



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of October 4, 2020

Issue 778

134 Years of Ministry

A NEW FACE JOINS THE STAFF

Dr. Steven R. Negley
Senior Pastor

Rev. John Reiter
Interim 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

My name is John Reiter and I am thrilled to serve as your Interim Associate Pastor. While I am a new face in the office, this church is not new to me. I have had the privilege of serving as the Executive Director at Cedarkirk (our camp and conference center) for the past 13 years and I have enjoyed the opportunity to worship with you several times over those years. I grew up as a child of First Presbyterian Church of Brandon and heard a call to ministry while serving at Cedarkirk in my college years. Following seminary, I served camps in Virginia, South Carolina, and Florida and have thoroughly enjoyed serving God in that unique context. Now, I feel that God is doing something new in my life and I am delighted to have this opportunity to serve in this church setting. My wife, Lori, is also a pastor at the Presbyterian Church of Seffner and we are blessed by two teenage daughters, Isabel and Olivia, as well as a kind dog and mean cat.



Ministry is difficult in the midst of a pandemic. The familiar ways of relating to one another and even the simple act of gathering for worship is not as easy as it was a year ago. There are measures that must be taken to be safe and all of that results in new challenges and stresses. In the midst of all that, there is hope. I see the Holy Spirit at work as the church explores new ways to be the body of Christ together and new methods for caring for our neighbor. It truly is a blessing to be here at this time and to be open to the new ways the Spirit is loving us and leading us together.

Over the coming year, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee will be searching for the next permanent Associate Pastor. During that same time, my role will be as a resource helping in a variety of ways including worship leadership, pastoral care, missions, congregational care, and more. I look forward to working with the committees that Alan faithfully resourced for all these years. I am excited to be a part of this staff and community of faith. I have been blown away by the warm welcome and I look forward to meeting many of you when we are able to gather. It is a true joy to join you all in ministry and I look forward to serving Jesus Christ in this special place.

Interim Associate Pastor, John Reiter

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 4 is World Communion Sunday.

For decades, the first Sunday in October has been set aside for the celebration of our unity in Christ at The Table by Christian churches around the globe. On this World Communion Sunday, even in the midst of a global pandemic, we will celebrate Holy Communion, and give thanks to God for the grace, mercy, and peace that truly stretches around the world.

Please prepare your hearts to come to Christ's table, and if you will be joining us virtually, prepare to join us that day with bread and juice. Individual servings are available at the church office.



OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, October 4

WORLD COMMUNION

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
9:25 am Children's Sunday School (CE 203)
11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
5:30 pm High School Youth Group
(GC Backyard)

Monday, October 5

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Tuesday, October 6

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

Wednesday, October 7

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
4:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)
5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group
(GC Outside)

Thursday, October 8

Friday, October 9

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, October 10

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

THEY ARE AMONG US

No, we're not talking about angels or aliens. We're talking about individuals who care about others.

The Scriptures describe their service well: "Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (Hebrews 13:3).

If you or someone you know wants to do more as a Christian caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry. This is our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry.

A training class is starting soon. Please call **Connie Shipley** at (863)221-2224 or talk with one of our other Stephen Ministry Leaders: **Mary MARRS**, **Steve Negley**, or **Barbara Perkins**.



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 |

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Marie & Roger 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 | Mike Vibral |
| Jane Hayman | Pat McCarty | Gwen Waters |
| Joyce Hayman | Bob McClew | Carson Weeks |
| | Edna Mitchell | Sug Zowarka |
| | Nancy Neale | |

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 |
| Margaret Dorman | Brenda Darte's mother |
| Andra Douglas | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Susie Fisher | Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin |
| Donald Gaitlin | Pat McCarty's friend |
| Bonnie Gaudet | Bob Howard's sister |
| 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 |
| Lottie Johnson | Lynn Oakley'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 |
| Barbara Sjolander | Judy & Richard Moot'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 |
| Jeanie Williamson | Jackie Pinckney's friend |

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.

ANGELS CARE CENTER OF ELOISE Angel Collection Box Needs

There is an ongoing need for the following items to give out at the Angels Care Center. Please leave items in the Angel Collection Box in McLeod Hall. Thank YOU, and God Bless!!!

First Aid Kits: washcloths, band-aids, wet wipes, small soaps, small antibacterial soap, Q-tips, small packets of antibiotic ointment, etc.



Children's "Jesus Kits": coloring sheets with Biblical themes, crayons, scripture/song cards (simple and short for children), small books, stickers, etc.

Toiletry Kits: shampoo, soap, deodorant, razors, feminine products, combs, washcloths, hand gel, lotion, toothbrush and toothpaste, small samples from hotel/motels, etc.

Miscellaneous: zip lock bags (gallon, quart and snack size).

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 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.

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.

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!

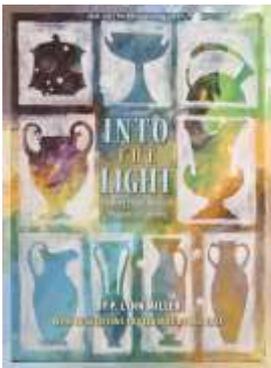


PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Lydia and Joy circles have begun 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 cshiple@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: _____

Re-Opening First Presbyterian Church to Public Worship

When confronted by COVID-19 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.
 - 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.

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.

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 10/02/20.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 114 bag lunches
the week of 9/21/20.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 100 people on 9/26/20.

Return Service Requested

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.



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 on our website at firstpreswh.org.



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.