



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of July 12, 2020

Issue 766

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

GOOD NEWS FOR GOD'S CHILDREN A summer month-long sermon series



Each Sunday during the month of July we hope that we will all settle in as God's children to listen for stories of the Good News.

During the "Time With Younger Disciples" the pastors will share an entire children's book that they have selected for the day. The scripture and sermon will then build on the images from that story as we listen for good news of what God has done, and is doing for us, in Jesus Christ.

LYNN SAYS GOODBYE, FOR NOW

I would like to thank all of you for the love and support you have shown me the past five years as I served as Director of Music Ministries. It is with mixed feelings that I begin the next part of my life in retirement. I am excited to be able to spend more time with my children and three granddaughters, but I will definitely miss the daily interactions with my church family. You will always be a part of my heart.



I have a 'cabin' in Detroit Lakes MN. and will start my snowbird journey there. My four children all live in North Dakota, just a short Amtrak ride away from my cabin. If you happen to travel north, I expect a call and visit from you – I have a guest room for you and a lake just steps from my door! I plan to keep my Florida residency for winters, no ice and snow for me, been there, done that!

We will get through this time keeping our faith strong in Christ. This is a sweet farewell because First Presbyterian is my home church and with you, I am excited to see what changes the future brings.

Lynn McCoy

OUR FEEDING MINISTRIES

We are blessed to be able to continue serving the hungry of our community with bagged lunches during the week.

Our Saturday Soup Kitchen hasn't stopped either. We have July 18 and 25 available, as well as several dates in August.

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



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, July 12

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
7:00 pm High School Youth Group (Zoom)

Monday, July 13

- 6:30 pm Christian Education (Zoom)

Tuesday, July 14

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (Zoom)
4:00 pm Music Director Search (Zoom)
5:00 pm Stephen Minister Leaders (MH)
6:30 pm Personnel (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 15

- 7:00 pm Middle School Youth Group (Zoom)

Thursday, July 16

Friday, July 17

Saturday, July 18

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

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	

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

Marie Able	Frances Heath	Barbara Roberts
Melvin & Debbie Anderson	Kay Hedden	John Schleifer
Kathy Andrews	Doris Hill	George Seagreaves
Pat Berrell	Bob & Shirley Hines	Bob Sheffield
Orrin & Helen Champlain	Bryan Howard	Joyce Shirah
Carl Cheatham	Isobel Hubbard	Susan Heyer-Singleton
Charlie Darte	Jim Huff	Ed Smith
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Martha Johnson	Dale Smith
Zan Dismuke	Bill Johnston	Joel & Barbara H. Smith
Jana Easterling	John Kissel	Christine Stevens
Dana Elmore	Dena Lancashire	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Bill Everhart	Eric Lindstrom	Carolyn Thompson
John Gray	Spike & Jane Lucia	Ellie Threlkel
Jane Hammette	Pat McCarty	Mike Vibral
Jane Hayman	Bob McClew	Pat Vobornik
Joyce Hayman	Edna Mitchell	Gwen Waters
	Nancy Neale	Sug Zowarka
	Arletta Oriani	

Relatives & Friends

Brenda Accardi	Jeri & Tom Oldt's friend
Bruce Bachman	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Belle Barris	Lauren Schwenk's friend
Joe Boyce	Mary & Greg Mars' friend
Sheri Braun	Margaret Braun's friend
Bob Carolan	Amy Speer's father
Maryann Cassell	Candy Marshall's friend
Katie Derthick	Marile Weeks' great-niece
Steve Dobler	Rich Dobler's brother
Jean Ann & Blake Doyle	Ben & Judy Tucker's friends
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
Kristen & Dave Hall	Judy Winfree's friends
Christy Hemenway	Bob & Lisa Endres' friend
Sidney Hilliard	Tillie Montney's mother
Kate Hurd & family	Kathy Cheatham's friends
Cherri Jordan	Ed Smith's sister
John Kluberg	Nancy Dobler's brother
Catherine Loving	Nell Speer's sister
Jim Marrs	Greg Marrs' brother
Carol Moore	Roger & Marie Able's friend
Shelia Moskowitz	Nell Speer's friend
Jackie Murphy	Lynn Oakley's friend
Michael Oriani	Joe Oriani's brother
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
Jane & Mario Scarpa	Judy Winfree's friends
Toni Shaw	Candy Marshall's friend
Jim Steele	Bob Steele's brother
Deborah Strother	Sandy Hoffman's friend
Andy Vogt	Susan Singleton's friend



VBS ANNOUNCEMENT

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

Next Knights of North Castle VBS gathering July 22 via ZOOM



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 has begun 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** – **Next gathering of knights, July 22**. VBS crafts for the summer are still available in the church office; contact Rev. Sarah to arrange a pick-up.

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.

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.



SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE CARD

One form is necessary for each person attending.

Heart of Worship at 9:00 am; Traditional Worship at 11:00 am

For the safety of all entering the church facilities for in-person worship, please complete this brief survey. (If you answer yes to any of the questions, please return home and join us for virtual worship on Facebook Live.)

Yes No Have you had a fever, dry cough, or shortness of breath in the last 14 days ?

Yes No Have you been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?

Yes No Have you traveled to a COVID-19 hotspot in the past 14 days?

Name (Please print): _____

Phone Number: _____ Date: _____

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 re-opened our doors to those who wish to attend in-person worship on Sunday, June 14, 2020.** (We are also continuing our vibrant virtual on-line worship experience on FaceBook Live)
- 2) **As we return to public worship in our church facility, we have implemented the following measures** to provide for the health and safety of our sisters and brothers in Christ.
 - a) Our worship schedule includes 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 allows 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 worshipers 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.

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 would like 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 **9:00 am Heart of Worship and 11:00 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.

Either way, there are opportunities to worship with your church family when you cannot be present in person.



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 7 pm
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).

ANGELS CARE CENTER OF ELOISE

Angels Care Center continues to give out special kits to our patients and their families, e.g. toiletry kits, first aid kits, children's kits, and senior bags. This is not possible without your donations of items to fill these kits! We have made and given out over 31,000 in the last 9 years!

But... in the last few months we have come up short of what is needed to fill the kits. This is a year round project and the need is great. We are in particular need of deodorant, disposable razors, small combs, quart and snack size zip lock bags, Band-Aids, washcloths, sunscreen, small hand sanitizer, and small samples from hotel/motels. Also, any and all items for our senior bags, whatever will make our senior citizens' lives easier and brighter: laundry soap, Lysol cleaning wipes, paper towels, mugs or plastic plates, bowls, teabags, oatmeal packs, crossword puzzles/activity pads, seasonal item/décor, gift cards (Walmart, restaurants, etc.) You can put these items in the Angels Care collection box located in McLeod Hall.



Your help now and throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT FIRST PRES...
just by shopping at this special Amazon link.



Your shopping will support
**Winter Haven First
Presbyterian Church**

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com).



HAVE YOU LOST GLASSES...

Prescription, reading, or sunglasses?
Maybe it was last week, last month, or even last year? If so, we could have them.
We have a collection that has been found over time and would like to find their rightful homes.

Please check the desk next to the maintenance office.

HOW ARE YOU DOING?

Are you going through a difficult time?



Grieving the loss of a loved one?
Diagnosed with terminal or life-threatening illness?
Recently lost a job or retired?
Stressed by being a caregiver?
Financial strain?



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.

If you, or someone you know, are sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone.

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. Galatians 6:2

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.

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 every time 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.

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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 7/10/20.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 96 bag lunches
the week of 6/29/20.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 75 people on 7/4/20.

WE ARE HAPPY TO BE HOLDING WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY ON FACEBOOK LIVE AND IN-PERSON HERE AT 9:00 AND 11:00 AM

In order to maintain order and safety, we need some help on Sunday mornings.



We need greeters each Sunday (one per service) to staff the table under the porte-cochere from **8:30 am – 9:05 am** and/or from **10:30 am – 11:05 am** (you can still attend most of the worship service that follows your volunteer time.)

We need 3 ushers at the **9 am** Heart of Worship Service and 6 ushers at the **11 am** Traditional Service to help seat and dismiss the congregation. (Please come 30 minutes prior to the service and plan to stay until the entire congregation has departed.)

We also need 2 volunteers each week to help church custodian, Tonia Milbry, clean the facility between services. (Please plan to be here from **10:00 am – 10:30 am** for the “In-Between Cleaning Crew”)

If you could help with any of these tasks on any Sunday, please contact the church office at 294-3121 or office@firstpreswh.org and we'll sign you up to serve.