



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of October 4, 2015

Issue 556

129 Years of Ministry

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 4, 2015

The first Sunday in October is recognized by Christian churches around the globe as World Communion Sunday, a day on which the table of the Lord is filled around the world by God's children.



We will be celebrating World Communion Sunday on **October 4** with worship and communion by intinction at the four corners of the sanctuary.

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, October 4

World 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-Adult
- 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)

Monday, October 5

- 8:45 a.m. MOM

Tuesday, October 6

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
- 6:00 p.m. Saturday Nite Live Planning (MH)
- 6:30 p.m. Session (GR)

Wednesday, October 7

- 8:45 a.m. MOM
- 3:00 p.m. Christ Kids
- 5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, October 8

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

Friday, October 9

- 8:45 a.m. MOM

Saturday, October 10

- 2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
- 4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)



Military
 Robert Ferguson
 Stephanie Gillie
 Eddie Gray
 David Knowles

Remember in Prayer

members

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Roger Able | Dorothy Johnson | Barbara H. Smith |
| Win Betrus | Joey Johnston | Barbara A. Smith |
| Millie Carrier | Dena Lancashire | Marcia Strang |
| Orrin Champlain | Steve Luxford | Carol Switalski |
| Norma Conner | Elaine Maltese | Pam Tallent-Blackburn |
| Jerry Dugger | Gladys Meier | Chuck Tate |
| Jana & Mike Easterling | Lynnis Mincey | Carolyn Thompson |
| Jeanne Estes | Jim Morris | Ed Thredgill |
| Bill & Becky Everhart | Joan Murphy | Shirley Turner |
| Marge Goodman | Randal Palmer | Bonnie Walter |
| Frances Heath | Ann Reddout | Gwen Waters |
| Doris Hill | Earle Roberts | Lee Wilkinson |
| Ed & Joan Houston | Dave Ryan | Anne Windham |
| Camille Howe | Dorothy Ryan | |
| Jim Huff | Barbara A. Smith | |

IN THE HOSPITAL: Ranell Hillman

Family and friends

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| Peyton Battilla | Hadley Owen's friend |
| Rick Cardona | Charlie & T. Michael Stavres' friend |
| Christine & Emily | Beverly Seagreave's daughter & granddaughter |
| Jerry Cooley | Susan Singleton's friend |
| John Doughty | Dena Lancashire's nephew |
| Al Ellis | Jim Threlkel's friend |
| Raymond Fenstermaker | Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson |
| Jean Hehn | Ellie Threlkel's friend |
| Shea & Lacey Irvin | Becky Irvin's son & daughter-in-law |
| Maria Joyce | Dick & Nancy Shaw's friend |
| Vicki Kaufman | Amy Speer's mother |
| Mary Ann Kelly | TD Sowards' friend |
| Pete Kent | Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew |
| Glinda Knowles | Amy Speer's aunt |
| Nan Mason | Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter |
| Gail McKinnon | Barbara Puckett's friend |
| Fred Meier | Sarah Rennie's dad |
| Darla Moore | Amanda Olmert's relative |
| Cathy Rector | Charlie & T. Michael Stavres' friend |
| J. David Richardson | Ellie & Jim Threlkel |
| Darcie Wards | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Laura Williamson | Nancy Williamson's daughter |
| Marshall Wood | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |



Our Christian sympathy goes to Stephany Alexander and family, in the death of her father, Clinton Austin who died Monday, September 21, 2015.

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

If you have an interest in Early Music (Renaissance and Baroque), then we have the group for you! The Recorder Consort will have an informational start-up meeting on **Wednesday, October 7th at 8:00 p.m.** in the music suite on the 3rd floor. Instrument assignment and practice schedule will be discussed. We have plenty of recorders, a lyre, and a harpsichord available for you to use. String players are also welcome.

If you have always wanted to learn to play an instrument and join an ensemble, the recorder consort would be the perfect place to start! If you have any question, please call Lynn McCoy at 294-3121 or email her at lynn.mccoy@firstpreswh.org.



FALL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Jonah: Navigating a Life Interrupted by
Priscilla Shirer

What do we do when God interrupts our lives? Many times, like Jonah, we run! In this 7-session Bible study, Priscilla redefines interruption and shows that interruption is actually God's invitation to do something beyond our wildest dreams. When Jonah was willing to allow God to interrupt his life, the result was revival in an entire city. The cost of this book is \$12.77.



Meeting dates are:

Thursdays, 9 - 11 a.m., October 8 & 22, November 5 & 19, December 3, January 7 & 21.

Contact Lia Gray to reserve your study booklet at:
Uncpair@gmail.com or 318-1541.

COME TO THE WATERS...

the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2015-2016, will be 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; next meeting, October 12 at 10 a.m.** in McLeod Hall.

Joy Circle is the **third Tuesday; next meeting, October 20 at 9:30 a.m.** at Carol Carter's.

FAMILY BOWLING NIGHT

On **Friday, October 16** join us for Family Bowling Night at Cypress Lanes from **6:30 – 8:30 p.m.** The cost is \$10 per person for 2 hours of bowling.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, October 14 if you plan on attending.

You may e-mail Amy McKee at amckee@firstpreswh.org or call the church office at 294-3121.

YOUTH CORN MAZE TRIP!

We will be taking a trip to the corn maze in Lakeland at the end of the month.

High school will be going **Sunday, October 18** after the church service that day. Bring money for lunch as we will eat before we leave that day.

Middle school will be taking our trip **Saturday, October 24**. We will meet at the Golden Center (youth house) at 2:00 that afternoon.

Cost of admission is \$6 plus any money you want for snacks while you are there. It is always a blast to run in the corn maze at night and spend time with friends.

Let Dana know if you plan to attend. You can email her at dparrish@firstpreswh.org or call at 863-412-2897.

We hope to see you all there.



From the Personnel Committee ~ “Something Happened this Summer”



On June 30, of 2015, one of our pastors marked a milestone; the Thirtieth Anniversary of Ordination.

Steve Negley was ordained as a minister of the word and sacrament on June 30, 1985, here at First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven. Steve served as Associate Pastor on our staff at First Church until accepting a call as solo pastor for the Presbyterian Church in Seffner, Florida in 1988. Steve returned to First Church, Winter Haven on Feb. 15, 1996 as Senior Pastor, Head of Staff. Steve continues to actively serve our congregation, the Presbytery of Tampa Bay, the Rotary Club of Winter Haven and the Winter Haven Ministerial Association as a truly ecumenical minister in Polk County.

Steve’s ministerial career has been conducted in a compact region, serving 3 churches in the same presbytery where he sought pastoral candidacy from his home church in Tampa. Since his seminary days, he has only served churches less than 60 miles from that home church.

We commend Steve and lift thanks to God for providing us with a great pastor. We have been further blessed with the involvement of Teresa, Thomas, and Stewart in the life and ministry of our church. We look forward to continuing successes with Steve as he helps to lead our congregation into the future.

(Steve's note, "This is not my retirement notice.")

We, the First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven family thank Steve and his family for sharing their lives with us. Thanks be to God!



A SUCCESS STORY FROM HONDURAS (AS TOLD BY GENE ASPY)

I want to introduce you to a young man from Honduras whose name is Noelito Mejia. Those of us who have worked in Honduras know him as a faithful Christian, hard worker and a gifted self-taught musician. He was also a recipient of one of our high school scholarships.



Noel and his brother grew up in a single-parent household in Tegucigalpa. When he was small he was seriously injured. His mother stayed by his side and promised God if he spared her child she would dedicate him to God’s service. She has lived up to that promise.

After high school his mom lost her job and Noelita became the primary bread-winner. He longed to continue his education, so several members of our church paid the living expenses for the family as well as the university cost for three years. Now, after graduating, he has a great job, has married and has a son. He was able to help his brother and is now putting his wife through college.

He brought tears to my eyes when he told me how grateful he was and how grateful his mom was, because she could not have even dreamed this for her son. Because he felt so blessed by our generosity Noelito said, “Sometimes I think I am God’s baby.”

The congregation of First Presbyterian Winter Haven should be very proud of the changes they are making in people’s lives in Honduras.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Making FIRST PRES Your FIRST CHOICE for World Mission



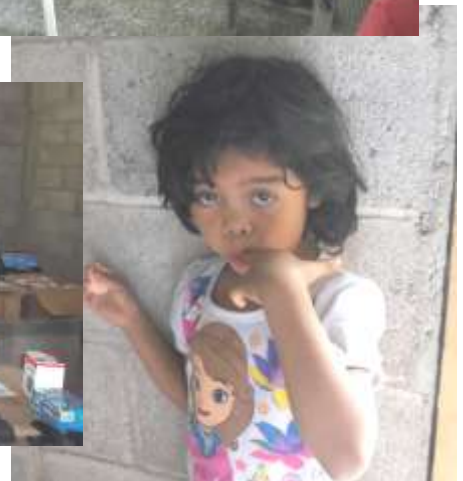
Our congregation is a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This connection to the larger church means that we have been leaders in spreading the gospel around the globe for well over a century. By the time our congregation was chartered in 1886, Presbyterian missionaries were sharing the gospel in 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 and 2014. 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, offering medical care, and sharing the love of Christ throughout Central America.



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 five General Assembly Mission Partners: John McCall, mission co-worker in Taiwan; Ruth Brown, mission co-worker in Democratic Republic of the Congo; and Sharon Bryant, mission co-worker in Thailand, mission co-worker Tim and Gloria Wheeler in Honduras.

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 Malawi, Bangladesh and Haiti, and Dr. Moreno's Clinic at the Pena de Horeb Presbyterian Church in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

At Easter, we gave over \$3,082.89 to 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 Masai church leaders in Kenya and Tanzania. Our church has made a gift of \$2000.00 to the construction of this new facility.

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!



FALL 2015 SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, & ADULTS



The children and youth meet at **9:45 a.m.** and the adults gather at **10 a.m.**
There is a place for everyone to belong on this new adventure this Fall!

*A Nursery is available for children 2 and younger during the 8:50
Gathering, Sunday School hour, and 11 a.m. worship service.*

Children ages three through fifth grade will meet in the new 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 this
Fall with Science, Movies, Art, Cooking, Storytelling, Games, and
Library time!!

Special prizes will be offered all year long for attendance.

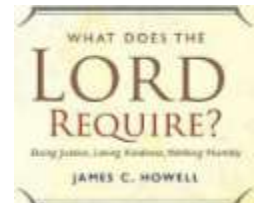


Middle school and High school youth meet every Sunday morning in The
Golden Center for Sunday School from 9:45 - 10:45 a.m. During this time we
meet and have fun and eat good food while learning about and growing in our
faith in Christ. Come join us.

We have several options for Adults to enjoy this Fall

Raising Christ-Centered Children will meet in Room 101 of the Christian Education
Building. Teachers for this class are Bob and Carol Carter and Gannon Olmert. This class will
meet for 6 weeks, with a Marriage Class starting on **November 1.**

The Perspectives Class will start a new series on the book - *What Does the
Lord Require? Doing Justice, Loving Kindness, Walking Humbly*, by James C.
Howell. This class is facilitated by Dr. Jim Threlkel & Glenn Thomas and
meets in the Geneva Room.



Dr. Negley will lead **Faith as a Verb** - Chapter 11 of the Biblical
book of Hebrews shows snapshot after snapshot of faith in action.
(Enoch, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses' mother, Rahab the
harlot, Gideon, Barak, David are all touted as faithful followers of
God on life's journey.) Join us as we use this one chapter, and the
rich list of heroes and heroines of our faith, as our starting point for
weekly conversations about how we live faithful lives as God's
people. This class meets in the back of McLeod Hall.

Have Your Second Cup of Coffee on Us - Coffee House Chat will meet
in the Girl Scout House at 10 a.m. We will offer a brief devotion, coffee,
and goodies. Come enjoy fellowship with your First Pres friends!



YOUTH GROUP



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 meets each Wednesday night from 5:30-7:30 and high school 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!

THE PRAYER CHAIN REACTIVATED

- * The Prayer Chain is a ministry of the Congregational Care Committee.
- * This ministry functions as a prayer request is made known, calls are made to the Prayer Chain members, who will remember the person(s) and the situation(s) in their prayers.
- * The Prayer Chain is a ministry of the Congregational Care Committee.
- * Jane Ray serves as the Coordinator and she is ready to forward prayer request to the prayer chain members. You can call her at 318-1833.



PLEASE SIGN YOUR CHILD UP FOR ACOLYTE



Acolytes are needed at the 8:50 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. worship services on Sunday mornings. A sign-up sheet is located on the informational bulletin board in the CE Building. Please sign-up your child ahead of time so we can include his/her name in the bulletin.

Any child who is in first through fifth grade can acolyte. Please call Amy McKee at 294-3121 or e-mail amckee@firstpreswh.org with any questions.



FRIENDSHIP CALLERS



We have need of some who would like to become a little more involved in the life and ministry of our church. You are invited to look into becoming a Friendship Caller. You do not need any special talent or the giving of a lot of your time to this vital ministry. You need the gift of wanting to lift another who is lonely and/or cannot get out on their own.

Please call Ray Larson, or one of our present Friendship Callers: Bill Allen, Orrin & Helen Champlain, Ed & Joan Houston, Joey Johnston, Phyllis Legg, or Kline Roberts. We have many friends and members who would love to welcome your visit.

FALL/WINTER/SPRING WORSHIP SCHEDULE HAS RETURNED

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!

YOU CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR STEPHEN MINISTRY

.. Because you may know of a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or relative who is going through a difficult time and who could benefit from the focused care, encouragement, and support of a Stephen Minister.

If you know of someone who is hurting, talk with or call **Pat Reass at 206-9914**. Or talk with one of our other Stephen Minister Leaders: **Alan Harvey, Ray Larson, Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, 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.



PLEASE HELP US VISIT OUR HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS!

"I was **sick** and **you visited me**..."
—Matthew 25:36 NKJV

The tightening of HIPAA regulations has meant that we have missed visiting some of our members during their hospital stay. If you are a member or a friend of this congregation, or you have a family member admitted to any hospital, please call the church office and let the pastors know.



Thank you for helping us stay in touch with the congregation.



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 10/2/15.

Non-profit Org.
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Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 401 bag lunches the week of 9/21/15.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 94 people on 9/26/15.



Mark your calendars for **Wednesday evening, October 28** for games, crafts, prizes, candy and more for children fifth grade and younger.

The Youth of the church help to run the activity booths along with faithful volunteers. Kids are invited to wear non-scary Halloween costumes. The fun begins with pizza at **5:30 p.m.** and the festival from **6 - 7:15 p.m.**

Please be sure to RSVP for dinner by Monday, October 26. Also, be sure to bring in **INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED CANDY** or small prizes to be passed out at the various booths. Candy **MUST** be individually wrapped. Thanks for your support!!!

FALL FEST RESERVATION DUE BY MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

Name: _____ # Adults: _____ # Children: _____