



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of September 27, 2020

Issue 777

134 Years of Ministry

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has begun for our children (PreK-5th grade) sparking faith on **Sundays** after the time with younger disciples in the Heart of Worship service. This One Room Class meets in **Room 203**. And ART on the third Sunday meets in **Room 207**. Classes 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.

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

CHRIST KIDS

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 5th 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!

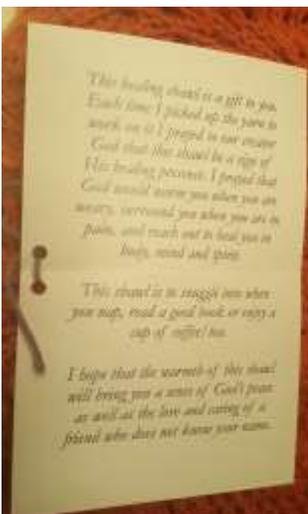
Questions? Contact Rev. Sarah via email sbishop@firstpreswh.org or call the church office 294-3121.

NEXT PRAYER SHAWL MEETING IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 AT 10:00 AM In McLeod Hall at a safe, social distance.

If you feel comfortable and like to knit/crochet, we would love to have you join us. But... you don't need to be able to meet with us to participate.

You can knit or crochet at home. There is lots of yarn in the closet at the church. So please help us bring comfort to others with the lap robes and prayer shawls that we create. Any pattern you would like to use would be fine, but we usually keep things pretty simple.

We want to continue to be able to meet the need for the prayer shawls so your help will be greatly appreciated! Call the church office at 294-3121 if you have questions.



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, September 27

- 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 28

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
10:00 am Prayer Shawl (MH)

Tuesday, September 29

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

Wednesday, September 30

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
4:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)
5:00 pm Confirmation Class (MH/Zoom)
5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group
(GC Outside)
6:30 pm Dave Ramsey Financial Peace (MH)

Thursday, October 1

Friday, October 2

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, October 3

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



Our Christian sympathy goes to Mary Marrs upon the death her mother, Margaret Willson, who died on Monday, September 14, 2020.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Anne McBride upon the death her father, Lloyd Gnagey who died on Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

Marie Able	Frances Heath	Edna Mitchell
Melvin & Debbie Anderson	Kay Hedden	Bethany Owen
Kathy Andrews	Doris Hill	Barbara Roberts
Pat Berrell	Bryan Howard	George Seagreaves
Orrin & Helen Champlain	Isobel Hubbard	Bob Sheffield
Carl Cheatham	Jim Huff	Joyce Shirah
Charlie Darte	Martha Johnson	Dale Smith
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Ann King	Joel & Barbara H. Smith
Zan Dismuke	Karen King	Linda Stavres
Jana Easterling	Dena Lancashire	T. Michael Stavres
Dana Elmore	Eric Lindstrom	Christine Stevens
Bill Everhart	Spike & Jane Lucia	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Bill Garrett	Beth Luxford	Kevin Thomas
John Gray	Mary Marrs	Carolyn Thompson
Jane Hammette	Anne McBride	Ellie Threlkel
Jane Hayman	Pat McCarty	Mike Vibral
Joyce Hayman	Bob McClew	Gwen Waters
	Edna Mitchell	Carson Weeks
	Nancy Neale	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
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
Donald Gaitlin	Pat McCarty's friend
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
Frances Jewell	Bob & Shirley Hines' 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 Dershimer

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

A THANK YOU NOTE FROM ALAN

One of my favorite films is *Places in the Heart* (1985) starring Sally Field. It is the story of a young widow with two young children who struggle to save their farm and home with an odd assortment of helpers including family members to harvest the cotton crop during the 1930s in Texas. Sally Field won her second-Best Actress award, having won her first for *Norma Rae*. Upon winning for *Places in the Heart*, Field said, "I haven't had an orthodox career and I've wanted more than anything to have your respect." She added that she had not really felt the impact of that first win. She continued, "This time I feel it. And I cannot deny the fact that you like me. Right now, you like me."

Dear Friends in Christ,

Having been here twenty-two years, I have been blessed to know that more than liking, you have "loved, me." On Sunday September 13, you overwhelmed me with many expressions of love ... your kind words, spoken and written, have meant so much. I am grateful for the photo album, monetary gifts, gift cards and other gifts. I have felt your love as you drove by, waved and bidden me farewell. I am very thankful! This is a general "thank you" until you receive your personal thank you note. If you have not received your acknowledgement in a timely fashion, especially as it may have gotten misplaced, please contact me (863-207-1915). One card had no surname and I am still trying to figure out their identity.



Once again, thank you ever so much and God bless!

Alan

FALL FEST -TRUNK-OR-TREAT SUNDAY OCTOBER 25 AT 4 PM

Fun for all ages is just around the corner, with our first Fall Fest – Trunk or Treat event! Come with your best Halloween-themed car trunk and pass out candy in the church parking lot. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes as well, safely collect candy and vote on their favorite trunk, most original and funniest. Prizes for our best car-trunk will be awarded. Start brainstorming your ideas now! Not able to join us? Candy will also be collected at church.



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. 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.

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/>!
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.



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.

OCTOBER

Birthdays

10/1	Ben Garner Nicholas Larson Steve Luxford Ariston Walker Lee Wilkinson	10/11	Matthew Gray Ken Hart Lynn Oakley Cori Swango		Mike Tucker
10/2	Ruth Dunham Dick Shaw Kyle Van Hahmann	10/12	Susan Kahley Sue McClew Shannon Trent	10/26	Martha Burke Bill G. Roe, II
10/3	Mele Souza Sophie Maggard	10/14	Brenda Darte Phillip Elmore	10/27	Brad Maness Leah Melvin Jon Powell
10/4	Pam Baker Karen Gerber Jack Gray Traviss Powell	10/15	Susan Smith	10/29	Julie Dantzler Rossanne Gorsky Martha Johnson James Powell Steve Stapor Gwen Waters
10/5	Tilley Montney Jeff Snyder	10/17	Annette Whitney	10/30	Kathy Lockhart Dick McCauley Mike Seney Pam Wilkinson
10/6	Karen Alexander Nicole Roe	10/18	Bob Hines Arletta Oriani Brittaney Roe Paula Threadgill	10/31	Richard Baker Caitlyn Grady Sara Koon Dorian Miller Ed Mitchell J. P. Powell
10/7	Whitney Dunham	10/19	Joan Chilton		
10/8	Josh Baker Buddy Kahley Jill Kosmensky Jessica Wilson	10/21	Chelle Doyel Ben Pickos		
10/9	Michael Baragona	10/22	Jonye Briggs Mary Alice Kennedy		
10/9	Laura Gaye Dunham Scott Scamehorn	10/23	Mark Bostick Olivia Glenn Howard Rambeau		
10/10	Kasey Ray	10/24	Pat Vobornik		
		10/25	Jenna Volpe Bob Bentley Bill Siegel		

Anniversaries

10/1	Mike & Amy McGee		Brent & Megan Robinson
10/2	Jared & Chalsey Lockhart	10/21	Thom & Amanda Rivers
10/9	Pete & Missie Snively	10/23	Sam & Kristan Sheffield
10/10	Steven & Chelsey Lockhart Al & Marjorie Porter	10/24	John & Cheryl Marchetti Leland & Elizabeth Miller
10/11	Sam & Ginny Bryant Bill & Susan Taylor	10/25	Gannon & Amanda Olmert
10/15	Keith & Marjorie Putnum	10/26	Scott & Rusty Hart
10/17	Ed & Rossanne Gorsky	10/28	Dick & Anne McCauley
10/20	Buddy & Susan Kahley	10/31	Don & Norma Martin

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.

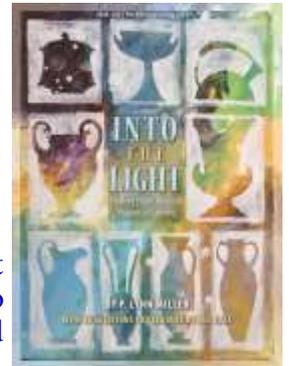
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

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. Be sure to indicate which circle you wish to join.

SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE CARD

Couples may use one form, please include both names.

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.)

Individual #1 Individual #2

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

Yes No 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 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 9/25/20.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 130 bag lunches
the week of 9/14/20.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 70 people on 9/19/20.

Return Service Requested

EVER THOUGHT ABOUT BECOMING A STEPHEN MINISTER?

First Presbyterian Church will soon be training another class of Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. If you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry.

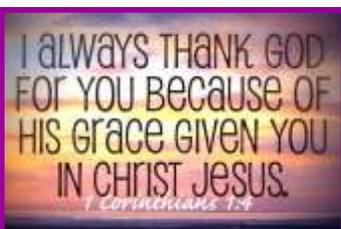
If you think you might be interested, call Connie Shipley at 863-221-2224 or talk with one of our other Stephen Ministry Leaders: Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Barbara Perkins.



THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING CONGREGATION

I want to congratulate our incredible congregation for two recent displays of Christian discipleship.

First, thank you for helping us achieve a quorum for our September 13 Congregational Meeting! Between the in-house attenders and those who joined via ZOOM we were able to conduct our congregational business even in these strange times!



And, thanks for your financial faithfulness. As the Finance Committee reviewed our church's financial position at the end of August, giving from the congregation has placed us to this point in the year only about 10 percent down from where we had hoped to be at this point in the year. Considering COVID and the summer slump, being this close to budget on receipts is another blessing! We thank you for your faithfulness, and hope that we will fully fund our budget by the end of the year.

In Christ, Steve Negley