



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

## Tower Chimes

Week of November 24, 2019

Issue 735

133 Years of Ministry

Dr. Steven R. Negley  
Senior Pastor

Dr. C. Alan Harvey  
Associate Pastor

Rev. Sarah A. Bishop  
Associate Pastor for  
Christian Education and  
Family Ministries

Lynn M. McCoy  
Director of  
Music Ministries

Emily G. Snyder  
Director of  
Student Ministries

Robin D. Miller  
Director of Finance &  
Administration

Connie J. Shipley  
Administrative Assistant

Rose S. Flynn  
Office Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant  
Director of Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry  
Custodian

## DECK THE HALLS

We hope you will join us as we  
**DECK THE HALLS** and decorate First Pres for  
the Advent and Christmas Season.



**On Sunday, December 1,**  
EVERYONE is invited to join us for the festivities.

**Lunch** will be served at **11:15 am**, following the single 10 am worship service. Session members will be bringing pots of chili and soup to share, and we will have Ringleader sandwiches from Publix to complete the meal.

**At 12 pm** we will divide into groups to Deck the Halls.

You can help others erect and fluff the sanctuary Christmas trees.

You might want to prepare the candles (placing the candles into the holders) for the Christmas Eve Service.

Your skill might be helping others hang the garland and angels in the sanctuary, balcony, and on the first floor.

There will be Christmas music playing throughout the church, and happy people everywhere Decking the Halls, preparing God's house for the holiday season.

We plan to have the finishing touches in place by 2 pm.

*We hope to see you here!*

## PLEASE SIGN UP NOW FOR COME TO THE STABLE

**It's only a few weeks away and we need shepherds, angels, and kings for the  
6:30 pm children's performance and  
the 7:30 pm middle/high schooler's performance  
on Saturday evening, December 14.**

Elementary school children can sign-up for the 6:30 performance on the board in the church Narthex OR at Christ Kids on Wednesdays.

Middle and High schoolers can sign-up for the 7:30 performance on the board in the church Narthex OR at the Youth Group meetings.

Questions? Call Nancy Shaw at 258-9232.



# OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

## Sunday, November 24

- 8:00 am Chapel Worship
- 9:15 am Connection (MH)
- 9:15 am Heart of Worship (Sanctuary)
- 9:30 am Sunday School-Children/Adults (CE)
- 10:30 am Sunday School-Youth (MH)
- 11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

## Monday, November 25

- 10:00 pm Prayer Shawl (MH)

## Tuesday, November 26

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH)
- 5:00 pm Stephen Minister Leaders (MH)
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministers (MH)

## Wednesday, November 27

- 7:00 pm Choir (MS)

## Thursday, November 28

**THANKSGIVING  
OFFICE CLOSED**

## Friday, November 29

**OFFICE CLOSED**

## Saturday, November 30

- 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
- 4:00 pm Soup Kitchen (737)

## REMEMBER!

**THE STEPHEN MINISTERS  
ARE HERE FOR YOU!**



Are you going through a difficult time--emotionally, spiritually, or relationally? Are you lonely, experiencing a crisis, or simply stressed by everyday life? You don't have to suffer alone. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers, ready to listen, care for and encourage you, pray with and for you, and provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to help you through whatever it is that you are facing.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, **call Susan Singleton at 318-9208. Or you can talk with one of our other Stephen Leaders: Alan Harvey, Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, Barbara Perkins, or Jean Strang.**

# Remember in Prayer

## MEMBERS

Marie Able	Joyce Hayman	Edna Mitchell
Melvin & Debbie Anderson	Frances Heath	Bev Morris
Kathy Andrews	Kay Hedden	Nancy Neale
Helen Champlain	Doris Hill	Bill Patchen
Carl Cheatham	Bryan Howard	Barbara Roberts
Charlie Darte	Bob & Isobel Hubbard	George Seagreaves
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Jim Huff	Cash Sheaffer
Yolanda Dyer	Martha Johnson	Joyce Shirah
Jana Easterling	Bill Johnston	Barbara H. Smith
Dana Elmore	John Kissel	Joel Smith
Bill Everhart	John Kissel	Christine Stevens
Jim Francis	Dena Lancashire	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
John Gray	Eric Lindstrom	Carolyn Thompson
Pam Gray	Spike Lucia	Mike Vibrall
Jane Hayman	Pat McCarty	Gwen Waters
	Bob McClew	Sug Zowarka

IN THE HOSPITAL: Helen Butz & George Seagreaves

## Relatives & Friends

Michael Branch	Jeff Bowen's friend
Tiffany Chen	George Butz's friend
Larry Durrence	George & Joyce Carefoot's brother-in-law
Al Ellis	Jim Threlkel's friend
Kate Hurd & family	Cathy Cheatham's friends
Verona Johnson	Lynn Oakley's friend
John Kluberg	Nancy Dobler's brother
Bill Lanoue	George Butz's friend
Bob Lapsley	Susan Singleton's friend
Sal Moraco	Tom & Jeri Oldt's friend
Michael Oriani	Joe Oriani's brother
Sandy Schwenk	Zane Schwenk's mother
Penni Tinsley	Tom & Jeri Oldt's friend
Margarita Villarreal	Lynn Oakley's friend
Ennis & Liz Young	Anne Meadows' friend

## MILITARY

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

## OUR PASTORS ARE EAGER TO VISIT OUR HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP

The tightening of HIPAA regulations has meant that we have missed visiting some of our members during their hospital stay. If you are a member or a friend of this congregation, or you have a family member admitted to *any* hospital, please call the church office and let our pastors know.



**Thank you for helping us stay in touch  
with the congregation!**



## SAVE THE DATE FOR *JINGLE JAVA JAM!*

This year's programming has brought a return of the Jingle Java Jam which will be on **Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 pm** Please come and enjoy an afternoon of festive Christmas music including beautiful new arrangements of favorite carols and lively popular tunes. You will hear ensembles and solos from tubas to bells and jazz to ballades.

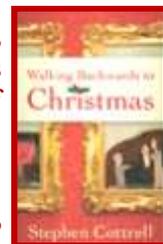
Dessert, coffee, and hot chocolate will be served and the program is free of charge so please bring your family and friends to help celebrate the season through song!

## ADVENT: ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

### *Walking Backwards to Christmas*

**Beginning December 8 at 9:30 am in CE Room 207**

In our second Adult Sunday School, we'll be reading the book, *Walking Backwards to Christmas*, which starts at the end, with Jesus' presentation to Anna and Simeon at the temple and moves backwards through the Christmas stories both light and dark. Telling the story through the eyes of both the famous and imagined characters, the author and our discussion leaders will invite the class to experience Jesus' birth anew.



Join the conversation by purchasing the book, \$10, from the church office or in class by **Sunday, December 8.**

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Lydia and Joy circles current Bible Study is:

*"Love Carved in Stone" – A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments.*

*The Lydia Circle* meets on the **2nd Monday** of each month and will meet on **December 9 at 10 am** in the back of McLeod Hall.

*The Joy Circle* meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month and will meet on **December 17 at 9:30 am** at the home of Carol Carter.

The study books are available at a cost of \$10. See either Sue McClew or Carol Carter, or come by the *church office to purchase your copy. Our group is open to any and all women of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.*



## SEWING FOR HONDURAS

Sewing for Honduras ladies have met and are busy sewing dresses and backpacks. They will meet once a month on a day convenient for most. Next sewing day will be **Wednesday, December 11, 10 am.**

In the meantime, if you are curious or slightly interested and would like to see the patterns, materials, have a suggestion, or want to get started, please contact Sharon Mitchell 419-332-5268.



## DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY NEW CLASS STARTING JANUARY 13, 2020



Take control of your money with *Financial Peace University* (FPU)! This nine-lesson course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you! FPU includes your member workbook and a year of free online resources through Financial Peace Membership. Please contact Lee and Pam Wilkerson at 863-221-2006 or [wilkeglk@verizon.net](mailto:wilkeglk@verizon.net) for more information. Registration will be opening soon.

## WE APPRECIATE OUR HANDBELL PLAYERS

I would like to give a big shout out and thank you to our First Presbyterian bell ringers. Each of our bell players are like a solo artist and very much a team player, their individual bells are all necessary to create the beautiful music that you hear on Sunday. They are a dedicated group of musicians that commit to an hour rehearsal each week along with playing for a worship service each month and for special programming. Besides the time for rehearsal and church performance, they also help with bell maintenance. This involves taking apart the bells and using a lot of elbow grease (and brass polish!) to keep our bells shining and in good condition. Our players include: Anamarie Coffman, Lia Gray, Sarah Hanks, Cheryce Harris, Janet Howard, Jill Kosmensky, Cecilia Linn, Sue McClew, Elizabeth Nepute, Pat Nepute, Arletta Oriani, Bill Patchen, Diane Repass, Mike Seney, Nancy Shaw, Lyn Swart, Barbara Tackett, and Jane Whitney. If you are interested in joining our bells players, please contact Lynn McCoy at the church.



Our Chapel Bells have the honor of playing at Disney this year! We will be playing a selection of holiday music at the Saratoga Springs Resort on **December 21 at 10 and 11 a.m.** We will be in the lobby so if you are in the area, come and catch our performance!



## WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!!!

Blessed Lord, we have seen the truth of the adage, "Many hands make work light," as so many were employed as we hosted the Presbytery of Tampa Bay on Thursday, November 7. We also derived joy as we "worked with each other and as we worked side by side." We thank You for those who prepared and served the tempting morning munchies especially for those who have a sweet tooth and the delicious and hearty lunch of Shepherd's Pie. We thank You for those who directed presbyters to parking areas and who warmly welcomed guests to our church. We thank You for those who sold lunch tickets. We thank You for those who manned the registration tables, set up the sanctuary and McLeod Hall for times of assembly and other rooms for break-out groups. We thank You for those who anticipated and attended to our audio, visual, and technical needs. We thank You for all the efforts made to show how much we love and care for "our home away from home." We thank You for those who lead and participated in worship, including set up for the sacrament of Holy Communion. We thank You for everyone and for all they did to extend gracious hospitality to our brothers and sisters in Christ.



## WEEKLY YOUTH FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS

**Middle School Youth** is meeting on **Wednesday evenings, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm** in the Golden Student Center. Join with **Philip Batista, Bill Lockhart, Steve Negley, and Emily Snyder (our Director of Student Ministries)** and our sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students as we enjoy time of food (we always have a meal), fun, and faith. Feel free to invite your friends to come along, too.

**High School Youth** (our ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade young people along with **Cheryce Harris, Steve Negley, Jonathan Owen, Emily Snyder, and Peggy Threlkel**) gathers at the Golden Student Center (711 Sixth Street, NW) on **Sunday evenings (5:30 – 7:30 pm)** to share food, Christian fellowship, and service. Come check us out and watch your walk with Jesus deepen.



## CHRIST KIDS!

Christ Kids – our faith-filled and safe after-school program for children 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade meets **Wednesdays at 3 pm**. Permission slips for families are on the church website, so spread the word and don't forget to join us as an Adult Volunteer! Questions? Contact Rev. Sarah via calling the church office at 294-3121 or emailing [sbishop@firstpreswh.org](mailto:sbishop@firstpreswh.org).

# JOIN US ON SUNDAYS!!!



## 8:00 am Chapel Worship

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

## 9:15 am Heart of Worship

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



## 11:00 am Sanctuary Worship

A traditional worship service held in our sanctuary. The service follows the same order as the 8:00 am 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 AM

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



## SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES CHILDREN & ADULTS: 9:30 - 10:30 AM

### FOR THE CHILDREN



SPARK Sunday School will begin for our children (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) and will be sparking faith after the *Time With Younger Disciples* in the Heart of Worship service. PreK-K will be meeting in Room 101 and 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades in Room 206. Don't forget they will also be doing music with Ms. Lynn before their respective classes and ART on the third Sunday. Sunday School ends at 10:30 am.

Can't make it to church? Your family can activate faith with God's Word by connecting with the stories at home with our Spark home sheets and buying a copy of the Story Bible at [www.weareSparkhouse.org](http://www.weareSparkhouse.org).

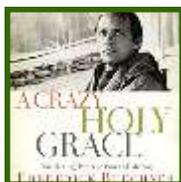
### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### PERSPECTIVES SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETS IN THE GENEVA ROOM

The *Adult Perspectives Class* is a seven Sunday DVD/discussion series titled *Invitation to a Journey* where we will interact with seven acclaimed scholars, theologians, and authors, in exploring what is next for Christianity and what faith may look like for ourselves and others in this 21<sup>st</sup> century. Join us in the Geneva Room at 9:30 am.



#### A CRAZY, HOLY GRACE- THE HEALING POWER OF PAIN AND MEMORY BY FREDRICK BUECHNER



When pain is real, why is God silent? Frederick Buechner has grappled with the nature of pain, grief, and grace ever since his father committed suicide when Buechner was a young boy. In this essential collection of essays, including one never before published, Frederick Buechner finds that the God who might seem so silent is ever near. Join the study and conversation in CE 207. You can pick up your copy of the book and study guide for \$10.00.

#### CALLING ALL YOUTH TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!!! 10:30 - 10:55 AM

Youth grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, please join us for Sunday School following the 9:15 am Heart of Worship Service, 10:30-10:55 am. We will enjoy fellowship, breakfast, and dive deeper into the scriptures discussed in the today's worship services. Meet us in the back of McLeod Hall! Come hungry and ready to learn more about God!





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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.**

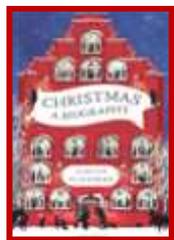
Summer months and holidays published bi-weekly.  
 Church dated material, please deliver by 11/22/19.

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

**Bag Lunch Ministry**  
 We gave out 213 bag lunches  
 the week of 11/11/19.

**Soup Kitchen Ministry**  
 We fed 95 people on 11/16/19.

**Return Service Requested**



**ODD MONTH THIRD THURSDAY AT 3 BOOK CLUB**

*Christmas A Biography, By Judith Flanders.*

Please join us **Thursday, November 21 at 3 pm** in the back of McLeod Hall for discussion and light snacks.

**MYSTERY FAITH THEATER 600  
 SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23 AT 6 PM**

Pass along the word to the Young Adult in your life, our first *Mystery Faith Theater 600* night will be **Saturday, November 23** at Rev. Sarah's home. Inspired by *Mystery Science Theater 3000*, we'll gather together for a meal, fellowship, and then grabbing the popcorn to crack jokes and enjoy a 'bad' movie. Rev. Sarah will have the main course, so bring a side dish to share. Be sure to connect with Emily Snyder 863-224-4403 or Rev. Sarah 574-298-2295 to get an address.



**NEXT PRAYER SHAWL MEETING IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25**



The prayer shawl group needs you! We meet the **4th Monday** of the month at **10:00 am** in McLeod Hall to knit/crochet together. We would love to have you come to our meetings. But... you don't need to be able to meet with us to participate. You can knit or crochet at home. There is lots of yarn in the closet at the church. So please help us bring comfort to others with the lap robes and prayer shawls that we create. Any pattern you would like to use would be fine, but we usually keep things pretty simple. We want to continue to be able to meet the need for the prayer shawls so your help will be greatly appreciated! Call the church office at 294-3121 if you have questions.