



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of June 7, 2020

Issue 761

134 Years of Ministry

VBS ANNOUNCEMENT

Hear ye! Hear ye! All ye Kings and Queens, Knights and Nobles!



By royal decree the difficult decision has been made to cancel the in-person summer gathering of knights known as VBS. All our knights instead will begin a summer quest at home, checking in twice monthly to be sure they are indeed armoring up with love, truth, and faith. On the **2nd and 4th Wednesdays, June-August**, First Pres castle will host ZOOM gatherings with VBS music, Bible stories, and prayer. Our knights, nobles, and their families connect via **ZOOM, for Lower Elementary (PreK-1st) at 3 pm and Upper Elementary (2nd-5th) at 4 pm – first gathering is June 10**. VBS crafts for the summer will be available for pick up from the office or Rev. Sarah will be dropping them off at homes the week of June 1.

Until then, it is joyfully advised to *“be strong in the Lord and the strength of His power”*, Ephesians 6:10 – Rev. Sarah, First Pres Castle.

LOCAL MINISTRIES NEED OUR HELP

The ministries supported by our church can use our help now more than ever. The Deacons have been in contact with those ministries to inquire about their current needs. If you wish to help, please consider the needs of this valuable partner in our community and reach out to them directly.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat is currently encouraging drop-off donations. They welcome financial donations as well. Both Restores will be taking donations and scheduling picks-ups. Please call them at 863-292-2256 for details. Remember, no drop offs between 10 am-2 pm until further notice. Their modified hours of operation to shop are Tuesday-Friday, 9-4, face coverings are required, and 10 people at a time are permitted into the stores.



OUR FEEDING MINISTRIES

We are blessed to be able to continue serving the hungry of our community with bagged lunches during the week and the Saturday Soup Kitchen. We have available dates open in June, and all of July and August.

If you would like to serve the church by volunteering in either of these ministries, please call the office at 294-3121.

- 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



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, June 7

- 9:15 am Heart of Worship (Facebook Live)
- 11:00 am Worship (Facebook Live)
- 7:00 pm High School Youth Groop (Zoom)

Monday, June 8

- 6:30 pm Christian Education (Zoom)

Tuesday, June 9

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (Zoom)
- 4:00 pm Music Director Search (Zoom)
- 6:00 pm Personnel (Zoom)

Wednesday, June 10

- 12:00 pm Buildings & Grounds (Zoom)
- 3:00 pm VBS-Lower Elementary (Zoom)
- 4:00 pm VBS-Upper Elementary (Zoom)
- 5:00 pm Confirmation (Zoom)
- 7:00 pm Middle School Youth Group (Zoom)

Thursday, June 11

Friday, June 12

Saturday, June 13

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

HOW ARE YOU DOING? Are you going through a difficult time?

Are you a caregiver of a chronically ill love one?
Lonely?

Concerned about the COVID-19?

Living with depression?

Lost a loved one?

Recently Retired?

To find out more about Stephen Ministry
for you or someone you know,
**call Connie Shipley at 221-2224. 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 | Frances Heath | Lori Roe |
| Melvin & Debbie
Anderson | Kay Hedden | John Schleifer |
| Kathy Andrews | Doris Hill | Lauren Schwenk |
| Pat Berrell | Shirley Hines | George Seagreaves |
| Orrin & Helen
Champlain | Bryan Howard | Cash Sheaffer |
| Carl Cheatham | Isobel Hubbard | Bob Sheffield |
| Charlie Darte | Jim Huff | Joyce Shirah |
| Marjorie DiLorenzo | Martha Johnson | Barbara H. Smith |
| Zan Dismuke | Bill Johnston | Ed Smith |
| Yolanda Dyer | John Kissel | Dale Smith |
| Jana Easterling | Dena Lancashire | Joel Smith |
| Dana Elmore | Eric Lindstrom | Christine Stevens |
| Bill Everhart | Spike & Jane Lucia | Pam Tallent-Blackburn |
| Jim Francis | Pat McCarty | Carolyn Thompson |
| John Gray | Bob McClew | Ellie Threlkel |
| Jane Hammette | Edna Mitchell | Mike Vibral |
| Jane Hayman | Nancy Neale | Gwen Waters |
| Joyce Hayman | Lynn Oakley | Sug Zowarka |
| | Arletta Oriani | |
| | Barbara Roberts | |

Relatives & Friends

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| Belle Barris | Lauren Schwenk's friend |
| Jessica Benton | Nikki Hoagland's cousin |
| Joe Boyce | Mary & Greg Mars' friend |
| Sheri Braun | Margaret Braun's friend |
| Bob Carolan | Amy Speer's father |
| Katie Derthick | Marile Weeks' great-niece |
| Steve Dobler | Rich Dobler's brother |
| Jean Ann & Blake Doyle | Ben & Judy Tucker's friend |
| Dottie Fairchild | Bob Hines' sister |
| Susie Fisher | Rob Donaldy and Becky Everhart's cousin |
| Tom Francis | Jim Francis' brother |
| Allison Futch | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Debbie Futch | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Lynda Giles | Polly Wilson's niece |
| Paul & Betty Gilliam | Debbie Anderson's parents |
| Christy Hemenway | Bob & Lisa Endres' friend |
| Sidney Hilliard | Tillie Montney's mother |
| Kate Hurd & family | Kathy Cheatham's friend |
| Cherri Jordan | Ed Smith's sister |
| John Kluberg | Nancy Dobler's brother |
| Jim Marrs | Greg Marrs' brother |
| Carol Moore | Roger & Marie Able's friend |
| Jackie Murphy | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Paula Penna | Steven Lockhart's friend |
| Sydney Alexis Rich | Bill & Becky Everhart's friend |
| Joan Richter | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Kristy Russ | Tom & Jerri Oldt's friend |
| Toni Shaw | Candy Marshall's friend |
| Deborah Strother | Sandy Hoffman's friend |
| Andy Vogt | Susan Singleton's friend |
| Jeanie Williamson | Jackie Pinckney's friend |

MILITARY

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

A Plan for Re-Opening First Presbyterian Church to Public Worship

June 2020

When confronted by COVID-19, a highly contagious airborne virus which posed a significant threat to the health and safety of the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven, the Session suspended the gathering for public worship, initiating virtual worship services exclusively beginning March 22, 2020.

With a continued concern for the health and welfare our church family, seeking to maintain robust virtual worship while also providing the safe opportunity for those who wish to again assemble in God's house for praise and prayer, the Session appointed a Task Force on the Re-Opening of First Presbyterian Church for Worship, and re-entry in public gatherings.

Moving toward opening the doors of God's house once again for services of public worship, the Task Force met for prayerful research and reflection on two questions:

- 1) What criteria should be used for allowing the return to public worship?
- 2) What will public worship look like as we first return?

On June 2, 2020, the Session met for discussion on the Task Force recommendations and adopted the following **Plan for Re-opening**:

- 1) Guided by Polk County statistics on the efforts to combat the COVID-19 virus, as evidenced in a steady or downward trend in the number of new COVID-19 hospitalizations and in the percentage of positive cases (as compared to total tested) reported, **the church will plan to re-open our doors to those who wish to attend in-person worship on Sunday, June 14, 2020.** (We will also be continuing our vibrant virtual on-line worship experience on FaceBook Live)
- 2) **As we return to public worship in our church facility, we will implement the following measures** to provide for the health and safety of our sisters and brothers in Christ.
 - a) Our worship schedule will include 2 Sunday worship services in our sanctuary - **Heart of Worship at 9:00 am** and **Traditional Worship at 11:00 am.** (This time change for Heart of Worship service will allow for thorough cleaning between services.)
 - b) The second-floor exterior doors leading to the walkway to the CE building will remain open to increase the flow our fresh air into our ventilation system.
 - c) All worshippers will be greeted under the porte-cochere at the west entrance with a brief health questionnaire.
 - d) All worshippers will be asked to complete or bring a daily attendance card.

A Plan for Re-Opening ~ Continued

- e) Out of concern and care for all who gather for worship, all worshipers ages three and older will be required to wear a face covering (covering mouth and nose) while inside the church buildings.
- f) Hand sanitation stations will be located throughout the church facility with all encouraged to use upon entrance and exiting facility and other designated area (water fountains, restrooms, elevator buttons, stair rails, etc.)
- g) All paths leading to the worship space will be marked with six-foot separation stripes.
- h) The sanctuary will be marked with “worship sites for family units” (a single person, couple, or family grouping) with 8-foot separation in all directions for safe social distancing. (The first row of the balcony will be left vacant)
- i) Ushers (observing a six-foot separation) will escort worshipers to the next available worship site, filling the sanctuary from front to back, to minimize contact in passing by other worshipers.
- j) The worship services will be shown by livestream video in McLeod Hall, which will have worship site seating in 8-foot separation for over-flow or late-arriving worshipers.
- k) Worship will be modified by restricting singing and choir, in accordance with best practices, to reduce the threat of airborne virus spread.
- l) Following worship, ushers will dismiss the congregation starting at the back of the sanctuary and proceeding to the front, encouraging those who need to use the elevator to proceed to that location with safe distancing and asking those who can traverse the stairs to proceed to the north or south side stairwells.
- m) Immediately after the sanctuary is vacated following the Heart of Worship service, sanitation teams (our custodian, Tonia, and trained volunteers – all of whom will wear protective eye wear, masks, and gloves) will disinfect all surfaces which have been touched in preparation for the arrival of the next worshipers.
- n) The pastors will have exited immediately following the benediction via the front doors and proceeded to the porte-cochere for socially distanced farewells to worshipers.
- o) Children will be asked to worship with their parents, and childcare will not be provided.

The Session will continue to monitor the progression of the COVID-19 virus in our community, and will meet regularly to discuss any modifications to our public worship plan. The Session will also be making decisions on the resumption of other in-person activities here in our church facilities. We look forward to our continued life together as Christ’s body.

CHRIST KIDS AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

While our programming for kids may not be meeting in person, our children and families do have the opportunity to grow in their faith at home! Families are being sent weekly a Bible lesson. Included are activities, games and creative projects all which are available when they need it. As families feel safe, we have kept our playground open on **Wednesdays, 3-5pm.**

Each week's lesson is being sent via email. So, please let Rev. Sarah (sbishop@firstpreswh.org) know if you would like to receive it as well.



YOUTH GROUP ZOOM WILL CONTINUE THROUGH SUMMER



During this challenging time, our youth groups are meeting weekly by Zoom meetings. We are doing lessons and enjoying each other's company on video chats until we can start meeting in person again.

High School: Sunday at 7pm
Middle School: Wednesday at 7pm

Emily Snyder has also created an Instagram account where she is posting devotionals every few days to keep your hearts filled with a little bit of Jesus during this crazy time! The account can be found on Instagram if you search **fpcwh_youth**. If you don't have an account, but still want to receive the devotions, here is the link: [instagram.com/fpcwh_youth](https://www.instagram.com/fpcwh_youth).

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE THROUGH SECUREGIVE

Go to our Church website at www.firstpreswh.org and click on **give** (top right), you will be re-directed to <https://app.securegive.com/firstpreswh> or you can go directly to the SecureGive website, <https://app.securegive.com/firstpreswh>.

Robin Miller is available to assist you during office hours at 863-294-3121 or email rmiller@firstpreswh.org.

TEXT TO GIVE AT SECUREGIVE: 863-243-6880

1. Donor texts the keyword and amount (ex. Tithe 100 – **There must be a space between the keyword and amount**, to the above number. Other keywords can be: three cents or other.)
2. First time text donors receive a text with a link to sign into their SecureGive account or create a new one. A quick video with Robin walking through these steps is on our website.
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 everytime they give.

****We recommend that the donor save *First Presbyterian Church* 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.

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 6/5/20.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 105 bag lunches
the week of 5/18/20.

We gave out 138 bag lunches
the week of 5/25/20.

We gave out 547
bag lunches in May, 2020

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 98 people on 5/23/20.

We fed 76 people on 5/30/20.

We fed 371 in May, 2020.

Return Service Requested

REMEMBER: FIRST PRES IS LIVE ON FACEBOOK!

Heading out of town but still desire to be part of this worshiping community on Sunday?

Heard something lovely said or played in worship and need to hear it again?

Want to share with a friend a taste of worship with First Pres?



Then visit the our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FPCWinterHaven/>! Every Sunday we will be live-streaming the 9:15 am Heart of Worship and 11 am Traditional worship services on our Facebook page. These services will be available by video after worship as well.

The church website at <https://www.firstpreswh.org> will also continue to have recordings of Sunday's worship on the main page. Scroll down to "Latest Videos" at the bottom.

YOU CAN GET CONNECTED

Remember when you come back to worship that we have guest **Wi-Fi** available here at First Pres!

On your device, choose one of our two networks:

First Presbyterian Main in the sanctuary building *OR*
First Presbyterian Edu in the education building and student center
The password **Connect@1st** can be used for both networks.

