



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of November 22, 2020

Issue 78

134 Years of Ministry

Dr. Steven R. Negley
Senior Pastor

Rev. John F. 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

THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 at 12:15

Following the 11:00 Traditional Worship Service

Deck the Halls

Help us decorate First Pres for the upcoming Christmas season. We will meet at in McLeod Hall for a boxed lunch, and then use our talents as we spread out to put up the Christmas trees and hang the garland and wreaths.

Let us know (office@firstpreswh.org) if you plan to join us.

THOSE WHO DREAM **ADVENT SERMON SERIES**



This Advent we will meet the prophets, psalmists, John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth, Joseph, Simon, Anna, the Shepherds and Magi - those dreamers of the Christmas story. They received, discovered, and responded to God's dream; a dream made real in the Christ child.

So too, will we step into the mystery and wonder of God's dreams to also shape our reality today. We dream of a better world and connect with the dreamer in all of us starting **November 29; the first Sunday of Advent.**

Remember in Prayer

Opportunities this Week

Sunday, November 22

- 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)
12:15 pm Deck the Halls w/Lunch
(MH/Sanctuary)

Monday, November 23

- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl (MH)

Tuesday, November 24

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)

Wednesday, November 25

Thursday, November 26

Friday, November 27 OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, November 28

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

MEMBERS

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

Relatives & Friends

John Brack	Bill & Doris Brack's son
Curtis Capers	Pat McCarty's friend
Connie Craig	Lynn Oakley's friend
Sherry Dart	John & Doris Brack's friend
John & Muriel Davis	Dick & Anne McCauley's friends
Margaret Dorman	Brenda Darte's mother
Susie Fisher	Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin
Donald Gatlin	Pat McCarty's friend
Bonnie Gaudet	Bob Howard's sister
Lynda Giles	Polly Wilson's niece
Lynda Holyk	Paul Montgomery's sister
LuAnn Hurley	Sandy Hoffman's friend
Frances Jewell	Bob & Shirley Hines' friend
Lottie Johnson	Lynn Oakley's friend
Verona Jones	Lynn Oakley's friend
Susan Lobdell	Jonathan Owen's friend
Sue Miller	Lynn Oakley's friend
Michael Oriani	Joe Oriani's brother
Paula Penna	Steven Lockhart's friend
Robert & Marilyn Rackleman	Ann Meadows' 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's friend
Eleanor Vega	Orin & Helen Champlain'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





Join us for worship
Christmas Eve at two
services. Worship at
5pm or 7pm

- Limited spots (50) at each service. Register ONE spot per family unit. So whether your family is one person or 6, choose only one spot when registering.
- The registration is open on our church website and Facebook page and will note how many spots are left per service.



AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

Over the years, church members have donated wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, potty chairs, and other medical equipment to the church. They are available to loan to people in the First Pres family who have a short-term need.



YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT FIRST PRES...

amazon smile



You shop. Amazon gives.

Did you know?

Amazon Smile enables you to support our church and its ministries while you shop for Christmas. Simply shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0668481 to generate donations.



NEXT PRAYER SHAWL MEETING IS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23 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.

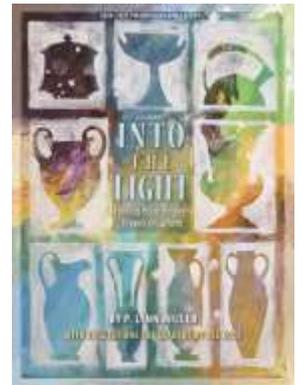
We want to continue to be able to meet the need for the prayer shawls so your help will be greatly appreciated! Call the church office at (863) 294-3121 if you have questions.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

The Lydia and Joy Circles Bible Study is
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 **December 14 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 **December 15 at 9:30 am** in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

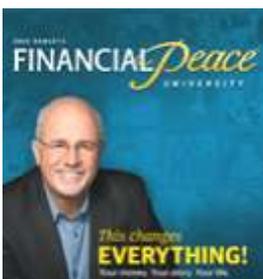


The study books are available at a cost of \$10. Contact either Sue McClew at (863)604-1610, Carol Carter at (863)206-7095, or the church office (863)294-3121 to purchase your copy. Our groups are open to any and all women of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.

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. You can also email your request to cshiplew@firstpreswh.org. Be sure to indicate which circle you wish to join.

DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Starting January 13, 2021—Wednesdays—6 PM



Worried about this year's financial impact and wanting to build a healthier conversation around money in your household? Need help and support in creating a family budget and getting real about planning for the future? Just want to be honest about questions with those who have been there for financial blunders? Then it's time for Financial Peace!

Join Pam and Lee Wilkerson for this 9 week class to talk about these issues and so much more. No judgement and no shame as we start Wednesday, Jan. 13th., meeting in McLeod Hall at 6pm. You need to sign up now to get the work binder and the benefits of membership to FPU. Sign up NOW before the class starts at fpu.com/1124153

MEN'S LUNCH IS 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 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!

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 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.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:20-10:20 AM

AND

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM FOR NOVEMBER IS UP!

Sunday School continues for our children (PreK-5th grade) 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**. 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.



CHRIST KIDS



The school year has 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.

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.

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.



AVAILABLE FOR LOAN



Over the years, church members have donated wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, potty chairs, and other medical equipment to the church. They are available to loan to people in the First Pres family who have a short-term need.

If you wish to borrow some useful equipment, contact the church office at 294-3121 and a staff member can help you go through available items.



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.

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 of 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) Worship will be modified in accordance with best practices, to reduce the threat of airborne virus spread.
 - k) 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.
 - l) Immediately after the sanctuary is vacated following the Heart of Worship service, sanitation teams will disinfect all surfaces which have been touched in preparation for the arrival of the next 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.

First Presbyterian Church
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Winter Haven, FL 33881
863-294-3121
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 11/22/20.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 129 bag lunches
the week of 11/9/20.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 90 people on 11/14/20.

Return Service Requested

COME TO THE STABLE CHRISTMAS STROLL Saturday, December 12, 6-8 pm



Join us for an enchanted evening as we welcome you to *Come to the Stable Christmas Stroll* in the First Pres parking lot. See the beauty of the nativity come to life before your eyes.



Actors and live animals (that you can pet), as well as music will bring the spirit of Jesus into your hearts this joyous season. Live performances every 15 minutes.

This event is open to the public. Tell your neighbors and friends. Invite them to see what First Pres is all about. Share in the joy of the Christmas season!