



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

## Tower Chimes

*Week of September 20, 2020*

*Issue 776*

*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



### 3 CENTS-A-MEAL THIS SUNDAY

We will collect the **3 Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering** during worship services this **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**.

This offering is divided between our Soup Kitchen/Bag Lunch Ministry, Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry, and Honduras.

### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS SEPTEMBER 20

Sunday School will begin for our children (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) sparking faith starting **Sunday, September 20** after the time with younger disciples in the Heart of Worship service. This One Room Class will be meeting in **Room 203**. And ART on the third Sunday will be meeting in **Room 207**. Classes will end by 10:20 am.

Rev. Sarah has also set up a virtual classroom for families to do Bible Study at home! Monthly lessons will be available at the start of each month. September and October can be seen here on our website at [firstpreswh.org](http://firstpreswh.org).



### YOUNG ADULT TAKE-OUT DINNER SEPTEMBER 22 AT 7 PM

Invitation is out to our Young Adults (recent High School grads and up) for a Take-out Dinner! Bring your favorite take-out or meal from home to enjoy together outside the Youth House on **Tuesday, September 22 at 7 pm**. We'll catch up, make some plans for other events and enjoy dessert together.

Questions? Contact Rev. Sarah (574) 298-2295 or Emily Snyder (863)224-4403.



### CHRIST KIDS HAS BEGUN

The school year has just started and you know what that means?!? Christ Kids – our faith-filled and safe after-school program for children 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> grade is going on. The fun happens **Wednesdays at 4:00 pm** with a majority of out-door activities and Bible study.

Permission slips for children 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 email [sbishop@firstpreswh.org](mailto:sbishop@firstpreswh.org) or call the church office 294-3121.



# OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

## Sunday, September 20 3 CENTS-A-MEAL

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship  
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)  
9:25 am Children's Sunday School (CE 207)  
11:00 am Traditional Worship  
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)  
5:30 pm High School Youth Group  
(GC Backyard)

## Monday, September 21

- 9:00 am MOM Open House (CE)

## Tuesday, September 22

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)  
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)  
4:00 pm Music Director Search (Zoom)  
5:00 pm Stephen Minister Leader (MH)  
6:00 pm Stephen Ministers (MH)  
7:00 pm Young Adult Dinner (GC Backyard)

## Wednesday, September 23

- 8:45 am MOM (CE)  
4:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)  
5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group  
(GC Outside)  
6:30 pm Dave Ramsey Financial Peace (MH)

## Thursday, September 24

## Friday, September 25

- 8:45 am MOM (CE)

## Saturday, September 26

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



Our Christian sympathy goes to Linda Stavres, T. Michael Stavres, and Beth Luxford upon the death their husband and father, Andrew Stavres, who died on Friday, September 4, 2020.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Ann and Karen King upon the death their daughter and sister, Kathleen King who died on Friday, September 4, 2020.

# Remember in Prayer

## MEMBERS

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

## 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               |
| Robert Carolan        | Amy Speer's father                    |
| Maryann Cassell       | Candy Marshall's friend               |
| Connie Craig          | Lynn Oakley's friend                  |
| Katie Derthick        | Marile Weeks' great-niece             |
| Andra Douglas         | Lynn Oakley's friend                  |
| Susie Fisher          | Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin |
| Lynda Giles           | Polly Wilson's niece                  |
| Paul & Betty Gilliam  | Debbie Anderson's parents             |
| Kristen & Dave Hall   | Judy Winfree's friends                |
| 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                  |
| Nicole Upson          | Amy McKee's friend                    |
| Sam Vac               | Marcie Dershimier                     |
| 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     |

# 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.

## 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](mailto:esnyder@firstpreswh.org).

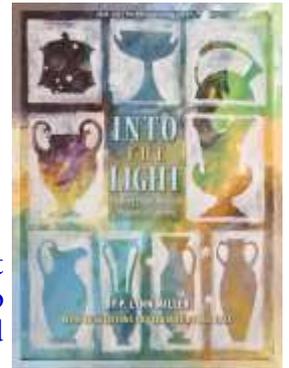
## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY**

The Lydia and Joy circles are beginning a new Bible Study:  
*Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament* by P. Lynn Miller.

**The Lydia Circle** meets on the **2nd Monday** of each month and will meet on **October 12 at 10:00 am** in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

**The Joy Circle** meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month and will meet on **October 20 at 9:30 am** in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

The study books will be available at a cost of \$10. Contact either Sue McClew at (863)604-1610, Carol Carter at (863)206-7095, or the church office (863)294-3121 to purchase your copy. Our groups are open to any and all women of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.



If you prefer to join by Zoom, please call Sue for the Lydia Circle, Carol for the Joy Circle, or Connie in the church office to provide your email. Can also email your request to [cshipley@firstpreswh.org](mailto:cshipley@firstpreswh.org). Be sure to indicate which circle you wish to join.

## **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.**

## 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 9/18/20.

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Lakeland, FL

### Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 106 bag lunches  
the week of 9/07/20.

### Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 110 people on 9/12/20.

Return Service Requested

## DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Wednesdays at 6 pm, Running Through November 11 Meeting In McLeod Hall And On Zoom



Take control of your money with *Financial Peace University* (FPU)! This nine-session course uses biblical wisdom and common sense to help you tackle budgeting, pay off debt, and make your money work for you!

The class link to sign up at a discounted price is: [fpu.com/1124153](https://fpu.com/1124153). FPU includes your member workbook and a year of free online resources through Financial Peace Membership. Join this FPU group today! Be sure to purchase your member registration online and then join us. This program will be a hybrid model with both in-person and ZOOM virtual options for attendance.

Questions, contact Lee and Pam Wilkinson (863)221-2006 or email [wilkeglk@verizon.net](mailto:wilkeglk@verizon.net).

## 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](mailto: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!