



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Weeks of January 5, 2020

Issue 740

134 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



FIRST SUNDAY FIRST PRES GATHERING THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020



At the **Single 10:00 am Worship Service** you will be able to catch up with all your First Pres friends. The service will feature a unique order of worship with elements from our other services such as: several opening songs with our Praise Band, a traditional anthem, Sermon, Time with Younger Disciples, and closing music by one of our hand bell groups or ensembles.

At **11:15 am**, we hope you continue fellowship with our First Pres family and friends, with a **Congregation-wide Fellowship Luncheon in McLeod Hall**. The menu: lasagna, green beans, garlic bread, dessert.

No reservations requested or required. There will be plenty of food. Any leftovers will be used by our Saturday Soup Kitchen.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

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

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



COME TO THE TABLE WITH OUR NEW ELDERS AND DEACONS

On Sunday, January 5 our congregation will celebrate the ordination and installation of our new Deacons and Elders, and celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Being ordained and/or installed in our **SINGLE WORSHIP SERVICE** will be: **Paul Montgomery, Bethany Owen, Ed Smith, Kit Threlkel, and Carson Weeks** to the office of Elder and **Sean Ivey, Sharon Mann, Erin Miller, Melissa Rowker, and Katie Sparr** to the office of Deacon. These new officers will also assist in the service of communion in worship.

WE ALSO WANT TO THANK OUR OUTGOING OFFICERS FOR THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE

Completing three-year terms of service are:

Elders

Richard Dobler, Karen, King, Tom Oldt, Andy Ray, and Jane Ray

Deacons

Corbin Hart, Jane West, an Ellen Zeller

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Remember in Prayer

Sunday, January 5

FIRST SUNDAY

COMMUNION

ORDINATION & INSTALATION

- 10:00 am Worship (Sanctuary)
11:15 am Fellowship Luncheon (MH)

Monday, January 6

- 8:45 am MOM (CE)

Tuesday, January 7

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MCR)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH)
1:15 pm Presbyterian Women
Bible Study Leaders (MCR)

Wednesday, January 8

- 8:45 am MOM (CE)
 - 12:00 pm Buildings & Grounds (MH)
 - 3:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)
 - 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
 - 6:00 pm Chancel Bells (MS)
 - 7:00 pm Choir (MS)

Thursday, January 9

- 12:00 pm Chapel Bells (MS)
2:00 pm Membership (MCR)

Friday, January 10

- 8:45 am MOM (CE)
5:00 pm Praise Band (Sanctuary)

Saturday, January 11

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

*Our Christian sympathy goes
to Zane Schwenk and upon
the death of his mother,
Sandy Schwenk who died
December 14, 2019*



FUNTIMERS AND FRIENDS



Our next gathering will be on **Tuesday, January 14**. We will travel to the **Circle B Bar Reserve** on Winter Lake Road for a tour by open tram OR you may choose to walk the paths and visit the Exhibit Hall instead. We'll have chilly weather so we suggest you dress warmly and bring a small blanket for the tram ride. We will provide bottled water and after the Reserve tour, we will travel to a local restaurant for lunch.

The Reserve tour will begin at 10 am. We will be leaving the church by 9:15 am.

To sign-up, call the church office at 294-3121, email to office@firstpreswh.org, sign-up at the FunTimers display in McLeod Hall, or fill out this tear-off and drop it in the offering plate or by the office.

Name: _____

Attending: _____

Phone number: _____

I/We will travel to the Reserve by: [] bus OR [] car.

At the Reserve: I/we will ride the tram [] OR I/we will walk the Reserve trails [].



CHRIST KIDS RETURNS JANUARY 8!

Christ Kids – our faith-filled and safe after-school program for children 4 years through 5th 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.



NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES STARTING JANUARY 12!

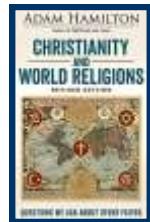
Perspectives



The Adult Perspectives Class will start a seven Sunday DVD/discussion series on **January 12** titled *Honoring Creation* where we will interact with seven acclaimed scholars, theologians and authors exploring what is next for Christianity. We will ponder what our response to God's creation might look like for ourselves and others in the 21st century. The focus of this session is: *Restoring Our Relationship With the Divine*. This class meets at **9:30 am** in the Geneva Room.

Voyagers

Exploring four major world religions with videos and respectful conversation, join an Adult Sunday School as they study: *Christianity and World Religions: Questions We Ask About Other Faiths*. With interviews with religious leaders from Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism, we will compare beliefs and build bridges with these four world religions. Beginning with understanding, we can all seek peace in our world, love our neighbors, and find positive ways to share the gospel. Meeting in CE 207 starting **January 12 at 9:30 am**.



YOUTH FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS RETURN JANUARY 12



Middle School Youth is meeting on **Wednesday evenings, from 5:30 – 7:30 pm** in the Golden Student Center. Join our leaders 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 leaders gather 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.



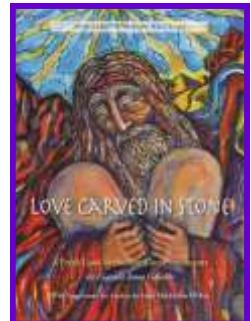
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

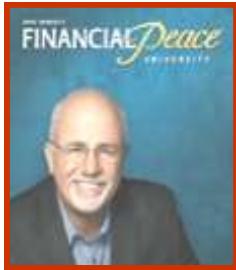
The Lydia and Joy circles current Bible Study is:
“Love Carved in Stone” – *A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments*.

The Lydia Circle meets on the **2nd Monday** of each month and will meet on **January 13 at 10 am** in the back of McLeod Hall.

The Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month and will meet on **January 21 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.





DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY NEW CLASS STARTING ON MONDAY, JANUARY 13

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. You can register now at fpu.com/1106335/.

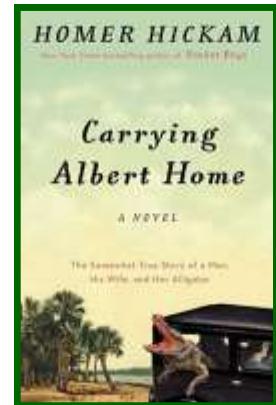


ARE YOU READING FOR OUR NEXT ODD MONTH THIRD THURSDAY AT 3 BOOK CLUB?

*Carrying Albert Home: The Somewhat True Story
of A Man, His Wife, and Her Alligator*

By Homer Hickam.

Please join us **Thursday, January 16 at 3 pm** in the back of McLeod Hall for discussion and light refreshments.



2020 BREAD PICK UP LIST IS COMING SOON!

We are in the process of creating our 2020 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 2019 and would like to, please call Alan at 294-3121 to let him know.



A GREAT WAY YOU CAN HELP A HURTING FRIEND

Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who has suffered a loss or is going through a difficult time? Here's a great way you can help them--tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers are members of First Presbyterian Church who have received special training to provide high quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to hurting people. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. (Males are matched with males, and females are matched with females.) The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's free, and it's a powerful way you can help a hurting friend.



Stephen Minister Request Form Boxes are placed in the **Centennial Room, narthex, and balcony hallway** for your convenience. These secure boxes make it easy for someone to make a Confidential Request for a Stephen Minister. Forms are found in the pew pockets and forms and pens are also held by the box making it convenient for individuals to request a Stephen Minister.

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.**

THE 2020 SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR IS UP IN THE NARTHEX

If your desired date is not available, there is space to sign up for placing flowers in the narthex.

Please remember these important points:

- * Include your best contact number.
- * Include the name of your florist.
- * Tell your florist that the arrangement **must** be here by **Friday, 12 pm.**
- * Call the church office the week before to give bulletin information at 294-3121.

ANGELS CARE CENTER OF ELOISE Angel Collection Box Needs

There is an ongoing need for the following items to give out at the Angels Care Center. Please leave items in the Angel Collection Box in McLeod Hall. Thank YOU, and God Bless!!!

First Aid Kits: washcloths, band-aids, wet wipes, small soaps, small antibacterial soap, Q-tips, small packets of antibiotic ointment, etc.



Children's "Jesus Kits": coloring sheets with Biblical themes, crayons, scripture/song cards (simple and short for children), small books, stickers, etc.

Toiletry Kits: shampoo, soap, deodorant, razors, feminine products, combs, washcloths, hand gel, lotion, toothbrush and toothpaste, small samples from hotel/motels, etc.

Miscellaneous: zip lock bags (gallon, quart and snack size).



TEXT TO GIVE

1. Donor texts the keyword and amount (ex. Tithe 100 –**There must be a space between the keyword and amount**) to the number that is assigned to your organization. (If only an amount is texted without a keyword, the funds will go to a default category- unless you are using the short code- there is no default category on the short code.)
2. First time text donors receive a text with a link to sign into their SecureGive account or create a new one.
3. Donor signs in or creates an account and saves a default payment method to be used for text giving.
4. When this is complete, donor receives a confirmation that their first text donation has been processed. They will also receive an email receipt.

The next time the donor would like to give by text, they simply type the keyword and amount and will receive a request to confirm with Y. After replying, they will receive a text confirmation that their donation was processed and will receive an email receipt.

We recommend that the donor save your organization's text number as a contact in their phone for future use

**Donors can text a question mark "?" to be sent helpful tips.

**Donors can text STOP to de-activate text giving from their phone. If they have texted STOP at any point, they must text START to get re-started.

Robin Miller is available to assist you during office hours at 294-3121 or email rmiller@firstpreswh.org.

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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 1/3/20.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 175 bag lunches
the week of 12/16/19.

We gave out 100 bag lunches
the week of 12/23/19.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 65 people on 12/21/19.
We fed 110 people on 12/28/19.

Announcing the Theme of the 2020 Advent Devotional: Christmastide Travels and Tales



Reading the stories of evangelists Matthew and Luke about Jesus' birth, we learn that there were trips taken: from Nazareth to Bethlehem, from Bethlehem to Egypt, and from Egypt to Nazareth. Holiday decorations, special events and programs often lure us to travel. We would like you to share a tale of a holiday destination, of travel just prior to Thanksgiving to Epiphany (January 6). Examples: visiting Christmas Markets in Austria or Germany, going to NYC to see the Rockettes, attending a special concert by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir or St. Olaf's, touring a home or estate elaborately decorated or watching young Greek men dive for a cross at Tarpon Springs.

We invite you to share your Christmastide Travels and Tales with us. As in the past, to your stories we will add scripture readings and prayers to complete each day's devotional reading. We believe this will be a most enjoyable devotional and we hope you will write a paragraph or as much as a page about your travels and tales at Christmastide. We will need at least 26 submissions. Please take a few moments and write these reflections down while "in the Christmas mood." Submit them to cshipley@firstpreswh.org or aharvey@firstpreswh.org and we will take them from there. We would also love it if you included a photo.