



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of April 17, 2016

Issue 580

130 Years of Ministry

HELP BRING SMILES TO OUR HONDURAN CHILDREN

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

Recently, in a Time with Younger Disciples” Dr. Negley poured out the contents on what he called a “bag of smiles” onto the floor. The children at that service grinned from ear to ear as they sorted through the small stuffed animals and bouncy balls. The story that day was about how our Mission Team hoped to share smiles (and stuffed animals and balls) with the children in the churches in Honduras as we work with them this summer.

One of the children (a two year old) who had come down to that children’s sermon, went home and worked with his mother on what he called his own SMILE PILE. The next Sunday, he brought a bag of stuffed animals from his smile pile to share with children in Honduras.

On that same Sunday (one week following the children’s sermon) a man in our congregation, who had gone through his collection of Beanie Babies brought in nearly 30 of his treasured toys to share with the little ones we will visit this summer in the villages of Honduras.

That same day, one week after hearing about our plans of sharing smiles with Honduran children, a couple in the church brought in several bags of stuffed animals (totaling over 80) that they had gone out and bought at Dollar Tree.

Within two weeks of hearing about our plan, a church member stopped by to add a bag of 100 small play balls to the pile. (She said that when she saw them in Wal-Mart, she just had to get them to donate.)

Each week – and almost each day since, people have stopped by the church office with their donations of stuffed animals and balls.

THE SMILE PILE IS GROWING!

While we have been tucking these treasures away as they arrive, we will brought of them which have been donated so far to the front of the sanctuary on **Sunday, April 10. Each successive Sunday in April, we invite you to help the SMILE PILE GROW.**

Our 23 member mission team will be working in three churches, and visiting the pediatric ward of one hospital during our week-long summer mission. We will be blessed to interact with hundreds of children in each location. Through your generosity to the **SMILE PILE**, we will be sharing God’s love and a stuffed animal or bouncy ball with every child we meet.



Church calendar

Sunday, April 17

3 CENTS-A-MEAL

- 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
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 4:30 p.m. HSYG Music Rehearsal (GC)
- 5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)
- 6:00 p.m. Service for Wholeness (Chapel)

Monday, April 18

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)

Tuesday, April 19

- 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, April 20

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 11:15 a.m. Preschool Music (CE)
- 3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CR)
- 5:00 p.m. Memorial Garden (MCR)
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (GC)
- 5:30 p.m. Christ Kids Ringers (MS)
- 5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
- 6:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds with Youth Work Day
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, April 21

- 5:30 p.m. Stephen Minister Training (FFR)
- 7:00 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)

Friday, April 22

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)

Saturday, April 23

- 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
Millie Carrier
Helen Champlain
Dannie Dougherty
Jerry Dugger
Jana & Mike Easterling
Jeanne Estes
Bill Everhart
Lois Frakes
Marge Goodman
Joyce Hayman
Frances Heath
Doris Hill
Camille Howe
Jim Huff
Dorothy Johnson

Jeremiah & Jaleeann Johnston
Joey Johnston
Judy Kingham
Dena Lancashire
Spike Lucia
John Maltese
Carole Marotti
Dick McCauley
Matthew McGaffigan
Lynnis Mincey
Joan Murphy
Ed Partridge
Norm Patrick
Robert Ramseyer
Barbara Roberts
Earle Roberts

Dorothy Ryan
Bob Sheffield
Barbara A. Smith
Barbara H. Smith
Dale Smith
Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Carolyn Thompson
Suzann Threadgill
Ted Threadgill
Shirley Turner
Gail Van Allen
Mike Vibral
Nat West
Lee Wilkinson
Marie Williams
Retha Wright

Relatives & Friends

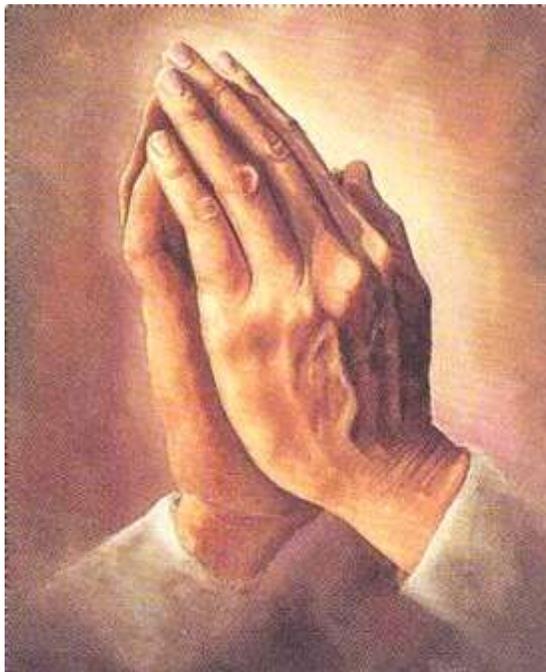
Antonello family
Carlotta Bennett
Chuck Bishop
Reese Burdette
Lynda Burke
Jerry Cooley
Kay Cunningham
John Doughty
Christine Douglas
Sara Dubinski
Al Ellis
Raymond Fenstermaker
Terrell & Teresa Griffin
Jean Hehn
Sidney Hilliard
Pete Kent
Barbara Lawhon
Nan Mason
Amity McGee
Judy Pheil
Anna Robinson
Alvin Ruppel
Colonel Sites
Tamara Sobczak
Tommy Thompson
Kristy Turner
Kurt Vahle
Marshall Wood

Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friends
Bethany Owen's friend
Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Dana Cole's cousin
Shirley Hines' friend
Susan Singleton's friend
Gale Waters' aunt
Dena Lancashire's nephew
Lynn Oakley's friend
Andy & Linda Staveres' friend
Jim Threlkel's friend
Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
T. Michael & Charlie Stavres' friends
Ellie Threlkel's friend
Tilly Montney's mother
Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
Bob Sheffield's sister-in-law
Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter
Bethany Owen's friend
Carole Marotti's friend
Punkin Smith's friend
Shirley Hines' friend
Lynn Oakley's friend
Rose Flynn's niece
T. Michael & Charlie Stavres' friend
Rick & Pat Reass' daughter
Gale & Gwen Waters' friend
Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend



Robert Ferguson
Stephanie Gillie
Eddie Gray
David Knowles

John Marotti
KaitLin Marotti-Pitts
Ashton Pitts
Drew Stapor



10 Ways to Pray When you Can't Pray

- Pray Anyway
- Choose to Listen
- Just Say His Name
- Have a Go-to Prayer
- Say a Prayer of Praise
- Pray for Someone Else
- Pray for a Heart of Prayer
- Have Someone Pray for You
- Read Different Prayers in the Bible
- Pray Different Bible Verses Over Your Life



3 CENTS-A-MEAL

We will collect the **3 Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering** during worship services **THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 17.**

This offering is divided between our Soup Kitchen/Bag Lunch Ministry, Beth-El Farm-workers Ministry, and Honduras.



SEE OUR JAZZBYTERIANS PLAY



The Jazzbyterians will be performing at St. John's Methodist Church on Cypress Gardens Boulevard on **Sunday, April 17th at 2:30 p.m.** in their sanctuary.

There will be a free will offering to benefit our First Pres. music program. Come and enjoy an afternoon of some of our favorite tunes!

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.



Joy Circle is the **third Tuesday.**
The next meeting will be April 19, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at Carol Carter's.

Lydia Circle is the **second Monday of the month.**
The next meeting will be at

BEAUTIFYING WORK DAY



The Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Youth Group will sponsor a workday at our church **Wednesday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m.** The goal is to weed and spread mulch throughout our church's grounds and flower beds. Youth and adults working together is our goal. This is a good way to get to know one another while beautifying our church property.

Buildings and Grounds will provide hot dogs, chips, and beverages.

We would love for you to plan to join us on this work day. Hope to see you there.

COME SEE OUR FIRST "SPRING RING"

Please join us in the sanctuary on **May 1st at 4:00 p.m.** for our first annual, First Presbyterian, "Spring Ring" program featuring 5 bell choirs. All three of our bell choirs will perform along with two guest choirs. The finale will feature all five choirs along with organ and audience participation in an arrangement of Joyful, Joyful! A reception will follow the program in McLeod Hall.

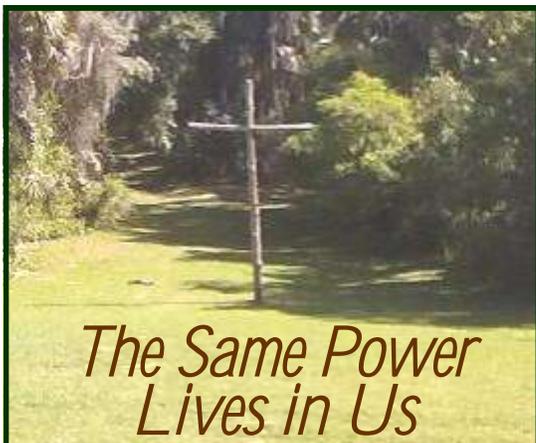


ALL CHURCH RETREAT REGISTRATION

The All Church Retreat will be **May 14 and 15** at Cedarkirk Camp and Conference Center. This weekend is for all members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. You are welcome to join us on Saturday and Sunday or just one of those days.

The theme this year is, *"The Same Power Lives in Us"* and we will focus on Romans Chapter 8 during the weekend. All ages are welcome to join in fellowship, fun, delicious food, and outdoor adventures. Please register by **Monday, May 2.** Brochures are NOW available.

Please contact Amy McKee at 294-3121 for more information.

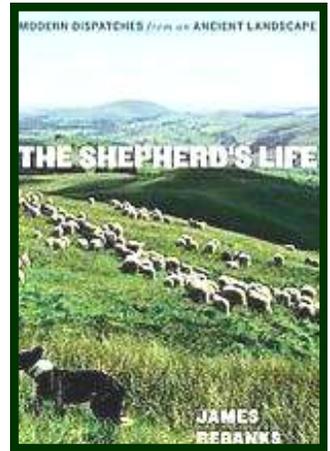


START READING FOR OUR NEXT OM, OM BOOK DISCUSSION CLUB

Our Odd Month, Odd (3rd) Monday **Book Discussion Club** will meet again on **May 16 at 3:00 p.m.**

We will have some light refreshments and will discuss James Rebanks book, *The Shepherd's Life*.

Please call the church office at 294-3121 if you plan to attend. Copies of this title have been ordered and should be in our library soon. You may also contact Jonathan Owen by seeing him on Sunday, calling him at 318-9944, or e-mailing him at jonathan.owen.cu2r@statefarm.com about ordering a personal copy.



REGISTRATION FOR KIDZ SUMMER ESCAPE IS ON!!!



Kidz Summer Escape will be held **June 14 – July 21 on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.** This program is for children ages three through kindergarten graduates. Registration is open now. A \$50 “reserve my spot” is due at registration with the final \$120 due on June 14. Everyday your child will enjoy a special craft that goes along with the theme for the week, recreation, snack, and lots of summertime fun. Please contact Amy McKee for more information (294-3121). Registration ends May 5.

VBS REGISTRATION IS HERE

Friends, Vacation Bible School – *Cave Quest* will be here before we know it. The dates are **June 20-23 from 6:15-8:30 p.m.** All children ages 3 through fifth grade graduates are invited to attend. Gear up for an over-the-top underground adventure! Ground kids in the rock-solid foundation of God’s love, a love that takes us through life’s dark times. We also need volunteers for the week. Please prayerfully consider this enriching event of helping children grow in their faith. Contact Amy McKee at 294-3121 for more information. You can register online at: <https://www.groupvbapro.com/vbs/ez/cavequestfpc2016>.



CALLING ALL MIDDLE SCHOOLERS!



Since music is booked before and after your middle school meeting time on Wednesdays, you are invited to join the Youth Music group. If you play an instrument, sing, or would like to try something new like a drum or mallet instrument please join us during our practice time on **Sundays at 4:30 p.m.** and our praise time during the second Sunday 11:00 worship service. If you would like to learn to play the ukulele or guitar please contact Lynn McCoy at 294-3121.

NURSERY HELP NEEDED

We are in need of a few extra “volunteers” or “subs” for our Sunday morning Nursery program and Morning out Mom Program. The Sunday morning nursery program runs from 8:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. on Sunday mornings in the Education Building. We provide care for children three and younger during this time. Our Morning out Mom program meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. Children walking through age three participate in this program. If you are interested in helping out with either of these programs, you will have to complete the Protection Policy Training and background check. Please contact Amy McKee at 294-3121 for more information.



THE THANKFUL PEOPLE

Once upon a time ... there was a church, known as First Presbyterian, in a town called Winter Haven in the State of Florida, that celebrated Lent and Easter in grand style. There were so many people to thank for making these seasons so meaningful and enjoyable.

There were craft people who designed and made beautiful banners to decorate the sanctuary. There were worship leaders, musicians, singers and audio/visual technicians for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Sundays in Lent, Easter and Bright Sunday services. There were people who set up, decorated the tables and McLeod Hall and set the tables for Maundy Thursday Dinner and Easter Breakfast. There were men who prepared the breakfast and women and men who assisted in serving. There were those who collected money to defray the costs of the meals. There were women who arranged Easter lilies and placed some here and there, reminding us that "The Lord is risen!" There were those who stuffed Easter eggs and those who hid them for excited children to find. There were people who covered crosses with ferns ready to accept your floral offerings on Bright Sunday. There were those who created orders of worship, those who printed and folded the bulletins, and those who stuffed many bulletins with insert pages. There were those who created and displayed art for "Jesus Christ in 'Pictures at an Exhibition'."

There were so many people who contributed in so many ways to make our observance of Christ's Passion and our celebration of Christ's Resurrection so special and we heartily give them our thanks. For now they are happy memories as we all look forward to **living happily ever after. The End.**



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.

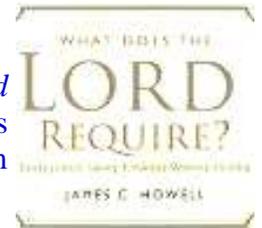
During the next six weeks, the **Elementary aged students** will focus on Making Choices through Art, Science, Cooking, Storytelling, Games, and Library time during the Workshop Rotation.



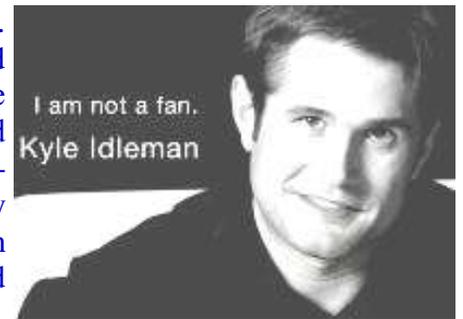
Middle school and High school youth meet every Sunday morning in The Golden Center for Sunday School from 9:45-10:45. During this time we meet and have fun and eat good food while learning about and growing in our faith in Christ. Come join us.

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.



Presenting a new small group study from City on a Hill Productions. Twenty times in the New Testament, Jesus issued a compelling and challenging invitation to Follow Him. He's not interested in mere fans. He doesn't want enthusiastic admirers. He wants Completely Committed Followers. Based on the engaging approach of Kyle Idleman, this one-of-a-kind small group study examines what it means to deny one's self and truly follow Jesus. Join us for "*Not a Fan;*" six DVD sessions with discussion in Room 207 of the Christian Education building. The class will be facilitated by Gannon Olmert. This class will meet **April 17 – May 22**.



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.

Join us for Sunday School!

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!

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:

How to Make a First Caring Visit: As commissioning draws near, this class summarizes everything our Stephen Ministers have learned so far and applies it to getting their first caring relationships off to a strong, healthy start. Our Stephen Ministers are here to care for you! If you are in need of confidential, one to-one Christian care—or if you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who might benefit from this kind of care—talk to one of our pastors or Stephen Leaders.

Follow Me: This session is a time for review and inspiration as our Stephen Minister trainees prepare to “follow Jesus” in their caregiving journey. They review what it means to be caregivers who are Compassionate, Full of Faith, Skilled, Trustworthy, and Christ-Centered. With the completion of their training, they are ready to provide quality, one-to-one caring ministry on behalf of our congregation. If you or someone you know could benefit from the listening ear, caring presence, and Christ-centered support of a Stephen Minister, talk to one of our pastors or Stephen Leaders.

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!



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FAX 863-294-1105
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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 4/15/16.

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Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 225 bag lunches the week of 4/4/16.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 100 people on 4/9/16

SERVICE FOR WHOLENESS

*Join us this Sunday,
April 17 at 6 p.m.
in the chapel for a
special worship service
with scriptures and
prayers focusing on
healing and wholeness.*

