



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of August 30, 2020

Issue 773

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

Emily G. Snyder
Director of
Student Ministries

Robin D. Miller
Director of Finance &
Administration

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative Assistant

Sammy D. Bryant
Director of Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry
Custodian

COMING TO THE LORD'S TABLE August 30, 2020

By our normal schedule, it has been a long time since we last came to the Lord's Table. In fact, it will be just shy of six months when we share the Eucharist on **Sunday August 30**. We last shared the Lord's Supper on Sunday, March 1, 2020. Normally, we would have had at least two, if not three, occasions to partake of the bread and the cup within that period. The coronavirus has disrupted our worship calendar and the way we normally do worship. So how will we partake of the sacrament amidst the masks and social distancing?



For those choosing to worship in the sanctuary at **9 or 11 am**, upon entering the narthex you will be able to pick up a self-contained unit holding a small piece of bread and a small amount of grape juice in sealed compartments. Gluten free available too. You will be invited to partake of the bread and the juice together as is our custom at the appointed time in the service **or** you may take the container to your home and then share the feast there in solitude or with your family. **Masks will remain in place throughout the service, except while eating and drinking the bread and cup.**

If you join us for virtual worship at either the **9 or 11 am** service, you may purchase some bread and juice at your local grocery store, portion these out and partake of these elements at the appointed time in the service. If you do not want a large loaf and more grape juice than you wish to buy, you can come to the church office this week, **Monday through Thursday 8 am - 5 pm or Friday 8 am - 2 pm**, to get the pre-packaged communion elements that will be used in worship on Sunday. These are stored in the kitchen refrigerator and will need to be kept in your home's refrigerator until the hour of service. Someone has said, "Necessity is the mother of invention." While COVID-19 may have forced compliance to some guidelines, you can worship here or at home to receive the spiritual food we have hungered for these nearly six months. In a World Communion Service some time ago, Dr. Negley spoke of the Lord's Table extending around the world. The Lord's Table of our sanctuary extends outward to the places where we live so that we can partake of this special meal that binds us together with Christ and our brothers and sisters in faith. Please join us for worship as we look forward with excitement to sharing the feast our Lord has prepared.

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body."

²⁷ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. ²⁸ This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. Matthew 26:26-28

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, August 30

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
5:30 pm High School Youth Group
(GC Backyard)

Monday, August 31

Tuesday, September 1

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MCR)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
4:00 pm Music Director Search (Zoom)
6:30 pm Session (GR)

Wednesday, September 2

- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group
(GC Outside)

Thursday, September 3

Friday, September 4

Saturday, September 5

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

REMEMBER ~ FIRST PRES IS LIVE ON FACEBOOK!

Heading out of town but still desire to be part of this worshipping 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/!](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 as videos after worship as well.

The church website at 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.

Our Christian sympathy goes to Kevin Thomas upon the death his mother, Wanda Thomas, who died on Sunday, August 16, 2020.

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

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

Relatives & Friends

John & Brenda Accardi	Jeri & Tom Oldt's friends
Bruce Bachman	Jim & Ellie Threlkel'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
Allen Cofiori	Gale & Gwen Water's friend
Connie Craig	Lynn Oakley's friend
Katie Derthick	Marile Weeks' great-niece
Andra Douglas	Lynn Oakley's friend
Paul & Betty Gilliam	Debbie Anderson's parents
Kristen & Dave Hall	Judy Winfree's friends
Marilyn Harris	Mike Harris's mother
Sidney Hilliard	Tillie Montney's mother
Lynda Holyk	Paul Montgomery's sister
LuAnn Hurley	Sandy Hoffman's friend
Helen Lake	Sandy Hoffman's friend
Sue Miller	Lynn Oakley's friend
Michael Oriani	Joe Oriani's brother
Paula Penna	Steven Lockhart's friend
Joan Richter	Lynn Oakley's friend
Jane & Mario Scarpa	Judy Winfree's friends
Toni Shaw	Candy Marshall's friend
Bennie Spangers	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Jim Steele	Bob Steele's brother
Jeanie Williamson	Jackie Pinckney's friend

MILITARY

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

PREPARING TO BID FAREWELL

Plans are underway to say good-bye and celebrate 22 years of ministry with Dr. Alan Harvey.

As we all get ready to bid farewell to our well-loved, long-tenured Associate Pastor, the Session is planning a celebration. Alan's last Sunday before retirement is set for **Sunday, September 13**. You can help us make that a special day by:



Contributing a letter and photos to a Memory Book that will be presented in worship.

Sharing a card with a "love offering" of cash or gift cards for his enjoyment in a retirement trip to the Carolinas for the fall colors.

Joining in our drive-by salute to Alan under the church porte-cochere **following the 11 am worship** service on that Sunday.

Please send your letters/photos for the memory book in advance to the church office. You can bring your cards and gifts to the drive-by salute on **Sunday, September 13**.

Let's share our love and best wishes with Alan as he moves toward becoming....?

CALLING ALL YOUTH!



Youth groups have started meeting (socially distanced & safe) in-person again! We are so excited to be gathering outside the youth house and can't wait to see all of you soon. We will also be welcoming our new middle schoolers and new high schoolers!

MSYG meets Wednesdays from 5:30 until 7:30 pm
HSYG meets Sundays from 5:30 until 7:30 pm

Come join us for food, fellowship, and faith building. We can't wait for another awesome year with our youth!

If you have any questions or would like to sign up to provide a meal for our students, please contact Emily Snyder at 224-4403 or esnyder@firstpreswh.org.

WHAT'S NEW WITH SECUREGIVE?

With each transaction, there are fees charged by the credit card processing companies. Securegive now has a "Separate Fee Offset" option when giving online. This option, if chosen, will increase the transaction to help offset transaction fees, the fee amount will be calculated based on the selected payment method. These fees are up to 2.5% of the transaction depending on the card used (the amount will be shown once the option is chosen).

New donors will see this as one of their options and they must select yes or no. If you are currently using the online service you will need to go into your account and update your information, as it is not automatic.

The total amount will be considered a donation and will appear on your quarterly statement. If you have any questions, call Robin, (863)294-3121.



Re-Opening First Presbyterian Church to Public Worship 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.

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.

MEN'S LUNCH IS NOW HYBRID

You have two ways to attend the First Pres Men's Lunch on Tuesdays at noon.

You can still Zoom and the invite will continue to be sent Tuesday mornings. The Zoom connection will be on the flat panel TV at the end of the live table in McLeod Hall. You will be seen and heard as a full participant in the Men's Lunch. If you would like to join us by Zoom and have not been receiving the invites by email, please contact the office at 294-3121 or office@firstpreswh.org and ask to be added to the list.

OR

You can join us in person at our socially distanced table in McLeod Hall.

- You will need to wear a mask.
- We will be seated around the tables – six feet apart.
- We'll get to see each other face-to-face (or at least eye to eye) like we can on Sunday mornings.

We hope you'll join us with one of these options as we continue meeting together as brothers in Christ. And don't forget your lunch!



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 – 9:05 am** and/or from **10:30 – 11:05 am** (you can still attend most of the worship service that follows your volunteer time.)

We need 2 ushers at the **9:00 am** Heart of Worship Service and 4 ushers at the **11:00 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 – 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.

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: _____

First Time Visitor Address: _____

Thank you for helping us provide for the safety of the entire church family.

SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|--|------|--|
| 9/2 | Pat Bentley
Richard White | 9/9 | Shannon Thompson | 9/21 | Eric Lindstrom |
| 9/3 | Cody Dugger
Hal Jeffcoat
Sawyer Speer | 9/10 | Rick Reass
Hunter Smith | 9/21 | Al Porter
Katie Stine
Jim Zeller |
| 9/4 | Sarah Pickos
Kit Threlkel | 9/11 | Freya Abbott | 9/22 | Steven Barthel
Mike Harris
Scarlett Lockhart |
| 9/5 | Adam Cranmer
James Miller
Tom Nepute
Jonathan Owen
Kristen Siegel | 9/12 | Elizabeth Miller
Amanda Jo Nicholson
Meg Tucker | 9/23 | Kathy Garner |
| 9/6 | Lauren Clarke
Cooper Kirkland
Ben Tucker | 9/13 | Nancy Dobler
Spike Lucia
Megan Robinson | 9/24 | Pete Borowski
John Clarke, Jr.
Merle Griffin |
| 9/7 | Krista Endres
Ken Jorgensen
Sherie Ray
Julia Strang | 9/14 | Kelly Conner
John McCoy | 9/25 | Heidi Munoz-Gutierrez
Taylor Plowden
Sam Sheffield |
| 9/8 | Bill Taylor
Lindsay Thibodaux
Dalton Weihrauch | 9/15 | Denise Cole | 9/26 | Nikki Gann
Beth Koon
Judy Lindsay |
| 9/9 | Brayden Olmert
Frances Stapor | 9/16 | Jane Dickey
Nell Speer | 9/27 | David Emry |
| | | 9/17 | Beckett Chilton
Tricia Dugger | 9/28 | Elizabeth Hart
Lara Levasseur |
| | | 9/18 | Delaney Gray
Grant Kortgoede
Kathy Michaels
Bo Palo | 9/29 | Jackson Gray |
| | | 9/19 | Jose Batista
Gary Chilton | 9/30 | Melissa Rowker
Bob Wilson |
| | | 9/20 | Mary Ann Koon | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|--|
| 9/2 | Pat & George Roeback | 9/14 | Judy & Harry Denlinger |
| 9/6 | Lynn & Tommy Oakley
Kim & J.P. Powell
Pat & Rick Reass | 9/16 | Susan & Richard Vickers |
| 9/8 | Pat & Gary Gardner
Amy & Joe McKee
Pat & Ken Miller
Loretta & Ed Smith | 9/17 | Donna & Ed Rounsley |
| 9/11 | Suzanne & Charles Brantley
Jane & Spike Lucia
Bethany & Jonathan Owen | 9/19 | Lori & Quentin Roe |
| | | 9/21 | Marty & Bob Bentley
Peggy & Larry Davis |
| | | 9/22 | Judy & Richard Moots |
| | | 9/25 | Charlie & T. Michael Stavres |
| | | 9/30 | Marie & Hal Jeffcoat
Sue & Bob McClew |

First Presbyterian Church
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FAX 863-294-1105
www.firstpreswh.org
office@firstpreswh.org

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 8/28/20.

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1162

Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 125 bag lunches
the week of 8/17/20.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 75 people on 8/22/20.

Return Service Requested

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR SEPTEMBER 6 AT 10:10 AM

Unsure how Zoom works? Want to take some time and see your church friends? A Zoom virtual coffee hour will be happening on **Sunday, September 6 from 10:10 until 10:40 am**. It's your chance to get familiar with Zoom virtual meeting before the congregational meeting on September 13. You'll also have some time to say hello to those you've missed at worship.

To join these Zoom meetings for free, simply follow these 7 steps: **1.** go to <https://zoom.us/join>; **2.** enter Meeting ID "**940 6375 8233**"; **3.** click "Join"; **4.** click "Open Zoom Meeting"; **5.** enter your name and Meeting Password "**637**"; **6.** click "Join Meeting"; and **7.** wait to be let in to meeting. See your church family, say hello, practice Zoom features, etc. Rev. Sarah will be on hand to help with technical questions and troubleshoot.

If you would like to join by phone: call 312-626-6799, enter Meeting ID "**940 6375 8233**", then Passcode "**637**".

THE SESSION IS CALLING FOR A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Sunday September 13, 2020 at 10:35 AM.

This will be a HYBRID FORMAT MEETING. There will be an opportunity for members to attend, discuss, and vote EITHER IN-PERSON IN THE SANCTUARY OR VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL.

We need 101 members in attendance in these combined formats to achieve our quorum for this Congregational Meeting. Please plan to join us. The Zoom invite to join virtually will be emailed the week prior. Or use the info above.

The business to be conducted at the Congregational Meeting is to:

1. Act upon Dr. Alan Harvey's request that the Associate Pastor Relationship be dissolved on September 17, 2020 so that he might move to Honorably Retired Status with the PC(USA).
2. Hear the report of the Nominating Committee and elect elders and deacons for the Class of 2023 (and one deacon and one elder to fill un-expired terms in the Class of 2021) and to elect at-large members to the Nominating Committee Class of 2021.

If you do not currently receive the Tower Chimes or daily devotions by email and would like to join this meeting by Zoom, please send your email address to office@firstpreswh.org.