



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of January 31, 2021

Issue 802

135 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

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 31 AT 10:30 AM

The Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to Review the Pastors' Terms of Call.

We will meet in the sanctuary and by Zoom. We need 101 members in attendance in this combined format to achieve our quorum for this Congregational Meeting. Please plan to join us either in person or on-line. Check your email for the Zoom link 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"

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING YOUTH VS. GEEZERS

Starting THIS week, we will be collecting canned goods and money donations for our annual *Souper Bowl of Caring* fundraiser. This fundraiser benefits our Soup Kitchen ministry as well as Family Emergency Services. This year, we are postponing our Youth vs. Geezers flag football game until summer. Instead, we are doing a competition to see who can collect the most donations.



Collection areas are in McLeod Hall: one box for the Youth and one box for the Geezers. You may choose which box to place your donation in. **We will be collecting until February 7!** Thank you for your help in supporting this incredible ministry!



WE PREPARE TO SAY GOOD BYE



For the past 23 years, God's House and the surrounding property here at 637 Sixth Street NW has been maintained incredibly by **Sammy Bryant**, our Director of Facilities and Maintenance. This faithful servant of Christ has decided to retire near the end of March. We will miss Sammy dearly, and plans our underway for the members of our church to celebrate his ministry and honor him as he retires.

We have begun the **search for our next Director of Facilities and Maintenance**. If you know someone who possesses the skills and temperament to fill this position, please have them contact Robin Miller, our church's Director of Finance and Administration (rmiller@firstpreswh.org), to find out how to apply.

Opportunities This Week

Remember in Prayer

Sunday, January 31

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 9:25 am Children's Sunday School (CE 207)
- 10:30 am Congregational Meeting
(Sanctuary/Zoom)
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, February 1

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating
Committee (MH/Zoom)

Tuesday, February 2

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

Wednesday, February 3

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (MH)
- 4:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
- 6:00 pm Financial Peace (MH)

Thursday, February 4

Friday, February 5

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, February 6

- 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 |
| Marty Bentley | Frances Heath | Richard & Judy Moots |
| Pat Berrell | Kay Hedden | Arletta Oriani |
| Jonye Briggs | Doris Hill | Barbara Roberts |
| Orrin & Helen Champlain | Bryan Howard | John Schleifer |
| Carl Cheatham | Isobel Hubbard | Joyce Shirah |
| Charlie Darte | Jim Huff | Dale Smith |
| Marjorie DiLorenzo | Scott & Becky Irvin | Joel & Barbara H. Smith |
| Zan Dismuke | Martha Johnson | Christine Stevens |
| Jana Easterling | Dena Lancashire | Jean Strang |
| Dana Elmore | Eric Lindstrom | Pam Tallent-Blackburn |
| Bill Everhart | Spike & Jane Lucia | Lorraine Todd |
| John Gray | Candy Marshall | Mike Vibral |
| | Anne McBride | Gwen Waters |
| | Pat McCarty | Sug Zowarka |

Relatives & Friends

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bruce Bachman | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend |
| Connie Craig | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Jaimee Haley | Bill & Becky Everhart's friend |
| Mel Howell | Judy Lindsay's friend |
| Verona Jones | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Mary Lenari | Bill & Becky Everhart's friend |
| John Linn | Sharon Mann's brother |
| Sue Miller | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Frank Myers | Pam Wilkinson's father |
| Don Nash | Jeff Bowen's friend |
| Sandy Payne | Lynn Oakley's family member |
| George & Krysti Rowker | Mary Ellen Rowker |
| Eddy Ruperti | Lynn Oakley's friend |
| Louise C. Schutt | Larry Davis' mother |
| Chet Spires | Mary Ellen Rowker's friend |
| Jim Steele | Bob Steele's brother |
| Nicole Upson | Amy McKee's friend |
| Sam Vac | Marcie Dershimer's friend |
| Carol Wilhelm | Greg & Mary Marris' friend |
| John Willson | Mary Marris' brother |

PLEASE NOTE:

We update the Relatives & Friends prayer list periodically. If there is someone who needs to remain on the list, please call the church office at 294-3121.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

If you would like information regarding registering for the COVID-19 vaccine, you can visit register.polk.health or call 863-298-7500.

MILITARY

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Zach Anaya | Stephanie Gillie | KaitLin Marotti |
| Brenden Anderson | Eddie Gray | Mathew Massam |
| Christian Anderson | Daniel Harp | Shad Skinner |
| Zach Drum | Sean Harp | Drew Stapor |
| Robert Ferguson | David Knowles | |
| Ernie French | John Marotti | |

ARE YOU SKILLED AT SHARPENING KNIVES?

We are looking for a volunteer to sharpen our kitchen knives.

If you would like to help, please call the church office at 294-3121 to set up a time.



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 **February 8 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 **February 16 at 9:30 am** in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.



DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Wednesdays at 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 meet in McLeod Hall on **Wednesdays at 6 pm**. 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



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.

CHRIST KIDS - WEDNESDAYS AT 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.

FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL



Join Rev. Sarah in our virtual Sunday School classroom, with Jesus and His disciples sharing the good news! Our lessons will include links to make playdough at home, as well as marble mazes and some time to pray.

Visit the link on our church website at firstpreswh.org.

MEN'S LUNCH IS HYBRID, TUESDAYS AT NOON

You can join us socially distant in McLeod Hall.

OR

Join us virtually on Zoom. If you are not already receiving the Zoom invite, please contact the office at 294-3121 or office@firstpreswh.org and ask to be added to the list.



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 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.



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. It offers an introduction chapter you may read at any time. You can also download the reading plan for the whole year from our church website, or follow the plan below. We invite you to join a class for deeper discussion!

Classes are **Sundays at 10:20 am** as well as **Wednesdays at 10 am**.

If you can't join us in person, you can join us virtually for each class by following the steps below.

SUNDAY CLASS

1. go to <https://zoom.us/join>
2. enter Meeting ID **959 6689 0482**
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 wave "hi"

WEDNESDAY CLASS

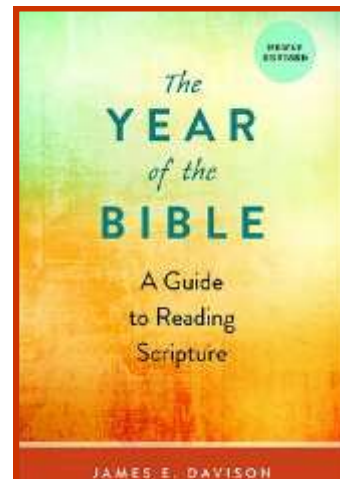
1. go to <https://zoom.us/join>
2. enter Meeting ID **927 8723 9542**
3. click **Join**
4. click **Open Zoom Meeting**
5. enter your name and Meeting Password **637**
6. click **Join Meeting** and wait to join
7. see your church family and wave "hi"

Reading Plan For Week 4

Below is a breakdown list of readings to prepare for this week's class. Class will be loosely structured as gathering, prayer, sharing your questions, and discussion on that week's reading led by a pastor. This is **NO CLASS JANUARY 31**, but please continue to read through the plan.

WEEK 4

DAY	OLD Testament	NEW Testament Psalms
1	Genesis 45, 46	Matthew 16
2	Genesis 47, 48	Matthew 17
3	Genesis 49, 50	Matthew 18
4	Exodus 1, 2	Psalms 11, 12
5	Exodus 3, 4	Matthew 19
6	Exodus 5,6	Matthew 20
7	Exodus 7,8	Psalms 13, 14



FEBRUARY Birthdays

2/1 Susan Owens	2/9 Kevin Thomas	2/22 Neal McBride
Gary Salomon	2/10 Ethan Boland	Susan Singleton
2/2 Karen Clarke	2/11 Lesley Johnston	Gail Van Allen
Bob Gerber	2/12 Ron Dunham	2/23 Casey Cheatham
Jake Tackett	Dave Ryan	Bill Everhart
Leah Weeks	Mike Vibral	Kathryn McAllister
2/3 Marjorie Putnum	2/13 Leland Miller	Bob Sheffield
Charlie Roe	Eric Roe	2/24 Richard Moots
Sarah Slocum	Bob Turner	Teresa Negley
2/5 Kevin Britt	2/14 Carl Cheatham	Drew Powell
Paige Butz	Marj Crittenden	Hunter Shinn
2/6 John Breuning	2/15 Lucas Johnston	2/25 Roger Able
Zan Dismuke	TD Sowards	Thom Rivers
Ann King	2/16 Kaden Rabern	Kassady von Hahmann
Steve Lockhart	JW Scheck	2/26 Walter Ferguson
Tracy Scheck	2/17 Marie Able	Betts Huff
2/7 Tom Wales	2/18 Kristan Sheffield	Addison Robinson
2/8 Steffan Bentley	2/19 Matt McGaffigan	Nat West
Chase Reineke	Edna Mitchell	2/27 Joe Badnell
Argyle Stevens	2/21 Squire Smith	2/28 Pam Gray
2/9 Augie Andrews	2/22 Lynn Aaron	Jane Hayman

Anniversaries

2/1 Janie & Bob Hammette	2/14 Ray & Tracy Garcia
2/2 Gus & Shannon Badnell	Norman & Bonnie Patrick
George & Kelly Butz	2/17 Ross & Jill Kosmensky
Greg & Shelly Prather	2/19 Ron & Kris Dunham
2/9 Debbie & Melvin Anderson	2/21 Hunter & Jennifer Smith
2/11 Bob & Shirley Hines	2/22 Adam & Erin Cranmer
2/12 Fred & Kathleen Deloach	2/24 Bob & Lisa Endres

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

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 1/29/21.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 130 bag lunches
the week of 1/18/21.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 90 people on 1/23/21.

Return Service Requested



WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

The challenges of this pandemic have reminded us of the importance of good communication. As we reflect on our current communication efforts and consider our plans for the coming year, we want to make sure we are meeting your needs. Your views matter! Please take 2 minutes to complete this 3 question survey by **Friday, February 5.** You can drop off this form on Sunday when you sign in or during the week in the office, or email your response to office@firstpreswh.org.

**How do you currently receive and read communication/information from the church?
(please check all that apply)**

- Tower Chimes Weekly Newsletter (mailed paper copy)
- Tower Chimes Weekly Newsletter (email/digital format)
- Emails
- Announcement Slides prior to Sunday Worship
- Facebook
- Website
- Other: _____

How often would you like to receive communications?

- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Other: _____

**How would you like to receive communications from the church?
(please check all that apply)**

- Tower Chimes (mailed paper copy)
- Tower Chimes (email/digital format)
- Emails
- Announcement Slides prior to Worship
- Website
- Texts
- Mailed Postcards
- Facebook
- Other social media (Instagram, Twitter, etc.)
- Phone Call (automated message)
- Other: _____