS HELP...

connect with one of our Stephen Ministers, by calling **Pat Reass at 206-9914**, or talk with one of our other Stephen Minister Leaders: **Alan Harvey, Ray Larson, Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, Les O'Neal, Barbara Perkins, or Jean Strang**. You can also use one of the three Request Form Boxes located in the Centennial Room, narthex, and balcony hallway.

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD

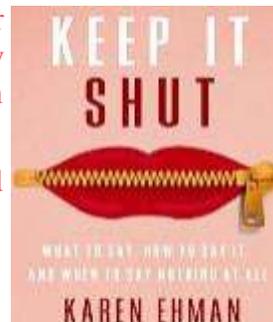
We are excited to have our children and youth take a more active role in our worship through music. We will use the talents of our young people on the **second Sunday of the month** to lead us in song and to share their special music.

They will be sharing as part of the **11:00 a.m. service this Sunday, February 14.**

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday women's Bible study group started a new Bible study at 9 a.m. in the Upper Room titled *Keep It Shut: What to Say, How to Say It, and When to Say Nothing at All* by Karen Ehman. Come for discussion, Bible study, and amazing fellowship with the women of First Presbyterian.

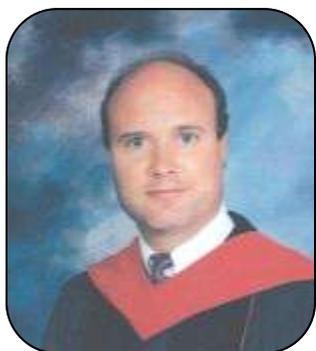
Friends and neighbors are always welcome as well. Books can be purchased for around \$10. Please contact Lia Gray for more information at 318-1541 or uncpair@gmail.com.



The meeting dates are:

February 18, March 3, March 17, 31, April 14, and possibly April 28.

LET'S CELEBRATE 20 YEARS OF MINISTRY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. STEVE NEGLEY

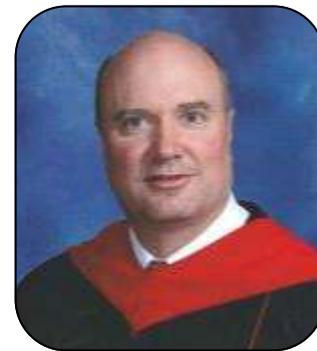


THEN

February 15, 1996 marked the return of former Associate Pastor Steven R. Negley as the congregation of First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven welcomed him to the position of Senior Pastor/Head of Staff.

That was twenty years ago!

On Sunday, February 21, 2016, we would like to celebrate these years at a reception honoring Steve and Teresa. The reception will follow the eleven o'clock service in McLeod Hall. A basket will be available to collect your best wishes and any remembrances you may wish to share with Steve.



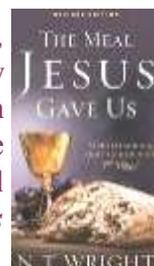
NOW

We are grateful to God for these twenty years and we look forward to more years of his faithful leadership and service. In the meantime, it is time to party so come and join us for punch and refreshments.

ODD MONTH, ODD (3RD) MONDAY BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB



Because a number of us enjoyed the Downton Abbey Farewell Tea on January 24, 2016, we did not have a January meeting. We will resume meeting on the 3rd Monday of March, which is **March 21 at 3 p.m. in the back of McLeod Hall**. The March meeting will be a "two-fer," making up for January and observing Holy Week. We will examine and review two books: **Jan Karon's newest release in the Mitford series: *Come Rain or Come Shine*** and **N. T. Wright's *The Meal Jesus Gave Us* (revised edition).**



The dates, titles and the authors for the remainder of the year are:

May 16: *The Shepherd's Life Modern Dispatches from an Ancient Landscape* by James Rebanks.

July 18: *Signing Their Lives Away The Fame and Misfortune of the Men Who Signed The Declaration of Independence* by Denise Kiernan and Joseph D'Agnese.

September 19: *Andy and Don The Making of a Friendship and a Classic American TV Show*, by Daniel de Vise'.

November 21: *The Immortal Nicholas* by Glenn Beck.

COME TO THE WATERS...

the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2015-2016, is a rich exploration of water stories in both testaments. "Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures on water nourish our souls." Join one of the Circles for interesting lessons and Christian fellowship.

Lydia Circle is the **second Monday of the month.**

The next meeting will be February 8, 2016.

Joy Circle is the **third Tuesday.**

The next meeting will be February 16, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at Carol Carter's.



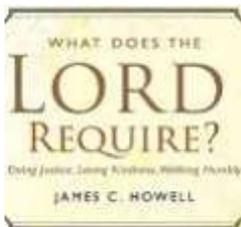
SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Children ages three through fifth grade will meet in the children's music room, Room 103 of the Education Building from 9:45 - 10 a.m. with Ms. Lynn.

Preschool Children will meet in Room 108 for a morning of crafts, snacks, Bible stories, and playtime with their preschool friends.

Elementary aged children will enjoy the Workshop Rotation with Science, Movies, Art, Cooking, Storytelling, Games, and Library time!! Special prizes will be offered all year long for attendance. This first 2016 Rotation will be: People Who Made a Difference.

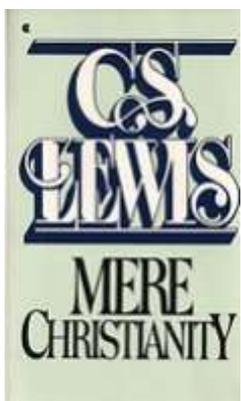
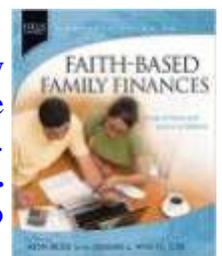
Middle school and High school youth meet every Sunday morning in The Golden Center for Sunday School from 9:45-10:45. During this time we meet and have fun and eat good food while learning about and growing in our faith in Christ. Come join us.



Adults Class Options (10-10:45 a.m.)

The Perspectives Class will continue their discussion on the book - *What Does the Lord Require? Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly*, by James C. Howell. This class is led by Dr. Jim Threlkel and Mr. Glenn Thomas and meets in the Geneva Room, Room 106 of the CE Building.

Join Howard Beckert starting on Sunday, January 10 for 6 weeks of **Faith-Based Family Finances**. This intriguing class will cover such topics as: Stewardship, Common Sense Financial Principles, Budgeting, Freedom From Debt, and Passing It On Before You Pass On. This class is meant for adults of all ages and stages of life. We will meet from **10-10:45 a.m. in Room 207** for discussion each week. Bring your friends and your questions. This is sure to be a very beneficial class for all. We look forward to you all joining us.



What began as a series of 'talks' on the radio by the devout Christian layman and brilliant college professor C. S. Lewis, has become a foundational book for many millions of Christ's followers over the years. "Ever since I became a Christian I have thought that the best, perhaps the only, service I could do for my unbelieving neighbors was to explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times." So Lewis begins this literary journey. Our class will read (five to ten pages a week) and reflect on Lewis' **Mere Christianity (What One Must Believe to be a Christian)**. If you have read this work before, come and share what elements in our faith has touched your heart and soul. If you have not had the opportunity, join with us for the first time as we explore topics such as The Three Parts of Morality, Christian Marriage, Forgiveness, Faith, Hope, Charity, Obstinate Toy Soldiers, Nice People or New Men, from the fertile and faithful perspective of C.S. Lewis. Dr. Negley will lead the class which meets in the back section of McLeod Hall.

Making *FIRST PRES* Your *FIRST CHOICE* for World Mission

Our congregation is a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This connection to the larger church means that we have been leaders in spreading the gospel around the globe for well over a century. By the time our congregation was chartered in 1886, Presbyterian missionaries were sharing the gospel in China and The Congo. Even today, the Presbyterian Church (USA) supports hundreds of mission workers around the globe.

Presbytery Missions

Our church is a member congregation of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay. Together with 70 other Presbyterian Church (USA) congregations, our presbytery is a mission partnership allowing us to conduct ministry which is larger than what most churches can handle alone. In this mission partnership, new churches are being organized and disciples are being nurtured in the greater Tampa Bay region. Our mission work also helps provide for faith formation at the Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center and Eckerd College. Our mission in the Presbytery of Tampa Bay also includes providing spiritual and physical support of migrant farm workers and their families through the varied ministries of the Beth-El Mission in Wimauma (just south of Tampa).

Through the International Partnership Committee and the mission partnership between the Presbytery of Tampa Bay and the Presbytery of Honduras, members from our congregation have engaged in week-long mission trips to the country of Honduras in 1998, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014. We are also putting the final details together for a team to return to Honduras June 11-18, 2016! During these wonderful mission experiences, youth and adults from First Pres have felt their faith in Christ deepen as we worked alongside our Honduran brothers and sisters in Christ building churches,



World Missions

Nationally and internationally, along with 11,000 other PC (USA) congregations, people are being trained and supported in ministry and mission personnel are blanketing the globe with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our church's investment in World Missions includes our shared ministry in Presbytery (Cedarkirk, Beth-El and The Tampa Bay Presbytery International Partnership with the Presbytery of Honduras), and our support of General Assembly Mission Partners in places like Taiwan; the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Thailand.

Over the past year, our congregation has also shared God's love world-wide as we collected thousands of dollars in our Christmas Eve Offering for Medical Missions. These gifts went to support the Medical Benevolence Foundation Mobile Health Clinics in Kenya, Bangladesh and Haiti, and Dr. Moreno's Clinic at the Pena de Hereby Presbyterian Church in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

At Easter, we have a special collection for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to provide relief to those affected by natural disasters (through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance), provide food to the hungry, and assist in helping to empower the poor and oppressed



And since 2013, through our world mission budget, our congregation has supported the work of a son of our congregation, Rev. Dr. Fred Foy Strang and his wife Dr. Cecily Strang, and the Training Center for Massai church leaders in Kenya and Tanzania. Our church has made a gift to help with the construction of this new facility.

We are excited that Fred Foy and Cecil Strang will be back in the states over Easter. Fred Foy will be preaching here at First Pres on Sunday, April 10, and Cecily and Fred Foy will be sharing a presentation of their current ministry projects at a special assembly during the Sunday School hour.



When each of us Make **FIRST PRES Our FIRST CHOICE**, the good news of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ is literally shared around the world!

COME WORSHIP WITH US

At **8:50 a.m.**, members and friends of First Presbyterian Church are invited to attend The Gathering. This service is held in the sanctuary. The piano is the primary instrument for leading in congregational music with a variety of instruments adding special touches from week to week. The prayers in worship and the flow of the service help the congregation gather in God's love. The Gathering ordinarily lasts 50 minutes and will conclude with the Benediction at 9:40 a.m.

At **11:00 a.m.**, you are invited to attend our later morning worship. This service is held in the sanctuary with music and responses regularly led by our chancel choir and accompanied by organ and piano. In the tradition of our church, cultivated over the last few decades, a full liturgy gives the congregation opportunities for spiritual enrichment and the sense of God's love and grace. This worship service ordinarily lasts one hour and concludes with the Benediction at 12:00 p.m.



We hope you will join us in worship, study, and fellowship!



If you are a middle or high school student we would love for you to join us for youth group each week in our new and improved youth house, The Golden Center. **Middle School Youth Group** meets each Wednesday night from 5:30-7:30 and **High School Youth Group** meets each Sunday night from 5:30-7:30. During this time we spend time together sharing meals, growing in Christ, playing games, and having LOTS of fun!

Once a month we will meet outside the Golden Center to be the hands and feet of Jesus to help people in our community. We have laid sod for Habitat for Humanity, worked in our soup kitchen feeding the homeless, and bagged countless bag lunches for our bag lunch ministry. These are just a few ways we are the hands and feet of Jesus.

Sometimes we get together simply to have fun. We have been to the corn maze in the dark, Fun Spot, pool parties, camp outs, paint balling and so much more. If you are looking to connect with young people your age while developing a deep relationship with Christ come and join us. We would love to have you!

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR YOU PORTRAIT SITTING FOR OUR CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Sign up online on the church website at firstpreswh.org, our Facebook page, or before and after church in the narthex. Please sign up ASAP to lock in your preferred date.

March photography sessions are: **March 10 & 11**, 1:00–8:00 pm and **March 12** 10:00 am–5:00 pm. Plan to be here for about an hour.



All families will receive a \$10 coupon the day of their scheduled photography, plus if you donate a food item, or cash for our food ministry the day of your photo session, you will receive another \$5.00 coupon (one per household) towards your portrait order. All individuals and families sitting for a portrait receive a free portrait. Regular attenders and winter residents are encouraged to have their photos taken.



Free Portrait Pick Up In The Office On Weekdays

You will need to sign that you received your portrait.

The following folks may pick up their free portrait in the church office on weekdays: Anderson, Aspy, Beckley, Bowen, H. Butz, Carter, Chas. Chilton, Dustin, Eycleshimer, Ferguson, J. Gray, Heyer-Singleton, Hines, Howard, Hubbard, Kenner, Kingham, W. Koon, McGee, McClew, Meier, Olmert, Owen, Patchen, Porter, Rounsley, Dennis Smith, H. Snively, Snyder, Stavres, Swart, Volpe, J. Whitney, Zowarka.

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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 2/12/16.

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Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 300 bag lunches the week of 2/1/16.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 91 people on 2/6/16

THE 10 TO 2 LUNCH BUNCH...

will be heading out on **Monday, February 29** to Hollerbach's Willow Tree Café in Sanford.

With a little further to travel, and the possibility of a little longer wait – we will have a special time. We will leave the church at **9:00 a.m.** and return at **3:30 p.m.**

While there, we will enjoy table fellowship with your Christian friends and fabulous German food (various versions of schnitzel, bratwurst, weisswurst, hungarian goulash, potato pancakes, riesen brazen, sweet red cabbage, salads ,and more.) All you need to pay for is your lunch. Call (294-3121) or email the church office to reserve your seat on the church bus or van.

