



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of February 28, 2021

Issue 806

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

LENTEN SERMON SERIES



Join us in worship during season of Lent as we explore *A Life Guided by the Word*.

The pastors will be selecting scriptures on which to base their sermons from our weekly readings in *A Year of the Bible*.

You are also welcome to join the Bible study discussion in McLeod Hall (and via Zoom) between the Sunday services.

PEEPING THROUGH LENT 2021 DEVOTIONAL AND KIT

Starting **Sunday, February 14** our Lenten Devotional – *Peeping Through Lent* will be available. Stop by the office to pick up your copy. Included, will be a booklet and small items to focus your devotions this Lent.

Also, join in the Peeping Through Lent challenge by creating marshmallow Peep dioramas of the Bible stories! Here are a couple of images to inspire you and be sure to share your creation as a family, individual, or couple with Rev. Sarah!



WHEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?



Buildings and Grounds Committee is dedicated to the upkeep and appearance of our church facility. We are looking at putting together a couple of “yard work days” to pull out some old and plant some new shrubbery all around the facility. We need to see who is interested and what time/day is best for volunteers. Please call the office and let them know if you can help and if evenings or Saturdays work best for you. The committee will set the dates in the March B&G meeting and inform everyone at that time. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help your church!

Opportunities This Week

Sunday, February 28

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
9:25 am Children's Sunday School (CE 207)
10:20 am Adult Bible Study (MH/Zoom)
11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, March 1

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

Tuesday, March 2

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
5:30 pm Stephen Minister Training (UR)
6:30 pm Session (GR/Zoom)

Wednesday, March 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, March 4

Friday, March 5

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, March 6

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

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.

Trust in the LORD with all your heart;
and lean not to your own understanding.

Proverbs 3:5

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

Marie & Roger Able	John Gray	Dick McCauley
Melvin & Debbie Anderson	Jane Hammette	Bob McClew
Kathy Andrews	Jane Hayman	Pat Miller
Marty Bentley	Joyce Hayman	Edna Mitchell
Pat Berrell	Frances Heath	Richard & Judy Moots
Jonye Briggs	Kay Hedden	Arletta Oriani
Orrin & Helen Champlain	Doris Hill	Barbara Roberts
Carl Cheatham	Bryan Howard	John Schleifer
Cindy Curry	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
	Candy Marshall	Gwen Waters
	Pat McCarty	Sug Zowarka

Relatives & Friends

Bruce Bachman	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Bryce Beckham	MaryBess Thompson's friend
Richard Combee	Squire Smith's friend
Jaidyn Craft	MaryBess Thompson's friend
Connie Craig	Lynn Oakley's friend
Susie Fisher	Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin
Lynda Giles	Polly Wilson's niece
Mel Howell	Judy Lindsay's friend
Verona Jones	Lynn Oakley's friend
Margaret Katros	Lisa Endres' mother
Mary Lenari	Bill & Becky Everhart's friend
John Linn	Sharon Mann's brother
Sue Miller	Lynn Oakley's friend
Leon & Barb Murphy	Bruce & Kate Eelman's friends
Frank Myers	Pam Wilkinson's father
Joyce Nunnallee	Nancy Dobler's cousin
Sandy Payne	Lynn Oakley's family member
Cindy Partlow	Marilyn Sheffield's cousin
Larry Powell	John & Marcia friend
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
Sarah Summers	Lisa Endres' daughter-in-law
Nicole Upson	Amy McKee's friend
Sam Vac	Marcie Dershimer's friend
Carol Wilhelm	Greg & Mary Marrs' friend
Julie Williams	Steve Negley's friend

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	

A DISCUSSION STARTER ON END OF LIFE ISSUES

Have you thought about:

- The person I want to make care decisions for me when I can't?
- The kind of medical treatment I want or don't want?
- How comfortable do I want to be?
- How I want people to treat me?
- What I want my loved ones to know?
- What would I like included in my funeral or memorial service?



Please save the date, **Monday, March 15**, and join us at **6:00 PM** in McLeod Hall and by Zoom. (Keep an eye out for Zoom instructions to come.) Dr. Negley will be discussing “Five Wishes”, a document which helps open the discussion on these important topics. To reserve your spot at the table, you can call the church office at 294-3121, email at office@firstpreswh.org, or drop this reservation form in the offering plate on Sunday.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY FRIDAY, MARCH 12.

Name: _____ Number Attending: _____

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.



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.

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. So far it's been 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.

THE 2021 SANCTUARY FLOWER CALENDAR IS UP SIGN UP FOR YOUR IMPORTANT DATES

Please remember these important points:

- * Include your best contact number.
- * Include the name of your florist.
- * Tell your florist that the arrangement *must* be here by **Friday, 12 pm**
- * Call the office the week before to give bulletin information (294-3121.)



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 create paper boats that float, learn more about butterflies, and inspire your peeping dioramas!

Visit the link on our church website at firstpreswh.org; under connections & children tabs.

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.

OUR STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING CLASS

Please continue to lift up our Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders in prayer. Here's what they're covering this week.



In **Session Six**, *Process versus Results in Caregiving*, our Stephen Minister trainees learn the key understanding that they don't have to (and indeed can't) fix whatever problem it is that their care receiver faces. This session is a time for a collective sigh of relief. God is the caregiver; the Stephen Minister is the caregiver. This establishment of roles is what makes Stephen Ministry possible. The concept runs counter to the strong results-oriented approaches of present-day society. But in caregiving, the more one pushes for results in another, the faster and farther they flee.

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

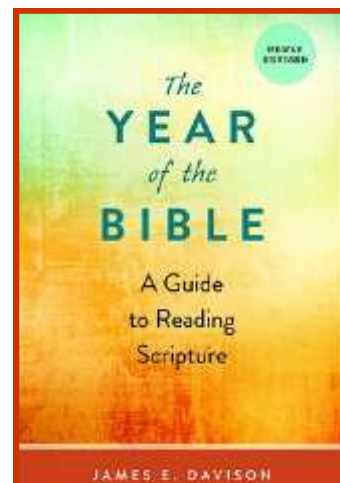
1. go to <https://zoom.us/join>
2. enter Meeting ID **927 8723 9542**
3. click **Join**
4. click **Open Zoom Meeting**
5. enter your name and Meeting Password **637**
6. click **Join Meeting** and wait to join
7. see your church family and wave "hi"

Reading Plan For Week 8

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.

WEEK 8

DAY	OLD Testament	NEW Testament Psalms
1	Leviticus 13, 14	Acts 8
2	Leviticus 15, 16	Acts 9
3	Leviticus 17, 18	Acts 10
4	Leviticus 19, 20	Psalms 23, 24
5	Leviticus 21, 22	Acts 11
6	Leviticus 23, 24	Acts 12
7	Leviticus 25, 26	Psalms 25



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 fall, 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

MARCH

Birthdays

3/1	Sarah Bishop Anne McBride Madelaine Scamehorn	3/14	Richard Elmore John Kissel Bonnie Patrick	3/21	Agnes Harland Karen Siegel
3/2	Gus Badnell Rob Frost Diane Repass	3/16	Thomas Brackett Madison Britt James Montgomery	3/23	Ed Rounsley
3/3	Fred Deloach Robin Turley Dick Wales		Ted Threadgill Mark Wilson	3/25	Sam Bryant Jim Gray III Amy Powell Destiny Rivers
3/5	Judy Moots Shelly Prather Sarah Ryan John Strang Polly Wilson	3/17	Pat Davidson Jay Dugger Tucker Gray Bryce Snively Mary Strang	3/26	Peyten Palo Addison Putnam Adam Weeks Carson Weeks
3/8	Jared Lockhart Tom Oldt	3/18	Nancy Brooks Nicholas Glenn Marion Hearn Meaghan McDowell	3/27	Jacob Cardona Mary Ellen Porter Cheryl Price John A. Strang Joyce Wander
3/9	Lynn Boland Suzanne Brantley Allen Miller Emma Skipper Drew Stapor Aaron Thibodaux		Miller Thompson Ardyn Wales	3/28	Rhea Oakley Joe Tackett
3/10	David J. Alexander Gayle Johnston Teri Reineke Mary Ellen Rowker	3/19	Richard Chilton Marcie Dershimer Paul Palo Joey Volpe	3/29	Beverly Pace Nolan Roe Declan Wichrowski
3/12	Alecia Kortgoede Joel Price	3/20	Becca Alexander Ross Kosmensky Bonnie Ryan Delanie Stavres	3/30	Karl Duce Pat Nepute Debbie Shinn
3/13	Larry Lincoski	3/21	Nancy Chilton Anamarie Coffman	3/31	Courtney Croteau Heidi Hook David Matha Marilyn Schleifer

Anniversary

3/1	Michael & Jennifer Vibral	3/21	Jerry & Teresa Renney
3/2	Ben & Ellie Crowder	3/22	Deane & Jonye Briggs Bill & Carol Roe
3/4	Warren & Charlene Glenn	3/23	Bill & Kathy Lockhart
3/9	Rick & Julie Dantzler	3/24	Dru & Nichole Gainey
3/10	Tim & Jane Tillman	3/25	John & Teri Reineke
3/14	James & Debbie Shinn	3/27	Daniel & Erin Miller
3/15	Bill & Becky Everhart	3/29	April & Kyle Porter
3/17	Dale & Marcia Smith		
3/18	Joel & Cheryl Price		

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 2/26/21.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 127 bag lunches
the week of 2/15/21.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 75 people on 2/20/21.

Return Service Requested

A DRIVE-BY SALUTE TO SAMMY BRYANT ON SUNDAY, MARCH 28:



If you taken part in any portion of our ministry on the First Pres campus in the past two decades, then you have benefited from the professionalism, hard work, and dedication of our Director of Maintenance, **Sam Bryant**.

Sammy joined our church staff on February 9, 1998, and we, as a congregation, have been blessed with his gifts for 23 years. Sam is a dedicated disciple of Jesus Christ, and he cares for our facilities as the house of God. Coming to us from a career as a custom home builder, Sammy is a skilled craftsman. Overseeing our maintenance and all building/facilities/grounds improvements over the past 23 years, Sammy has saved our church thousands of dollars while keeping our church home in excellent shape.

As Sammy retires at the end of March, we want to honor this servant of God with a drive-by salute. Sammy will be joining us for worship at the **11:00 am** service on **Sunday, March 28**. Immediately following that service, Sammy will be seated under the porte-cochere for a drive-by, socially distanced time of recognition. People who have been in worship earlier or virtually can drive-by, and people who have been in worship at 11:00 am can go to their cars and join in. The drive-by will happen from **12:15 – 12:45 pm**.

We will have a basket that day for your cards and gifts for Sammy (He and Ginny like to dine at Longhorn and Cracker Barrel – and Sam's favorite power tools are sold at Home Depot, if that helps you with gift card selections.)

**Please plan to join us as we make sure to thank Sammy
for all that he has done for us here at First Pres.**