



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of December 6, 2020

Issue 797

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

THOSE WHO DREAM ADVENT SERMON SERIES



This Advent we are meeting 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 this Advent.

VIRTUAL COFFEE GATHERING THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 10:20 – 10:45AM

Grab your morning beverage of choice and log-in to Zoom for an informal gathering with your church family! Follow the link below **this Sunday morning, December 6 at 10:20 am** and say hello! Those comfortable gathering in-person can grab a seat in McLeod Hall and join the conversation as well. To join by Zoom, follow the steps below:

1. Go to: <https://zoom.us/join>
2. Enter Meeting ID: **943 8130 1830**
3. Click **JOIN**
4. Click **OPEN ZOOM MEETING**
5. Enter your name and meeting password: **637**
6. Click **JOIN MEETING** and wait to join
7. See your church family and say 'hi!'



COME TO THE STABLE A LIVING NATIVITY STROLL Saturday, December 12, 6-8 pm

Join us for an enchanted evening as we welcome you to *Come to the Stable: A Living Nativity 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!

Opportunities this Week

Remember in Prayer

Sunday, December 6

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 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)

Monday, December 7

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Tuesday, December 8

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
- 5:00 pm Stephen Minister Leaders (MH)
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministers (MH)
- 6:00 pm Personnel (MCR)

Wednesday, December 9

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 12:00 pm Buildings & Grounds (MCR/Zoom)
- 4:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (CE)

Thursday, December 10

Friday, December 11

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, December 12

- 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
- 4:00 pm Soup Kitchen (737)
- 6:00 pm Come to the Stable:
A Living Nativity Stroll (Parking Lot)

MEMBERS

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

Relatives & Friends

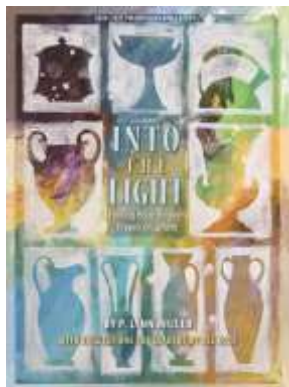
| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bruce Bachman | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |
| John Brack | Bill & Doris Brack's son |
| Curtis Capers | Pat McCarty's friend |
| Connie Craig | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Sherry Dart | John & Doris Brack's friend |
| John & 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 |
| Louie Herman | Judy Lindsay's brother |
| Lynda Holyk | Paul Montgomery's sister |
| 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 |
| Don Nash | Jeff Bowen'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 |
| Eddy Ruperti | 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 |



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 |

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 cshipley@firstpreswh.org. Be sure to indicate which circle you wish to join.

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

THE VIRTUAL CLASSROOM FOR DECEMBER IS UP!

Welcome to December's Virtual Sunday school classroom. This month we continue our Christmas story lessons. The Team Up poster takes you to the lessons and the Deep Blue poster is the videos. Click the items in the classroom!

Activities this month include Christmas games, coloring sheets and making Christmas cookies. Also, click the Christmas lights to see a cool video of Christmas lights timed to music and click Rev. Sarah to register your family for our Christmas Eve worship services! Check the church website and follow the link.



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

Dear Friends and Members of First Pres:

Knowing that “maintaining public worship” is one of the Great Ends of the Church, your pastors and Session members have prayerfully attempted to offer safe and spiritual opportunities for worship during this trying year.

We suspended in-person worship in March and celebrated on-line worship together each Sunday in the early days of the pandemic.

We kept our vibrant virtual worship as an option for our congregation as we re-opened the sanctuary to in-person worship in June. At that time, among our guidelines for in-person worship we:

Asked all worshippers at our 9 and 11 am services to maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship.

Required face coverings to be worn while in the building for Sunday worship.

Asked people not to sing.

Last month, we amended our guidelines to allow singing while we continued to wear face coverings.

After hearing concerns about the experience of in-person worship from a number of participants, we are further amending our worship participation guidelines as follows:

Beginning this Sunday, December 6, 2020, people who wish to attend in-person worship at 9 AM will be asked to:

Maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship

Wear a face covering while entering, exiting, and moving around in the building for worship. Once people are seated, socially distanced from all people except those in their chosen seating group, they may remove their face mask, if they choose, for that portion of the worship service.

If any person wishes to sing hymns or responses, we ask that you replace your face covering while singing.

And on December 6, 2020, people who wish to attend in-person worship at 11 AM will be asked to follow our current worship guideline which include:

Requiring all worshippers to maintain social distancing while entering and exiting, and while seated for worship.

Requiring face coverings to be worn while in the building for Sunday worship.

Worshippers are invited to sing while wearing face coverings.

We hope that these modifications will allow all of us to safely worship God in a style that is meaningful and helpful in your faith life. And of course, our vibrant virtual worship experience will keep us all connected.

In Christ,

CHRIST KIDS - CONTINUING WEDNESDAYS, 4 PM



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.



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!

ANGELS CARE CENTER OF ELOISE

Angels Care Center continues to give out special kits to our patients and their families, e.g. toiletry kits, first aid kits, children's kits, and senior bags. This is not possible without your donations of items to fill these kits! We have made and given out over 31,000 in the last 9 years!

But... in the last few months we have come up short of what is needed to fill the kits. This is a year round project and the need is great. We are in particular need of deodorant, disposable razors, small combs, quart and snack size zip lock bags, Band-Aids, washcloths, sunscreen, small hand sanitizer, and small samples from hotel/motels. Also, any and all items for our senior bags, whatever will make our senior citizens' lives easier and brighter: laundry soap, Lysol cleaning wipes, paper towels, mugs or plastic plates, bowls, teabags, oatmeal packs, crossword puzzles/activity pads, seasonal item/décor, gift cards (Walmart, restaurants, etc.) You can put these items in the Angels Care collection box located in McLeod Hall.



Your help now and throughout the year is greatly appreciated.

IT IS THAT TIME ~ POINSETTIA ORDER FOR 2020

Poinsettias are a yearly tradition to decorate the church on Christmas, "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one or friend. This year the poinsettias will be in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 20. Please fill out the order form below. The cost per plant is \$10 and checks, marked "poinsettia fund", should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Place the order form and check in the offering plate, mail it, or take it to the church office by Monday, December 14.

A complete listing will be available Sunday, December 20.

IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Donor(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____



I will pick up my poinsettia after the 9 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

I would like my poinsettia delivered to a shut-in.

Number of plants ordered: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Did you know?

Amazon Smile enables you to support First Pres and its ministries while you shop for Christmas.

Simply shop for gifts at smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0668481 to generate donations.

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.

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 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.

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.



LOCAL MINISTRIES NEED OUR HELP

The ministries supported by our church can use our help now more than ever. The Deacons have been in contact with those ministries to inquire about their current needs. If you wish to help, please consider the needs of these valuable partners in our community and reach out to them directly.



Meals on Wheels (299-1616)

Volunteer for Meal Delivery, Kitchen Prep & Packing, Thrift Store.

Polk Training (956-1620)

Call to see how you can help this program for adults with developmental disabilities.

Project Love (280-6947)

Donations of gift cards to Publix, Aldi, or Walmart.

The Mission (299-2348)

Donations of premade meals in large chef pans to serve about 100 people for lunch.

Habitat for Humanity (292-2256)

Receiving donations 9-10 am and 2-4 pm Tuesday through Friday.

STRESSED? FEELING DOWN? NEED ENCOURAGEMENT?

Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a major crisis. They also provide care and support for people weighed down by the little things in life. If you're feeling down, lonely, stressed or discouraged, you could benefit from the care, support, and encouragement of a Stephen Minister. It's free. It's confidential. And it will really make a difference in your life!

To find out more, contact Connie Shipley at 863-221-2224 or one of our other Stephen Minister Leaders, **Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Barbara Perkins.**



First Presbyterian Church
637 6th Street, NW
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 12/4/20.

Non-profit Org.

U.S. Postage Paid

Permit No. 1162

Lakeland, FL

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 106 bag lunches
the week of 11/23/20.

Return Service Requested

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 80 people on 11/28/20.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE RESERVATIONS ARE OPEN

Choose your worship time and reserve your family's spot for in-person worship through our reservation service. Or join us on Facebook Live.

We have two services, **5 and 7 pm** that will all have the Christmas story lessons and carols, time for children, and candlelight.

There are limited spots per service, so if your service fills up,
Please choose another when joining us in-person.

Reminder: spots are by family unit
(1 spot equals an individual or family size of 6 and under).

Visit our website: www.firstpreswh.org or
our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/FPCWinterHaven/