



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Weeks of December 25, 2016 & January 1, 2017 Issue 608

131 Years of Ministry

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

Kathy L. Jackson
Custodian

***MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM YOUR STAFF AT FIRST PRES!!!***



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

We will have two Candlelight Services of Lessons and Carols on **Saturday, December 24.**

The 5:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will also include musical selections from our Children's Choirs, and a children's story which includes a reenactment of the nativity story.

The 9:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols will feature additional musical selections from our Chancel Choir.

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

On **Sunday, December 25**, we will all gather in the sanctuary at **10:30 a.m.** for a single worship service.

Our Praise and Worship Band will help us begin the morning with a couple of songs of praise. We will then follow our traditional worship order, and include in the service and sermon an opportunity to lift our voices in many of our favorite Christmas carols. We hope you will come and help us celebrate the birth of our Savior!

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

On **Sunday, January 1**, we will welcome in the New Year with a single **10:30 a.m.** worship service in our sanctuary.

The time has been selected to help us all join together for this first worship service of 2017.

(We will return to the 8:15/9:30/11:00 worship schedule on January 8.)



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 25

**CHRISTMAS
Office Closed**

10:30 a.m. Christmas Worship (Sanctuary)
1:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep
3:30 p.m. Soup Kitchen & Clean up

Monday, December 26

10:00 a.m. Poinsettia Delivery to Shut-ins (MH)

Tuesday, December 27

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

Wednesday, December 28

6:30 p.m. Youth Director Search (MCR)

Thursday, December 29

6:30 p.m. Praise & Worship Band (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 30

Saturday, December 31

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

**Sunday, January 1
NEW YEAR'S DAY**

10:30 a.m. New Year's Day Worship (Sanctuary)

**Monday, January 2
Office Closed**

Tuesday, January 3

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

Wednesday, January 4

8:45 a.m. MOM
10:45 a.m. Preschool Music (CE 103)
11:15 a.m. Preschool Music (CD 103)
2:30 p.m. PW Bible Study Leaders (MCR)
3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CE)
5:30 p.m. MSYG (GC)
5:30 p.m. Christ Kids Bell (MS)
6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)
6:30 p.m. Youth Director Search (MCR)

Thursday, January 5

6:30 p.m. Praise & Worship Band (Sanctuary)

Friday, January 6

8:45 a.m. MOM

Saturday, January 7

8:45 a.m. MOM
2:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
4:00 p.m. Soup Kitchen (737)

Remember in Prayer

members

Roger Able
Maxie Adams
Tom Brackett
Jonye Briggs
Millie Carrier
Tom & Anamarie Coffman
Charlie Darte
Jana & Mike Easterling
Jeanne Estes
Bill Everhart
Lois Frakes
Bill Garrett
Evelyn Girouard
Margaret Goodman
Jane Hayman
Marilyn Hearn
Frances Heath
Doris Hill
Camille Howe

Jim Huff
Joey Johnston
Kelly Kennedy
Toni Krieger
Dena Lancashire
Jackie Lawn
Spike Lucia
Elaine Maltese
Larry Marshall
Dick McCauley
Gladys Meier
Lynn Mincey
Bev Morris
Joan Murphy
Nancy Neale
Ed Partridge
Anthony Premuto
Doug Purnell
Robert Ramseyer

Keith Ray
Barbara Roberts
Earle Roberts
Dave Ryan
Marilyn Schleifer
Barbara A. Smith
Barbara H. Smith
Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Carolyn Thompson
MaryBess Thompson & family
Shirley Turner
Jim Vobornik
Lee Wilkinson
Marie Williams
Retha Wright

IN THE HOSPITAL: Helen Champlain, Judy Kingham, & Scott Strey

Relatives & Friends

Jacob Andrews
Carlotta & Larry Bennett
Reese Burdette
Charlie
Susan Cole
Bruce Conner
Al Ellis
Raymond Fenstermaker
Pam Heath
Kelly Kennedy
Pete Kent
Marianne Lehman
Patty Marrs
Cydney Martin
Nan Mason
Cynthia McCaleb
Jo Michaels & father
Bridgett Middleton
Alan Murphy
Judy Seaver
Ashish Shaw
Glen Shelby
Colonel Sites
Kristy Turner
Ed Walter
Debbie Webb
Marshall Wood

Olga Andrews' grandson
Bethany Owen's friend
Dana Cole's cousin
Cori Swango's friend
Olga Andrew's friend
Janice Barry's friend
Jim Threlkel's friend
Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
Lynn Oakley's friend
Peggy Kennedy's daughters' father
Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
Tom & Jerry Oldt's friend
Greg Marrs' mother
Lynn Oakley's friend
Harvey & Mary Ann Snively's daughter
Carolyn Thompson's daughter
Doug Purnell's friends
Lynn Oakley's friend
Lynn Oakley's brother
Wade & Sandy Hoffman's friend
Lynn Oakley's friend
Kelly Butz' friend
Lynn Oakley's friend
Rick & Pat Reass' daughter
Bill & Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's friend
Jonathan Owen's friend
Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend

PRAY FOR OUR TROOPS

Karolina Crockett
Samuel Crockett
Zach Drum
Robert Ferguson
Stephanie Gillie
Eddie Gray
David Knowles
John Marotti
KaitLin Marotti-Pitts
Ashton Pitts
Shad Skinner
Drew Stapor



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS



There will be no Sunday School on
December 25 or January 1.

Christ Kids will resume on
Wednesday, January 4 at 3 p.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

Our Christmas Eve offering is being accepted and will be directed toward medical missions around the globe.

The money collected will be divided between 3 medical clinics sponsored by the Medical Benevolence Foundation in Haiti, Kenya, Bangladesh and our medical mission in Honduras.



POINSETTIA DELIVERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Extend the Christmas spirit by taking poinsettias to our elderly and shut-ins. Come to the church on **Monday, December 26 at 10 a.m.** to take the plants to as many people as you would like.

Need more info? Call Ray Larson at 294-3121.



COMMITTEE CHAIRS

IMPORTANT ANNUAL REPORT REMINDER

Please remember that annual reports are due to the church office by **Monday, January 2, 2017.** Please e-mail them to office@firstpreswh.org.



2017 BREAD PICK UP LIST IS COMING SOON!

We are in the process of creating our 2017 Saturday bread pick-up list from Publix. If you are currently on the list and can no longer participate, or if you did not pick up bread in 2016 and would like to, please call Alan at 294-3121 to let him know.



NEW SOUP KITCHEN CALENDAR

A New Soup Kitchen Schedule for December 31, 2016 - January 27, 2018 is posted on the Deacon's Board in McLeod Hall.



Please sign up! Thanks!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A FAREWELL RECEPTION

Come and help us say thanks to **Dana Parrish** and **Amy McKee** as they wrap up their service on our church staff. Dana has served the past two years as Director of Student Ministries. She is leaving to return to teaching (kindergarten.) Amy has been a member of our church staff for ten years, leading our educational program as Director of Christian Education. She is planning to devote her full-time attention to parenting Jonathan and Timothy.



Please join Amy and Dana in McLeod Hall on **Sunday, January 8, from 10:30 a.m. – 10:55 a.m.** for a drop-in reception. There will be a time to celebrate their wonderful and rich ministries with us. There will be a basket set up for each, so you can share you own personal notes or gifts.



OM, OM BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the OM, OM Book Club is **Monday, January 16 at 3 pm** in the back of McLeod Hall. We will enjoy light refreshments and discuss the book *A Land Remembered* by Patrick Smith.

Be sure to call the church office at 294-3121 if you plan to attend.



THE 2017 SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR IS POSTED IN THE NARTHEX.

There is space to sign up for placing flowers in the narthex on a given Sunday, when the sanctuary flowers for your desired date have already been selected by someone else.

Please remember these important points:

1. Include your best contact number.
2. Include the name of your florist.
3. Tell your florist that the arrangement *must* be here by **Friday, 1:30 p.m.**
4. Call the office the week before to give bulletin information (294-3121.)



THANKS TO A THOUSAND HANDS, WE PULLED OFF OUR PRODUCTION OF "COME TO THE STABLE AND TO BETHLEHEM SQUARE."

You did not know we had that many people involved in our retelling of the story of Jesus' birth, did you? Well, truth be told, we didn't here in Winter Haven alone. To the many hands involved here, add the ones who sowed the wheat, tended the grapes, wove the burlap and other fabrics, harvested the lumber, forged the nails, bailed the hay, made the light bulbs and sound equipment, etc.

Now we thank those who donated refreshments, baked breads and cookies, built the stable, secured the animals for rental, picked up, delivered and returned the hay, erected the town and country panels, fitted costumes, put in place and adjusted lights and sound, hung the star, turned off the light (TECO), put out chairs and restacked and moved them, played musical



instruments, sang, portrayed characters, assisted with parking, tended the donkey and sheep, prepared crafts for children, took the census, presided at the food booths, helped with tear down of the set, storing the equipment and supplies, publicized the production, directed the play and coordinated all of the components from sign ups to recruiting volunteers for various jobs and tasks. All together there were thousands of hands helping us do what we did. Most of all, our thanks go to those within this church who made CTTS and TBS happen and who because of all of their efforts and hard work made this event a success. Thank you very, very, very much!



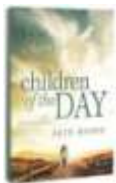
YOUTH TOY DRIVE

Thanks to all of you, our toy drive was a huge success again this year. Without your generosity, this would have never been as successful as it was. Each week I was blown away by how many gifts kept coming in. Our youth feel blessed to be a part of such a giving group of God's people. You touched many children this year and helped to make this Christmas one to remember for many. Thank you!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Children of the Day by Beth Moore



We meet in the *Golden Center* on 6th Street between the Christian Education and Soup Kitchen buildings. Meeting times are from 9am to 11am and meets:

January 12 & 26, February 9 & 23.

LADIES CIRCLES

Who is Jesus?

What a Difference a Lens Makes

by Judy Yates Siker

The next Lydia Circle meets, **January 9 at 10:00** in McLeod Hall.

The next Joy Circle meets at **9:30 a.m.** at the home of Carol Carter on **January 17.**



VISITATION MINISTRY



We at First Presbyterian church are looking at the possibility of beginning what we will call Visitation Ministry. This ministry to our church family and friends is a tangible way of sharing Christ's compassion and demonstrating our faith in The God of Eternal Love. It is an extremely rewarding and helpful "hands-on" ministry, which will be a pleasant experience, both for the volunteer visitor and the person visited. We invite you to join this giving ministry of our church by simply calling Ray at the church at 294-3121 with any questions.

2017 ADVENT DEVOTIONAL TOPIC IS HERE

Question: An angel, a finial, a star, and a teddy bear, What do these things have in common?

Answer: All have been Christmas tree toppers. The theme for the Advent Devotional 2017 is: *On The Christmas Treetop, a/an _____*. If you have been reading and enjoying the Advent Devotional 2016, then I would call your attention to the back page that informs you as to how you can participate in next year's devotional. Please contact Alan at aharvey@firstpreswh.org or 294-3121, if you would like more information or would like to share with us the story of your



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LET ME APPLAUD YOU ... I NEED A FEW MORE HANDS!

I am truly grateful that a few have volunteered to serve as host/hostesses for **The Connection**. If you have the gift of hospitality and would like to use it here, then we would love to have you join with our other volunteers so that a rotating schedule of hosts/hostesses could be created to staff **The Connection**. We would love to have 3 to 5 more volunteers and then the couple or individual would not serve but once every two months.

The food and juice are purchased ahead of time and the hosts put out the cookies, croissants, donuts, pastries, salty snack and juice. They monitor the table and replenish items as needed. As time permits they clean up.

The Connection is available from 9:15-10:45 on Sunday mornings.

Please contact Alan at aharvey@firstpreswh.org or 294-3121, if you have more questions or would like to add your name to the list. Thanks!



SOUND BOARD OPERATOR WANTED

If technology is your thing, we have a place for you in our musical praise!! We are in need of people who would like to learn about our sound system and help during the worship services to make sure all our praise is heard!

We will be holding a training session so **contact Lynn at 701-570-1485** and let her know if you are willing to join the Sunday rotation in the sound booth. **PLEASE!!**



January

Birthdays

1/1	Orrin Champlain		Loretta Traviss		Ed Smith
	Jim Francis	1/10	Rob Baker		Pamela Spence
	Adam Frost		Annette Chilton		Taylor Threadgill
	Kathy Girouard		Sophia Chilton	1/18	Sug Zowarka
	Caitlin Seney		Stella Chilton	1/19	Connor Clinch
1/2	Debbie Anderson		Michael Premuto		Robert Grode, III
	Vet Ashby		Christine Stevens		Kim Salomon
	Erin Cranmer		Carol Switalski		Taylor Thompson
	Nicole Voltapetti	1/11	John Adams	1/20	Sarah Jorgensen
	Heather Whitney		Trey Braswell		Jenny Kellett
1/3	Allison Burke		Chad Pearson	1/21	Emma Cornejo
	Shawn Swango		Charlie Reineke		John Reineke
1/4	Meredith Baragona		Adam Snively	1/23	Reed Hoagland
	Ally Britt	1/12	George Dunham	1/24	Bob Beale
	Jana Easterling		Candy Marshall		Sam Garner
	Ann Reddout		Carley Rabern	1/25	Kyle Bentley
1/5	Megan Kennedy	1/13	Dana Cole	1/26	Gloria Allen
	Norma Martin		Jackie Dugger		Bud Shinn
1/6	Philip Batista		Brent Parrish		Retha Wright
	Susan Braswell		Allison Ray	1/27	Callie Clinch
	Suzanne Cole		Kay Weeks		Ava Frost
	Rick Dantzler		Phyllis White		Aaron Lock
	Chloe Miller	1/14	Brooke Dismuke	1/28	Jay Tackett
	Betty Shinn		May Kimbrell		Devin Thompson
	Betty Stephens		Donna Sherrard		Gale Waters
1/7	Mary Firmert	1/15	Katie Sparr	1/29	Kathy Deloach
	Amanda Olmert		Jessica Strang		Danny Miller
	Lisa Snyder	1/16	Meredith Clem	1/30	Jerry Mincey
1/8	Peter Coppini		Elaine Maltese		Thomas Negley
	Shauna Gann	1/17	Nichole Gainey	1/31	JoBee Hazlett
	Rob Helmick		Jackie Lawn		Nicholas Jax
	Nanette Rodgers	1/18	Becky Irvin		Andrea Stevens
	Rebecca Wilson		Ethelyn Line		
1/9	Elizabeth Duce		Marilyn Riggs		

Anniversaries

1/1	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield	1/25	George & Sylvia Chambers
1/5	Jay & Lia Gray	1/26	Argyle & Christine Stevens
1/7	George & Krysti Rowker	1/29	Jay & Trisha Dugger
1/18	John & Wanda Breuning	1/30	Scott and Becky Irvin
1/21	Matt & Sharon McGaffigan		John and Meg Strang

DON'T MISS THE CONNECTION

9:15 – 10:45 a.m.

An extended fellowship time in McLeod Hall which offers a coffee bar type selection with different flavors, creamers, pastries, etc. It is a gathering place before (or after) worship, and between worship and Sunday School for some. Videos of church activities will play on a loop in McLeod Hall. Hosts circulate in McLeod Hall and the CE Building to greet and assist people in making connections with others in one of the worship or Christian Education options.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR ONE OF OUR THREE WORSHIP SERVICES

8:15 a.m. ~ Chapel Worship

A traditional worship service held in our chapel. The service follows the same order as the 11:00 a.m. worship service, but does not have a Chancel Choir. Musical ensembles offer special music on many Sundays. A Time with Younger Disciples is included if we have children in attendance.



9:30 - 10:25 a.m. ~ Heart of Worship

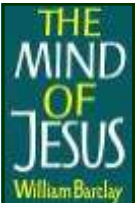
A Praise and Worship service held in our sanctuary. Along with scripture, sermon, and prayers, the praise band helps the congregation in adoring and showing reverence to God. Following the Time with Younger Disciples, children are invited to join Ms. Lynn in music and then to join in their own Children's Sunday School Classes.

11:00 a.m. ~ Sanctuary Worship

A traditional worship service held in our sanctuary. The service follows the same order as the 8:15 a.m. Chapel Service, and includes music from the Chancel Choir and the organ, as well as other instruments and groups.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES

9:30 a.m. – Adult



The Perspectives Class studies, **The Mind of Jesus** by William Barclay. Please join this class in the Geneva Room at 9:30 a.m. "Jesus suffered, doubted, hoped, feared, dreamed, wept, knew loneliness, planned, and built. William Barclay achieves in **The Mind of Jesus** his aim "to make the figure of Jesus more vividly alive, so that we may know him better and love him more." This class is facilitated by Dr. Jim Threlkel and Glenn Thomas.

9:45 – Children

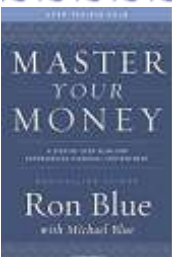
On Sunday mornings all children age three through fifth grade have a special music time with Ms. Lynn from **9:45 – 10 a.m.**

At 10 a.m. the Preschool Children (ages 3 and 4) meet in Room 101 for their own time of Bible lesson, craft, snack, and playtime.

The **Elementary children** (kindergarten through fifth grade) are invited to experience a brand new Sunday School curriculum called **252 Basics**. This new curriculum is designed to provoke discovery and invite kids into a new understanding of how to grow in relationship with Jesus. We look forward to you all joining us on Sunday mornings!



NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS COMING THIS JANUARY



Mark your calendars for **January 8 from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m.**, as Howard Beckert leads us on a Financial Study for 2017. During this class we will focus on – Biblical principles on money management, common sense financial principles, five personal finance items to evaluate each year, freedom from debt and so much more.

This class will meet in Room 207 for 6 weeks.

Master Your Money by Ron Blue will be our reference book.

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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 12/16/16.

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
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Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out
386 bag lunches the week of 12/12/16.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 120 people on 12/17/16.

CHRISTMAS DAY SOUP KITCHEN

We are planning to share another wonderful Christmas Day meal for those in our area who are hungry. The dinner menu will include: turkey and gravy, ham, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, corn, cranberry sauce, bread, pie, cake, and Christmas cookies. **From 1:30–3:15 p.m.** we will be cooking side dishes, carving meat, cutting bread and desserts in the main church kitchen, and setting up the 737 building and tables for the meal. We will serve from **3:30–4:30 p.m.**



Volunteers are needed to

- Bake a ham or turkey at home, and bring it to the main kitchen by **2:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve** (the hams and turkeys can be picked up at the church on Sunday, **December 18**)
- Make a large green bean casserole (disposable baking pans can be picked up at the church on Sunday, **December 18**)
- Help with cooking and food and building prep. from **1:30–3:30 p.m. on Christmas Day.**
- Help serve the Christmas meal and clean up **3:30 – 5:00 p.m. on Christmas Day.**

If you would like to help with any of these portions of the Christmas Day Soup Kitchen meal, please sign up in McLeod Hall and plan to join us for this wonderful Christmas tradition here at First Pres.