



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of December 17, 2017

Issue 651

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

Third 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.

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.



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.



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 17 3 Cents-a-Meal

3rd Sunday of Advent

- 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)
- 5:30 p.m. HSYG (GC)

Monday, December 18

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

Tuesday, December 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)
- 1:30 p.m. Bell Choir (Lake Howard Heights)

Wednesday, December 20

- 8:45 a.m. MOM (CE)
- 10:45 a.m. Preschool Music (CE 103)
- 5:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (GC)
- 6:00 p.m. APNC (ER)
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir, Children, & Youth Cantata Practice (MS)

Thursday, December 21

- 11:00 a.m. Chapel Bells (Off-site)
- 6:30 p.m. Praise & Worship Band (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 22

Saturday, December 23

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

3 CENTS-A-MEAL THIS SUNDAY



We will collect the
**3 Cents-a-Meal
Hunger Offering**
during worship
services this
**SUNDAY,
November 19.**

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

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

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

IN THE HOSPITAL: John Skipper & Jeff Snyder

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 |
| Judy Hatcher | Kelli Ivey's mother |
| Pete Kent | Charley & Nancy Chilton's nephew |
| Ryan Koukkouklis | Matthew Gray's friend |
| Aldo Marchetti | John Marchetti's brother |
| Fred Meier | Sarah Rennie's father |
| Anna Robinson | Punkin Smith's friend |
| Alisa Sheaffer | Punkin Smith's friend |
| Rebecca Stone | Pat Reass' friend |
| Lois Susac | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's 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 |



- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Zach Anaya | Daniel Harp |
| Brenden Anderson | Sean Harp |
| Christian Anderson | David Knowles |
| Karolina Crockett | John Marotti |
| Samuel Crockett | Mathew Massam |
| Zach Drum | KaitLin Marotti-Pitts |
| Robert Ferguson | Ashton Pitts |
| Stephanie Gillie | Shad Skinner |
| Eddie Gray | Drew Stapor |

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.

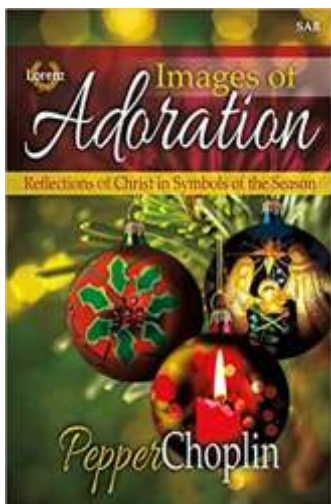
Number of plants ordered: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



PLEASE JOIN US CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING FOR THIS SPECIAL SINGLE SERVICE AT 10 A.M.

The Chancel Choir, Youth, and children will have a special Christmas gift for you on Christmas Eve. They have been working on “Images of Adoration, Reflections of Christ in Symbols of the Season”, a Christmas Cantata by Pepper Choplin. They will be presenting this cantata on Christmas Eve morning at the single 10:00 a.m. service. Mr. Choplin has become one of my favorite choral composers over the last few years because his writing seems to be centered on the message he wants people to hear through his music.

The publisher describes the cantata accurately: “We all enjoy the beauty of Christmas – the music and candles, the greenery and crimson flowers, the holy symbols of the manger, the star. These symbols are not merely decorations of the season. Their presence draws us into the story of Christmas each year, reminding us of the power, simplicity, and the awesome significance of the birth of the Christ Child.” (Lorenz, 2014) The music joins several different styles combining new melodies with cherished hymns. I am delighted that we will have the children and youth join the adult choir for several of the songs and narration throughout the cantata.



OUR ANNUAL TALENT SHOW IS ALMOST HERE!!!



Our annual Talent Show is literally right
around the corner!
It will be held **Sunday, January 28 at 5:00.**

If you have a special talent to share and would like to participate, please contact Leonard Mosiah or the church office at 294-3121.



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.

CIRCLE MEETINGS

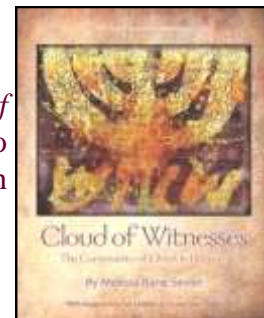
Lydia Circle - **Second Monday each month at 10 a.m.** in McLeod Hall.

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.



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.

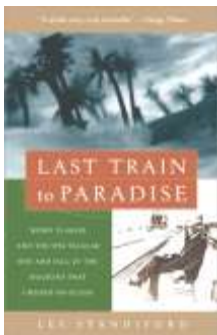


THE 2018 SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR IS POSTED IN THE NARTHEX.

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.)



Announcing the 2018 Book Titles and Dates for the Odd Month, Odd Monday Book Club

- January 15 *Last Train to Paradise* by Les Standiford
 March 19 *The One Hundred Year Old Man* By Jonas Jonasson
 May 21 *Driving Miss Norma* by Tim Bauerschmidt and Ramie Liddle
 July 18 *Never Caught* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar
 September 17 *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles
 November 19 *The 13th Gift* by Joanne Huist Smith
 52 Little Lessons from A Christmas Carol by Bob Welch



Copies will soon be available in the Price Library or you may contact Jonathan or Bethany Owen about ordering a copy for you.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Bonnie Jenkins
306 Kingfisher Ln.
Haines City, FL 33844
863-307-1469



Hal & Marie Jeffcoat
671 Irvine Ranch Rd.
Poinciana, FL 34759
817-992-4046



Tami O'Neal
201 Browning Cr.
Winter Haven, FL 33884
863-326-3634

Dicky Jeffcoat
671 Irvine Ranch Rd.
Poinciana, FL 34759
817-980-5177

So many to thank for Come to the Stable and to Bethlehem Square

Thank you to all who assisted with the living nativity:

The men and teens for creating the set for our nativity and taking it down; those who set up the sound and lighting to enhance the performance; the musicians who added the beauty of Christmas carols and the animal handlers and performers who made the set so authentic; the narrator for telling the story of Christ's birth and those who directed the performance and made sure our performers were in the right place at the right time; the ladies who costumed all of the performers and to parents who had their children here to perform. Also, thank you to our greeters and the men managing the traffic.

Thank you to all who assisted with Bethlehem Square:

Those who did setup, served the food and beverages and made our guests feel welcome. And a special thank you to all the ladies who baked cookies and dessert breads and those who provided beverages and the workers in the kitchen.

Thank you to those who placed the advertisements for the event so our community would be aware:

Come to the Stable and Bethlehem Square is an outreach to our members and community and has been an annual event at FPC for many years. It would not be possible without the involvement of a large number of our members and the participation of every man, woman, teen and child is appreciated.

CTTS is a project of the Community Outreach Committee whose job is to plan, organize and make sure the production runs smoothly. A special thank you to them for the hours spent in planning and overcoming numerous challenges and to our church staff who support the COC's efforts in many ways.



Join Us on the Lord's Day

Worship

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: Please join us for *Advent Through the Eyes of Those Who Waited*, led by Pat & Rick Reass, wraps up December 17. This class will meet in CE 207.



Our Purpose Statement

First Presbyterian Church
637 6th Street, NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881
863-294-3121
FAX 863-294-1105
www.firstpreswh.org
office@firstpreswh.org

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 12/15/17.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 225 bag lunches
the week of 12/4/17.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 70 people on 12/09/17.

Return Service Requested

«Mailing Name»

«Address 1»

«Address 2»

«City» «State» «Zip»

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 17**)
- Make a large green bean casserole (disposable baking pans can be picked up at the church on Sunday, **December 17**)
- 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.