



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Weeks of December 20 & 27, 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

3 CENTS-A-MEAL THIS SUNDAY

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

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



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING IN THE SANCTUARY AND BY ZOOM Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 10:30 AM

To hear report of Nominating Committee to elect an Elder to the Class of 2021 and Elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

We need 101 members in attendance in these combined formats to achieve our quorum for this Congregational Meeting. Please plan to join us. Check your email for the Zoom link to join. Or use these 7 steps:

1. go to <https://zoom.us/join>
2. enter Meeting ID **940 6375 8233**
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 all your church family and wave "hi"

The business to be conducted at the Congregational Meeting is to:

1. **Elect Rick Reass as Elder to the Class of 2021**
2. **Elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee: Casey Cheatham, Richard Dobler, Erin Gray, Cheryce Harris, Lindsey Ivey, Bill Lockhart, Jonathan Owen, and Annmarie Walker.**

If you do not currently receive the Tower Chimes or daily devotions by email and would like to join this meeting by Zoom, please send your email address to office@firstpreswh.org.



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.



Opportunities this Week

Sunday, December 20
3 CENTS-A-MEAL

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 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)

Monday, December 21

Tuesday, December 22

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)

Wednesday, December 23

Thursday, December 24
CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5:00 pm Candlelight Service
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
7:00 pm Candlelight Service
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)

Friday, December 25
CHRISTMAS
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, December 26

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

Sunday, December 27

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)

Monday, December 28

Tuesday, December 29

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)

Wednesday, December 30

Thursday, December 31

Friday, January 1

Saturday, January 2

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



Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

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

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
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
Jaimee Haley	Bill & Becky Everhart's friend
Louie Herman	Judy Lindsay's brother
Lynda Holyk	Paul Montgomery's sister
Lottie Johnson	Lynn Oakley's friend
Verona Jones	Lynn Oakley's friend
Mary Lenari	Bill & Becky Everhart'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
Sandy Payne	Lynn Oakley's family member
Paula Penna	Steven Lockhart's 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' family	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Jim Steele	Bob Steele's brother
Nicole Upson	Amy McKee's friend
Sam Vac	Marcie Dersheimer'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

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 for the in-person services, so if your service fills up, please choose another when.

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

Please note, the 5 pm service will follow the new mask policy of the Sunday 9 am worship service.

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

DAY AFTER CHRISTMAS SOUP KITCHEN Saturday, December 26

We are looking for volunteers for this special dinner.
We are looking for volunteers to help prepare and serve.

We are also looking for folks that can bake a ham (provided by the church) at home or make green bean casseroles and bring back to the church.

If you would like to help, please call the church office at 863-294-3121.



NEW SOUP KITCHEN NEED

Do you have any UNOPENED wrapped plastic cutlery sets just sitting around your house?
We can use them for our Soup Kitchen carry outs that we've been providing on Saturdays.
If you would like to donate them, please bring them to the church kitchen.

JANUARY CHILDREN'S VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

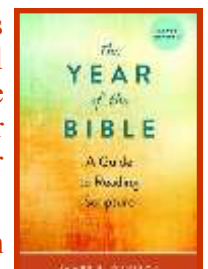


Join Rev. Sarah in our virtual Sunday School classroom in January with Jesus and His disciples sharing the good news! With links to make playdough at home, as well as marble mazes and some time to pray. The lessons for at home as well as links to the missions of First Pres are also there. Visit the link on our church website.

2021 ADULT BIBLE STUDY & PREACHING THEME TWO opportunities to discuss A Year of the Bible

Join your pastors and church family as we take the year to read the Bible beginning in Genesis and the Old Testament through Revelations and the New Testament. In each month, we will alternate between chapters in the Old and New as well as the Psalms. A reading plan can be followed by picking up your copy of *A Year of the Bible* for \$10 from the church office or download the reading plan from our church website. We also invite you to join a class for deeper discussion!

Classes will be **Sundays at 10:20 am starting January 10** as well as **Wednesdays at 10 am starting on January 13.**



ASSOCIATE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE BIOS

CASEY CHEATHAM has attended the First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven since birth and is the 4th generation to attend First Presbyterian. After attending college at the University of Central Florida, Casey moved back to Winter Haven to start his professional career at CNP, a marketing agency downtown. Casey attended middle school and high school youth groups and has also had the opportunity to travel to Honduras on two mission trips. Over the last 4 years, he has also volunteered with the middle school youth group at the great escape. He is extremely excited to serve on the search committee for the new Associate Pastor.

RICHARD DOBLER was born in Peru, Indiana and earned a B.S. degree from Indiana State University in Elementary Education. He married his wife, Nancy, in 1968 and following service in the United States Marine Corps and earning a M.S. degree in Elementary School Administration at Kearney State College in Nebraska, moved with his family back to Winter Haven and joined First Presbyterian Church in 1972. Richard worked as an elementary school principal in Polk County for 29 years and earned an Educational Specialist degree from Florida Atlantic University. He has served as a Deacon and Elder and has had the privilege of watching his children and two of his grandchildren grow up in our church. He currently is a member of the Memorial Garden Committee.

ERIN GRAY is the daughter of Jay and Lia Gray and grew up in First Pres. After high school, she attended the University of North Carolina, where she met her husband, Adam. Following college, Erin and Adam lived in Washington, DC before moving to Denver, Colorado for Adam's career. On February 22, 2017, their son Winston Cranmer was born (on their third wedding anniversary). Adam and Erin moved back to Winter Haven in the summer of 2019 to be closer to family and take full advantage of free childcare. Erin enjoys cooking and spending time at the beach, and hopes to resume traveling in 2021.

CHERYCE D. HARRIS grew up in Cocoa, Florida. She graduated from Cocoa High School, Brevard Community College, and Florida State University where she earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree. Cheryce has been married to Mike for 33 years. They have a daughter, Rachel, and a daughter-in-law, Zoe. Cheryce taught band for two years in Mariana, Florida and for 33 years in Haines City at Boone Middle School. Cheryce grew up at Cocoa Presbyterian Church and was a member there. She attended First Presbyterian Church of Tallahassee, and First Presbyterian Church of Mariana. When she and Mike came to Winter Haven, they joined First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven in 1990. Since then Cheryce has served this church in many ways: Choir member, bell choir member, youth volunteer, Deacon, Elder, Commissioner to the General Assembly, Bible School teacher, Worship and Music Committee, Youth sub-committee, 4 search committees, Clerk of Session, Christian Education Committee, and Fellowship Committee. Cheryce is looking forward to serving the church again in serving on the search committee for a new associate pastor.

LINDSEY IVEY was born in Winter Haven, Florida in 2002. She has been a member of First Pres all of her life and attends with her mother, Kelli, and her brother, Sean. Lindsey was baptized at First Pres as a baby, served as an acolyte, was confirmed as a 6th grader, and was active in middle school and high school youth groups. Lindsey has a passion for working with children and has volunteered with Christ Kids and the middle school youth group. She is a vocalist in the Praise Band and occasionally plays keyboard. Lindsey is currently attending Polk State College, where she is seeking to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. Lindsey is honored to be nominated for the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee and looks forward to serving Jesus and her First Pres Family!

BILL LOCKHART and his wife Kathy love First Presbyterian Church and especially its people. Bill is an Elder and Deacon and looks forward to serving again as a Deacon. He is a retired teacher, coach and administrator in our local school districts and a former adjunct professor at Polk State. Bill loves working with young people, and is active with FPC youth. Bill is especially thankful for the grace of our Lord. Bill and Kathy have two awesome sons, Josh and Jared, who are made even "awesomer" by their wives, Jessica and Chalsey and four grandchildren- Cole, Luke, Walker and Scarlett.

JONATHAN OWEN was born in Charlottesville, Va., but moved to Florida after the third grade. At that time, he lived in Winter Haven for four years before moving to the Ft. Lauderdale area. Jonathan graduated from the University of Florida where he majored in English with a minor in Business Administration. He began working with State Farm Insurance after graduation and has worked there for 30 years. Since moving back to Winter Haven in 1998, he and his wife Bethany have been active with the Winter Haven Public Library and at First Winter Haven. Jonathan is the chair of the advisory board of the Winter Haven Public Library and is a past president of the Friends of the Library. Jonathan, his wife Bethany, and daughters Hadley and Sadie have been active in church life at First Presbyterian for almost 20 years. He is a resting Elder and Deacon at First Presbyterian, currently serving on the Nominating, World Mission and Personnel committees, and he and Bethany run the church's three libraries. Jonathan just finished a year as Moderator of our presbytery and is currently chair of the Presbytery Coordinating Team. In his spare time, Jonathan likes to read, travel with his family, and ride his motorcycle.

ANNMARIE WALKER has lived in Winter Haven since 1994. Anne is a teacher at Winter Haven High School. She serves as an English teacher and InterAct advisor. She is also an honorary member of the Winter Haven Rotary. She has two to three children, Aurora, Ariston and Frieda. The Walker family has attended First Presbyterian Church since 2006. Anne became a member of First Pres in 2011. Both of her biological children became members during their confirmation classes. Anne spent the the first several years attending the 8:00 service. Currently, Anne and both of her children are active attendees in the Praise and Worship service. Anne is currently serving as a Deacon in the class of 2021. Anne also serves on the Praise and Worship Committee and the Nominating Committee.

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, January 13, meeting in McLeod Hall at 6pm. You need to register early 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 ahead of time. 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!

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.

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:

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 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,
Steve Negley

January

Birthdays

1/1	Orrin Champlain Jim Francis Adam Frost Kathy Girouard Caitlin Seney	1/8	Rebecca Wilson Lizzy Duce Loretta Smith	1/18	Taylor Threadgill Sug Zowarka
1/2	Debbie Anderson Erin Cranmer Nicole Voltapetti Heather Whitney	1/9	Rob Baker Annette Chilton Sophia Chilton Stella Chilton Michael Premuto Christine Stevens Carol Switalski	1/19	Connor Clinch Kim Salomon Taylor Thompson
1/3	Allison Burke Shawn Swango	1/10	John Adams Trey Braswell Chad Pearson Charlie Reineke Adam Snively	1/20	Sarah Jorgensen Jenny Kellett
1/4	Meredith Baragona Ally Britt Meredith Curtiss Jana Easterling	1/11	George Dunham Candy Marshall Carley Rabern	1/21	Emma Cornejo John Reineke
1/5	Megan Kennedy Norma Martin	1/12	Dana Cole Jackie Dugger Kay Weeks Phyllis White	1/23	James Dexter Reed Hoagland
1/6	Philip Batista Susan Braswell Rick Dantzler Chloe Miller Betty Shinn Betty Stephens	1/13	May Kimbrell	1/24	Bob Beale Sam Garner
1/7	Amanda Olmert Lisa Snyder	1/14	Katie Sparr Jessica Strang	1/25	Kyle Bentley Anne Montgomery
1/8	Peter Coppini Shauna Gann Rob Helmick Cheryl Marchetti Nanette Rodgers	1/15	Meredith Clem Nichole Gainey	1/26	Gloria Allen Bud Shinn
		1/16	Becky Irvin Marilyn Riggs Ed Smith	1/27	Callie Clinch Ava Frost
		1/17		1/28	Jay Tackett Devin Thompson Gale Waters
		1/18		1/29	Kathy Deloach Danny Miller
				1/30	Jerry Mincey
				1/31	JoBee Hazlett Nicholas Jax Andrea Stevens

Anniversaries

1/1	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield	1/26	Argyle & Christine Stevens
1/5	Jay & Lia Gray	1/29	Jay & Trisha Dugger
1/7	Allen & Robin Miller	1/30	Scott and Becky Irvin
1/21	Matt & Sharon McGaffigan		John and Meg Strang

Our Purpose Statement

First Presbyterian Church
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Winter Haven, FL 33881
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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 12/18/20.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 117 bag lunches
the week of 12/7/20.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 70 people on 12/12/20.

Return Service Requested

