



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
WINTER HAVEN

# Tower Chimes

Week of December 3, 2017

Issue 648

131 Years of Ministry

Dr. Steven R. Negley  
Senior Pastor

Dr. C. Alan Harvey  
Associate Pastor

Dr. James G. Manor  
Parish Associate

Lynn M. McCoy  
Director of  
Music Ministries

Evelyn W. McMullen  
Interim Director of  
Christian Education

Robin D. Miller  
Director of Finance &  
Administration

Leonard A. Mosiah  
Director of Student  
Ministries

Connie J. Shipley  
Administrative Assistant

Rose S. Flynn  
Office Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant  
Director of Maintenance

Kathy L. Jackson  
Custodian

## First Sunday in Advent



**Sunday, December 3** is the **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**. Advent is the season of preparation for the celebration of Christmas, covering four Sundays. This year, we will be focusing our worship on “A Season of Symbols.”

The sermons for the first three Sundays will focus on Old Testament symbols that paved the way for the birth of Christ. On the fourth Sunday (at a single morning worship service) our Chancel Choir will share a cantata encompassing several more symbols of the season.

First Sunday of Advent      Obedient servants of the Lord

Second Sunday of Advent      Shoot from the stump of Jesse

Third Sunday of Advent      Madonna and Child

We hope you will join us at **8:15am (Chapel)**, **9:30am (Praise and Worship)** or **11:00am (Sanctuary)** each Sunday in Advent as we add our voices to the good news of the season.

## COMMUNION NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

*The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*  
will be celebrated next Sunday.

*Prepare your heart to come to the Lord's Table.*



# Remember in Prayer

## OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

### Sunday, December 3 1st Sunday of Advent Communion

- 8:15 a.m. Chapel Worship (Chapel)
- 9:15 a.m. The Connection (MH)
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School (CE)
- 9:30 a.m. Heart of Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School (CE)
- 11:00 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
- 4:00 p.m. Jingle Java Jam
- 5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)

### Monday, December 4

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 10:30 a.m. Quilters (MH—Back)

### Tuesday, December 5

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 p.m. Men's Lunch (MH)
- 6:30 p.m. Session—Supper w/new officers

### Wednesday, December 6

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 10:45 a.m. Preschool Music (CE 103)
- 12:00 p.m. Buildings & Grounds (MH—Back)
- 1:00 p.m. Staff Christmas Party (GC)
- 3:00 p.m. Christ Kids (CE)
- 3:45 p.m. Christ Kids Bell Ringers (MS)
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (GC)
- 6:00 p.m. Chancel Bells (MS)
- 6:00 p.m. APNC (ER)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir (MS)

### Thursday, December 7

- 1:15 p.m. Chapel Bells (MS)
- 6:30 p.m. Praise & Worship Band (Sanctuary)

### Friday, December 8

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

### Saturday, December 9

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

## MEMBERS

Marie Able	Ranell Hillman	Elsie Savant
Maxie Adams	Bryan Howard	Marilyn Schleifer
Debbie Anderson	Camille Howe	Beverly Seagreaves
Kathy Andrews	Jim Huff	Joyce Shirah
Kathleen Avinger	Martha Johnson	James Shinn
Bill Brack	Joey Johnston	Mary Alice & Emma
Tom Brackett	Peggy Kennedy	Skipper
Henry Braun	Toni Krieger	Barbara A. Smith
Helen Butz	Dena Lancashire	Barbara H. Smith
Carol Carter	Kathy Lockhart	Nell Speer
Helen Champlain	Spike Lucia	Scott Strey
Tom Coffman	Larry Marshall	Carol Switalski
Gail Damkjer	Lynnis Mincey	Barbara Tackett
Yolanda Dyer	Bev Morris	Jay Tackett
Jana & Mike Easterling	Joan Murphy	McKenzie Tackett
Jeanne Estes	Nancy Neale	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Bill Everhart	Barbara Perkins	Carolyn Thompson
Lia Gray	Keith Ray	Shirley Turner
Clyde Greene	Sherrie Ray	Lee Wilkinson
Frances Heath	Barbara Roberts	Judy Winfree
Kay Hedden	Earle Roberts	Retha Wright

IN THE HOSPITAL: Roger Able, Nancy Brooks, & John Skipper

## Relatives & Friends

Robert Allen	Denise Cole's father
Mike & Linda Bechtel	Marie Able's sister & brother-in-law
Reese Burdette	Dana Cole's cousin
Kevin Dees	Jonathan Owen's friend
Al Ellis	Jim Threlkel's friend
Kevin Ehrlich	Rossanne Gorsky's son
Raymond Fenstermaker	Gale & Gwen Waters' grandson
Judy Hatcher	Kelli Ivey's mother
Pete Kent	Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew
Ryan Koukkouklis	Matthew Gray's friend
Anna Robinson	Punkin Smith's friend
Alisa Sheaffer	Punkin Smith's friend
Rebecca Stone	Pat Reass' friend
Kristy Turner	Rick & Pat Reass' daughter
Monnie Vail	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield's friend
John Waters	Gale & Gwen Waters' nephew
Marshall Wood	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend

*Our Christian sympathy goes to Sharon Mann on the death of her father, William Linn, who died Saturday, November 4, 2017.*



Zach Anaya  
Brenden Anderson  
Christian Anderson  
Karolina Crockett  
Samuel Crockett  
Zach Drum  
Robert Ferguson  
Stephanie Gillie  
Eddie Gray

Daniel Harp  
Sean Harp  
David Knowles  
John Marotti  
Mathew Massam  
KaitLin Marotti-Pitts  
Ashton Pitts  
Shad Skinner  
Drew Stapor



# FunT imers FOR DECEMBER 12 HAS BEEN CANCELLED...

due to the busyness of the season.

Please watch out for something fabulous in January.

## YOUTH (GRADES 6-12) WINTER RETREAT!!!

Come join us February 13-15 on our First Pres Student Winter Retreat! We will be going to Cedarkirk and staying in the lovely rustic cabins. Come join us for an amazing weekend, of fun, memories, and an opportunity to grow closer to God. Fun activities include canoeing, campfires, wall climbing, zip lines and more! This trip is under your own student leadership so you know it will be fun and relaxed.



The cost is \$78 per person and includes transportation, lodging, and meals. Please RSVP to Leonard by November 29, 2017 by calling 312-678-7764 or emailing to leonardmosiah@gmail.com.

## CIRCLE MEETINGS

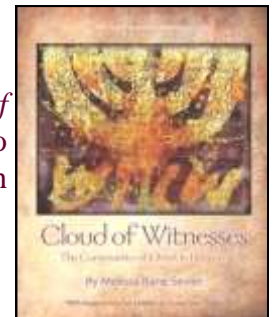
Lydia Circle - **Second Monday each month at 10 a.m.** in McLeod Hall.

Joy Circle - **Third Tuesday each month at 9:30 a.m.** at the home of Carol Carter.

We are using the PW Horizons Bible study titled: "Cloud of Witnesses - The Community of Christ Hebrew" written by Melissa Bane Sevier. In nine lessons, the author invites us to explore major themes found in Hebrews, relate these themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community.

The study books are available for \$10.

Contact either Carol Carter at 299-4253 or Sue McClew at 875-6176 for your copy.



## IT IS THAT TIME ~ POINSETTIA ORDER FOR 2017

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 24.**

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 18.**

A complete listing will be available  
**Sunday, December 24.**

### 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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## ADVENT DEVOTIONS START NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

If you are receiving our daily devotions by email,  
you will also receive our Advent devotions.

If you are not and would like to, go to [www.firstpreswh.org](http://www.firstpreswh.org)  
and click on resources to sign up.

If you would like a hard copy, they will be available  
in the narthex, each side of the Sanctuary,  
and in McLeod Hall next Sunday.



ADVENT  
Through the Eyes  
of Those Who  
Waited

Advent Sunday School Class  
Led by Pat & Rick Reass  
December 3, 10, 17 @ 9:30  
Room 207 in CE Building

### 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.**



### APPLICATIONS FOR MOM COORDINATOR



The Christian Education Committee has accepted, with regret, the resignation of Christine Burow, who has been MOM Coordinator since January. We are grateful for her year of service and pray for her continued success as she completes her Radiology degree.

We are looking for applicants who love toddlers, have had experience with child care programs, and would be available beginning January 8 on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8:15 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. In addition to child care, communication with families and record-keeping are essential responsibilities.

Job descriptions and applications are available in the church office or by e-mailing Carol Roe: [croe@wgroe.com](mailto:croe@wgroe.com)



## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We hope you will join us for worship on one of the holiest nights of the year. For **Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24**, we will have two opportunities for worship. Both of these worship services will help us to focus on the celebration of our Savior's birth with the reading of the biblical story, the singing of traditional

carols, music from our Chancel Choir, and other ensembles, and closing with candlelight.

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.

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Fifth Sunday First Pres Family Gathering December 31st.

At the **Single 10:00 a.m. Worship Service** you will be able to catch up with all your First Pres friends. The service that Sunday will feature a unique order of worship with elements from our other services such as: several opening songs with our Praise Band, the Children's Singers and Chimes, an anthem presented by our Chancel Choir, Sermon, Time with Younger Disciples, prayers by our pastors, and a closing hymn accompanied on our pipe organ.



At **11:15 a.m.**, we hope to continue fellowship with our First Pres family and friends, with a **Congregation-wide Fellowship Luncheon in McLeod Hall**. The Sunday meal will be served family style at our round tables.

No reservations requested or required. (There will be plenty of food. Any leftovers will be used by our Senior High Youth for their Sunday night meal, our Middle School Youth for their Wednesday night meal, or our Saturday Soup Kitchen.)

**We hope you will join us for this great day of faith, friendship, and fellowship on December 31.**

## Farewell from Evelyn McMullen

At the end of November I will be ending my part-time role as Interim Director of Christian Education with you all. When I began working with First Presbyterian in January I knew that I would enjoy serving with you in Christian Education ministry. I did not know how much I would enjoy getting to know this congregation: all generations! I have been excited to discover that this church family has a strong foundation in Bible, worship, and mission. I have been blessed by the spiritual gifts of so many leaders!

Through the Christian Education Committee and the Session, a leadership structure is being developed to strengthen congregational ownership of Christian Education ministry.

Christ Kids will thrive with a volunteer leadership team of Erin Miller, Elaine Dustin, and Becca Alexander. (Lynn McCoy and Sue McClew continue with Christ Kids Ringers & Singers) And a wonderful group of 10 teachers take turns with the Bible lessons and activities.

Sunday School leadership will be covered by a “Superintendent of the Month” who will support teachers and welcome children and adults. We hope to have a team of 3 superintendants who will continue in these roles even after the arrival of the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry and Christian Education.

The “Little Children’s Ministry Team”, led by Carol Roe, will supervise the staff of both the nursery and the MOM program.

So in December I will return to focus on my role as Director of “Bright Threads Ministries,” a nonprofit which helps congregations learn to be more inclusive of people with disabilities. During my eleven months with you, my “away-from-First-Pres-time” has been spent developing and filming training videos for children’s ministry volunteers: “Casting Out Fear – Volunteers and Kids with Special Needs.” The production is almost complete and in January I will begin using these videos in training seminars. Check them out on Facebook or online: [www.BrightThreadsMinistries.org](http://www.BrightThreadsMinistries.org). I also look forward to coming back to First Pres for Saturday Nite Live!

Thank you so much for your welcome, for listening to my questions and for answering my questions. My prayers are with you all as you share the Good News of Jesus Christ in Winter Haven and in the world.

In Christ,  
Evelyn McMullen

## Worship (and more) on the Lord's Day



### 8:15 a.m. Chapel Worship

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

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

A Praise and Worship service is held in our sanctuary. Along with scripture, sermon, and prayers, a 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 is 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.

## DON'T MISS THE CONNECTION

9:15—10:45 A.M.

Fellowship time in McLeod Hall offers a coffee bar type selection with different flavored creamers, pastries, etc. It is a gathering place before (or after) worship, and between worship and Sunday School for some.

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.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

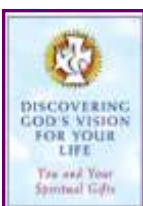


**For Kids:** We are getting to know some amazing Bible characters this fall: Hannah, Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon. Short videos, music, art, and Bible activities will keep the kids coming back for more!

If your family attends the 9:30 a.m. service, kids age 4 and older worship with their families for the first part of the service. After the "Time with Younger Disciples," age 4 through grade 5 may be dismissed to the Christian Education building for music and classes until 10:45 a.m.

If your family attends the 11:00 a.m. service, come to the CE Building for music and classes from 10:00 until 10:45 a.m.

**For Adults:** Who is the real Jesus? How can we experience the mystery, complexity, and richness of his spirituality and teachings in our lives today? *Living Jesus: Learning the Heart of the Gospel* by Luke Timothy Johnson elucidates the mystery of Jesus' resurrection and its central role in the Christian experience. It explores the diversity and fullness of the New Testament views of Christ, revealing how each book's perspective can deepen our understanding of Jesus. Profoundly insightful, *Living Jesus* offers valuable lessons on how we can accept the Gospels' powerful invitation to an authentic Christian spirituality. Join us in the Geneva Room from **9:30 until 10:30 a.m.**



**Also for Adults:** To whom are spiritual gifts given? What is the purpose of spiritual gifts? How can I be sure which particular spiritual gifts I have? What does the Bible say about each of the spiritual gifts? These questions are some of the ones discussed by a new 8 week Sunday School Class. Join us **THIS Sunday, at 9:30 a.m.** in Room 207 of the Educational Building. There is a fee of \$12 to cover the cost of the 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

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Summer months and holidays published bi-weekly.  
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### Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 97 bag lunches  
the week of 11/20/17.

**Return Service Requested**

### Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 82 people on 11/25/17.



## Come to the Stable and Bethlehem Square

Performances on Saturday, December 2

at 7:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR, INVITE FRIENDS AND PLAN TO COME!**



**We still need food** – cookies and dessert breads, beverages- apple juice/cider and white grape juice. Please sign-up on the board in the narthex and bring the food items to the kitchen – mark them for CTTS.

We would like to have the food delivered before Saturday noon.

**Men, we need more help with setup and takedown**, on Saturday morning and after the performances.

Please sign-up on the board in the narthex.

### Nativity Cast Rehearsal - for both performances

**Wednesday, November 29 - Meet in the Chapel: Children at 4:30-5:30 p.m. with Teens and**

**Adults: 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Costume fittings will be 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.

**Thank you for your support of Come to the Stable and Bethlehem Square!**

## JINGLE JAVA JAM!!!

Save the date! **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 p.m.** we will have our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Jingle Java Jam! Please join us as we begin to celebrate the season of Advent with music, dance and drama. You will also be served delicious desserts of the season along with a visit from St. Nicholas!

Please make your reservation by contacting the church office  
at 294-3121 or [office@firstpreswh.org](mailto:office@firstpreswh.org),

