



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of December 6, 2015

Issue 564

129 Years of Ministry

Make **FIRST PRES** your **FIRST CHOICE** for Celebrating Advent in 2015

During the Season of Advent, our church family is focusing on those who were present to celebrate the birth of Christ. The **Advent daily devotions**, which have been written by members of our congregation and staff, will feature stories about special nativity sets that help us to re-tell the story of the birth of our Savior.

The **sermons for the Sundays of Advent** will take a detailed look at different nativity characters each week:

The Shepherds on the Second Sunday in Advent: **December 6**

The Wise Men on the Third Sunday in Advent: **December 13**

The Holy Family on the Fourth Sunday in Advent: **December 20**

On Saturday night, December 12, our church members will help the holy night and the town of Bethlehem come to life with **Come to the Stable and to Bethlehem Square** (our indoor and outdoor living re-creation of the people and the place of Christ's birth.)



The season will reach its climax on **Christmas Eve, December 24**, and our **Candlelight Services of Lessons and Carols**. The **5:00 p.m.** service will include children's choirs, and a children's story with a re-enactment of the nativity. The **9:00 p.m.** service will feature additional musical selections from our choir.

We hope you, your family and friends, will make **FIRST PRES** your **FIRST CHOICE** for sharing the Good News of Christ's birth this Advent and Christmas season.

THE ST. NICHOLAS DAY JINGLE JAVA JAM **IS ALMOST HERE ~ DECEMBER 6, 4 P.M.**

If you remember having fun at The Madrigal Feast we did for several years, then you will love this event! Round tables will fill the decorated McLeod Hall and you will be treated to a wonderful dessert and coffee or hot cocoa and cookies for the young ones. Children, youth and adults will present a musical program featuring choral, bell and other instrumental selections of sacred and secular songs of the season. Everyone can participate as we join together to sing the popular and much requested "Twelve Days of Christmas."

Donations will be gladly accepted to defray the cost. Reservations are needed to accommodate food and seating, please call the church office at 294-3121 by noon on Friday, December 4. Nursery services will be provided if needed. We look forward to seeing you for this special holiday event. Thank you!

- 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, December 6

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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
4:00 p.m. St. Nicholas Jingle Java Jam (MH)
4:30 p.m. HSYG Music Rehearsal (GC)
5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)

Monday, December 7

8:45 a.m. MOM

Tuesday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
5:30 p.m. Personnel (MCR)

Wednesday, December 9

8:45 a.m. MOM
12:00 p.m. Building & Grounds (MH)
12:00 p.m. Busy Moms of Faith Devotional (GR)
3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CE)
4:30 p.m. Come to the Stable Kids Rehearsal (CE)
5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)
8:00 p.m. Come to the Stable Choir & Guitars Rehearsal (MS)

Thursday, December 10

7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, December 11

8:45 a.m. MOM

Saturday, December 12

2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)
6:30 p.m. Come o the Stable and to Bethlehem Square (Parking Lot & MH)
7:30 p.m. Come o the Stable and to Bethlehem Square (Parking Lot & MH)



Our Christian sympathy goes to the family and friends of Norma Conner, who died on Saturday, November 21, 2015.

Remember in Prayer

members

Roger Able	Camille Howe	Earle Roberts
Win Betrus	Jim Huff	Dave Ryan
Millie Carrier	Dorothy Johnson	Dorothy Ryan
Orrin & Helen Champlain	Joey Johnston	Barbara A. Smith
Jerry Dugger	Dena Lancashire	Barbara H. Smith
Mary Dukes	Steve Luxford	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Jana & Mike Easterling	Gladys Meier	Chuck Tate
Bob Endres	Lynnis Mincey	Carolyn Thompson
Jeanne Estes	Jim Morris	Ed Threadgill
Bill & Becky Everhart	Joan Murphy	Shirley Turner
Marge Goodman	Randal Palmer	Gwen Waters
Frances Heath	Barbara Puckett	Lee Wilkinson
Doris Hill	Ann Reddout	

Family and friends

Jerry Cooley	Susan Singleton's friend
Jim Daniels & family	Jonathan Owen's friends
Al Ellis	Jim Threlkel's friend
Families in distress	
Raymond Fenstermaker	Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
Jean Hehn	Ellie Threlkel's friend
Julia Hildebrand	Rick & Pat Reass' friend
Vicki Kaufman	Amy Speer's mother
Pete Kent	Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
Tam Keys	Bethany Owen's mother
Nan Mason	Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter
Letti Lane North	Jean Strang's sister
David Richardson	Ellie & Jim Threlkel friend
Anthony Shepherd	Saturday Nite Live friend
Jimmy & Amanda Sites	Lynn Oakley's friends
Chet Spires	Saturday Nite Live friend
David Sumner	Bethany Owen's brother-in-law
Rick Tyler	Rick & Pat Reass' friend
Marshall Wood	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend



Robert Ferguson
Stephanie Gillie
Eddie Gray
David Knowles
Drew Stapor

2016 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

“Toyland’ – Remembering Favorite Childhood Toys Received at Christmas” was the theme approved by the Session for the 2016 Advent Devotional, which we hope will extend to Epiphany (January 6, 2017).

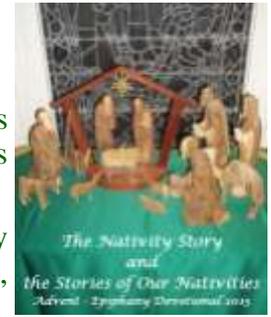
What was your favorite childhood toy received at Christmas? Raggedy Ann and Andy Dolls? A bicycle? CandyLand, Clue, Life, Monopoly or Operation games? An Easy Bake Oven? A Tickle Me Elmo? A GI Joe? A baseball and glove or a football? Barbie and Ken dolls? In two or three paragraphs tell us about your favorite childhood toy received at Christmas, who brought it or gave it to you, your excitement, etc. Then as in previous years, we will add scripture and a brief prayer.



If you are willing to write for this devotional, then please sign up in the narthex. While there be sure and pick up your copy of the 2015 Advent Devotional, *The Story of the Nativity and the Stories of Our Nativities.*



THE NATIVITY STORY AND THE STORIES OF OUR NATIVITIES



Advent through Epiphany 2015 Devotional booklets are available **NOW**. The devotions will also be available on our website and Facebook page as well as through daily e-mails beginning November 29, 2015.

If you would like to be added to the daily staff e-mail devotions and Advent/Epiphany devotions go to our website at <http://www.firstpreswh.org/resources/e-mail-subscriptions>, click on "Sign up for The Devotional" fill in your email information.



DEVOTIONAL GATHERING FOR MOMS

Busy Moms of Faith, a Wednesday Devotional Gathering, will meet on **Wednesday, December 2 and Wednesday, December 9 at noontime** in the Geneva Room. Please feel free to bring your own lunch if you would like. We meet for a time of prayer, devotion, and personal sharing. We look forward to all moms joining us for this hour long gathering. Feel free to stay as long as you are able.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!

Children and Youth will be sharing their musical talents during the **11 a.m. worship on Sunday, December 13.**



COME TO THE WATERS...



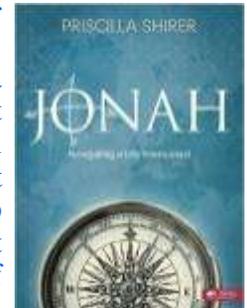
the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for 2015-2016, will be a rich exploration of water stories in both testaments. "Just as water nourishes our bodies, so the scriptures on water nourish our souls." Join one of the Circles for interesting lessons and Christian fellowship.

Lydia Circle is the **second Monday of the month. The December 14 meeting will meet at 11:00 a.m.** at the home of Nancy Brooks. If you wish to ride the bus, meet at the church at **10:30 a.m.** This will be our annual potluck Christmas luncheon and lesson four (4) of our Bible study.

Joy Circle is the **third Tuesday; next meeting, December 15 at 9:30 a.m.** at Carol Carter's.

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.



We will return after the holidays:
Thursdays, 9 - 11 a.m. January 7 & 21.
Contact Lia Gray to reserve your study booklet at:
Uncpair@gmail.com or 318-1541.

PRIMETIMERS

Mark your calendars for the Primetimers Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 16, 11:30 a.m. in McLeod Hall

The program staff and pastors will be preparing and serving a lunch (\$8.00) which will include: Chicken in Cream, Green Beans, Rolls, and Holiday Desserts. There will be food, fellowship, and a Christmas Carol Sing-Along. Please contact the church office at 294-3121, e-mail us office@firstpreswh.org or fill out the form below.



PRIMETIMERS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON RESERVATION

We will collect the money the day of the luncheon.

Name: _____ Number attending: _____

Making FIRST PRES Your FIRST CHOICE for Giving Your First Fruits to God in 2016

First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven operates with a unified church budget. This means that the ministry that we conduct through all our program areas falls under a single church budget, which is supported by the tithes and offerings of our members and friends. **Every person** who generously gives of their first fruits in support of this budget **is a partner in everything** that we do (from preaching to teaching, to the care of our own children in the nursery and the children in Honduras through international mission.)

In our 2016 operating budget, the extent to which we generously share resources so that the church can be the church is revealed.

Dream Budget for 2016

Benevolences:

World Mission in Presbytery (Honduras), Synod, and General Assembly	\$34,000
Presbytery of Tampa Bay Per Capita (Shared operating expenses)	\$25,000
Deacon's Fund (Local Mission)	\$25,000
Congregational Care	\$ 1,000
Stephen Ministry	\$ 2,000
International Mission (Strangs)	\$ <u>3,000</u>
Subtotal Benevolence	\$90,000

Personnel:

Pastoral Staff (salaries and benefits)	\$240,000
Program Staff (salaries and benefits)	\$188,000
Support Staff (salaries)	\$225,000
Nursery Staff (salaries)	\$ 16,000
Worker's Comp Insurance, Employer Payroll Taxes	\$ 34,000
Controlled Disbursements	\$ <u>25,000</u>
Subtotal Personnel	\$728,000

Office/Administrative

Printing, Postage, Supplies	\$ 21,100
Phones, Equipment, Misc	\$ <u>13,900</u>
Subtotal Office/Administrative	\$ 35,000

Properties Buildings and Grounds	\$ 27,000
Utilities	\$ 37,000
Insurance	\$ 81,000
Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance/Other	\$ <u>12,000</u>
Subtotal Properties	\$157,000

Dream Budget for 2016, continued

Program Committees

Christian Education	\$ 6,000
Youth Ministry	\$ 7,000
Worship and Music	\$ 6,000
Other Committees	<u>\$18,000</u>
Subtotal Committees	<u>\$37,000</u>

Total needed to fully fund First Presbyterian Church's ministry in 2016: \$1,047,000

A unified church budget is all about partnership, as each member of the church shares as a partner in the overall ministry of the church. (No one person can take sole credit for the sharing of faith or the works of charity, leaving someone else responsible for the sidewalks and sewer lines.) Each time any of us drops a dollar in the plate, we have helped every area of ministry.



As we move into 2016, our generosity will show in ministry as each of us takes part in walking as a disciple of Jesus Christ and making FIRST PRES our FIRST CHOICE for sharing our first fruits. Thanks for helping us show God's love in all that we do.

OUR CHURCH PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Dear Church Family,

We are excited to announce that we have requested the services of **Lifetouch** Church Directories to prepare our Pictorial Family Album. It will contain color portraits of all the families, some candid pictures of our activities and updated addresses and phone numbers.

Each family photographed will select a pose for the directory, and receive **FREE**:

An 8 x 10 Portrait

A Church Directory

*** Active Military, Police & Fire receive an additional 20% off ***

For your convenience, you will be able to view your portraits within minutes from having them taken. There is **NO OBLIGATION**, however, you will have the opportunity to order portraits. Please bring your credit card, cash or checkbook.

Do you know all fellow members by name? Are there families whom you do not know? We feel that this full color Pictorial Directory will help you to know each other and build stronger unity and closer fellowship.

If you are a **generational** family e.g. Grandparents, daughter, son-in-law, grandchildren, consider signing up together and having a generations picture taken along with your individual family pictures. You can also bring your musical instrument, sports paraphernalia, or a pet to reflect your personality in the photo.

All friends are welcome & will receive the complimentary 8x10 but only our families will receive the church directory. So invite other family members or friends for photos.



THREE CONVENIENT WAYS TO SIGN UP:

* Sign up online on the church website at firstpreswh.org.

* Sign up on our Facebook page.

* Sign up before and after church in the narthex.



Please sign up ASAP to lock in your preferred date. Plan to be here for about 1 hour.



The photography sessions are here at the church on:

Dec 28	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm.
Dec 29	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Jan 14	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Jan 15	1:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Jan 16	10:00 am – 5:00 pm



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.

IT IS THAT TIME ~ POINSETTIA ORDER FOR 2015

Poinsettias are a yearly tradition to decorate the church on Christmas, “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one or friend. This year the poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on **December 20**.

Please fill out the order form below. The cost per plant is **\$11** and checks, marked “poinsettia fund”, should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Place the order form and check in the offering plate, mail it, or take it to the church office by **Monday, December 14**.

A complete listing will be available
Sunday, December 20.

IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Donor(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

_____ I will pick up my poinsettia after the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

_____ I would like my poinsettia delivered to a shut-in.

Number of plants ordered: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



FALL 2015 SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH, (9:45 A.M.) & ADULTS (10 A.M.)

*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.

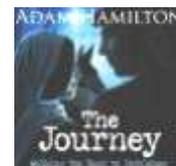
Elementary aged children will enjoy the Workshop Rotation this Fall with Science, Movies, Art, Cooking, Storytelling, Games, and Library time!!



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

Starting on **Sunday, November 29**, take a journey with us on the road to Bethlehem as we follow **Adam Hamilton’s *The Journey*** curriculum during the 4 Sundays of Advent. Amy McKee will lead this video/discussion class which will meet in Room 207 of the Education building. Join us for one Sunday or all four, come as often as you are able.



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. 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.





ARE YOU WORKING?

There's a lot of work to do in God's kingdom. Caregiving is one of the most important jobs God calls us to do--to love others in his name.

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry is one way we accomplish God's caring work. Perhaps God has blessed you richly and you're at a place where you can give something back by serving and blessing others. Roll up your sleeves and explore your role in Stephen Ministry.

Training dates coming soon.

Be a working Christian.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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!

YOUTH GROUP MEALS



Each week when we meet for Wednesday night middle school youth and Sunday night high school youth group we share a meal. It is an essential part of our ministry here at First Pres. Jesus dined with many and it is a time to break bread and share fellowship. Sometimes the best conversations begin around the table.



If you are interested in preparing a meal in the new Golden Center kitchen for our youth or are interested in donating to our youth fund to help purchase these meals please contact Dana at dparrish@firstpreswh.org or call the office at 863-294-3121.

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 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!

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 12/4/15.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 255 bag lunches the week of 11/23/15.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 110 people on 11/28/15.

Return Service Requested

«Mailing Name»

«Address 1»

«Address 2»

«City» «State» «Zip»

COME TO THE STABLE and to BETHLEHEM SQUARE

Saturday, December 12 at 6:30 & 7:30 p.m.

An exciting nativity under the stars, including live:



A "heavenly choir" with accompaniment played by our church musicians, a beautifully costumed cast of all ages - angels, shepherds, the three kings and most importantly - the Holy Family, a donkey for Mary and a small flock of sheep.

Guests can pet the animals after the presentation.



Between performances guests are invited to join the cast and villagers In Bethlehem Square for:



a tasting of the "food of Bethlehem", enjoy live music, meet the costumed cast and villagers, and sign the Bethlehem census scroll to receive a special memento of the event.



BE SURE TO INVITE FRIENDS TO ATTEND!