



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## WINTER HAVEN

# Tower Chimes

Week of March 7, 2021

Issue 807

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

Jeremy T. Rath  
Director of  
Music 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 the 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 or Wednesday mornings.



## WELCOME JEREMY!

We are pleased to welcome **Jeremy Rath**, the new Director of Music Ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Winter Haven. Jeremy joined our staff on **March 1**, and brings a wealth of experience and excitement to our music ministry.

In the past decade and a half, Jeremy has taught general music and vocal music to children in grades K-12, incorporating singing, dancing and movement and the playing of instruments (Orff instruments, keyboards, and guitars). In schools, he has also planned musicals and worked with middle school and high school choirs. In church, Jeremy accompanied his first worship services on a pipe organ while in the eighth grade. Since that time, he has served in various musical positions, including Director of Music Ministries, providing traditional organ accompaniment and music for worship services, contemporary piano accompaniment and music for other worship services, and directing and accompanying adult choirs and handbell choirs.

Jeremy holds a Bachelor of Science in Music Education; Concentration in Organ and Voice; Cum Laude Graduate and Master of Music in Music Education, both from Roberts Wesleyan College – Rochester, New York

This native of upstate New York is now a proud Floridian. Please seek him out and give him a warm First Pres welcome.

## DONATIONS FOR EASTER EGG HUNT NOW BEING COLLECTED

Our celebration of Christ's resurrection with a children's Easter Egg Hunt will be happening on Easter Sunday, **April 4 at 10:30 am**. But we need your help! Please drop individually wrapped candy in the marked bins around the church. Unfortunately, we cannot accept chocolate with this Florida heat. Don't forget your Easter basket and camera for a wonderful morning when we hide and hunt for the eggs. We'll also be putting together kits of eggs and goodies for those family who would like to a hunt from home.

Please reach out to Rev. Sarah, (574)298-2295 for more information.



# Opportunities This Week

**Sunday, March 7**

## 3RD 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 8

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)  
 10:00 am Lydia Circle (MH/Zoom)  
 6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (MH/Zoom)  
 6:30 pm Christian Education (GR/Zoom)

## Tuesday, March 9

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

## Wednesday, March 10

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)  
 10:00 am Adult Bible Study (MH)  
 12:00 pm Buildings & Grounds (MH/Zoom)  
 2:00 pm Membership (MH)  
 3:00 pm Community Outreach (MH)  
 4:00 pm Christ Kids (CE)  
 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)  
 6:00 pm Financial Peace (MH)

## Thursday, March 11

## Friday, March 12

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

## Saturday, March 13

- 9:00 am Stephen Minister Training (UR)  
 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)  
 4:00 pm Soup Kitchen (737)



Our Christian sympathy goes to Kathy and Casey Cheatham upon the death of their husband/father, Carl Cheatham who died on Friday, February 19, 2021.

# Remember in Prayer

## MEMBERS

- |                          |                     |                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Marie & Roger Able       | Bill Everhart       | Dick McCauley           |
| Melvin & Debbie Anderson | John Gray           | Bob McClew              |
| Kathy Andrews            | Jane Hammette       | Pat Miller              |
| Marty Bentley            | Jane Hayman         | Edna Mitchell           |
| Pat Berrell              | Joyce Hayman        | Richard & Judy Moots    |
| Jonye Briggs             | Frances Heath       | Arletta Oriani          |
| Orrin & Helen Champlain  | Kay Hedden          | Barbara Roberts         |
| Kathy & Casey Cheatham   | Doris Hill          | John Schleifer          |
| Cindy Curry              | Bryan Howard        | Joyce Shirah            |
| Charlie Darte            | Isobel Hubbard      | Dale Smith              |
| Marjorie DiLorenzo       | Jim Huff            | Joel & Barbara H. Smith |
| Zan Dismuke              | Scott & Becky Irvin | Pam Tallent-Blackburn   |
| Jana Easterling          | Martha Johnson      | Lorraine Todd           |
| Dana Elmore              | Dena Lancashire     | Gwen Waters             |
|                          | Eric Lindstrom      | Sug Zowarka             |
|                          | Spike & Jane Lucia  |                         |
|                          | Pat McCarty         |                         |

## Relatives & Friends

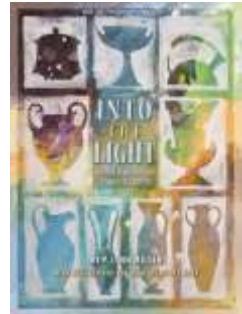
- |                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Bruce Bachman      | Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend         |
| Bryce Beckham      | MaryBess Thompson's friend            |
| Jaidyn Craft       | MaryBess Thompson's friend            |
| 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            |
| Karen Stack        | Bill & Doris Brack's daughter         |
| 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                 |
| John Willson       | Mary Marrs' brother                   |

## 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     |                 |

## 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 **March 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 **March 16 at 9:30 am** in McLeod Hall and by Zoom.

## PEEPING THROUGH LENT 2021 DEVOTIONAL AND KIT



Our Lenten Devotional – *Peeping Through Lent* is 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!

## 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](mailto: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: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHRIST KIDS - WEDNESDAYS AT 4 PM

Christ Kids – our faith-filled and safe, after-school program for children 4 years through 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:sbishop@firstpreswh.org) or call the church office 294-3121.



## MARCH VIRTUAL CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join Rev. Sarah for a fun month of Sunday school lessons, games, and even a virtual egg hunt! Visit the Children's Connection tab on the church website to follow the link this month. Or join us on Sundays following the *Time with Younger Disciples* in the 9 am worship service.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING UPDATE

With your help, we have raised \$522 dollars, enough money to fund almost 3 soup kitchens. We have also collected 207 canned good. The Geezers won by a few cans, but the youth are ready to challenge the Geezers in a flag football game this summer. Thank you for all of your support in our feeding the hungry ministries! We wouldn't be able to do it without your generosity!



**YOUTH: 102 canned goods VS. GEEZERS: 105 canned goods**



## 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.**

## 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 Barrell – 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.**

## 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](mailto:esnyder@firstpreswh.org).

## **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!

## 2021 ADULT BIBLE STUDY

### 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

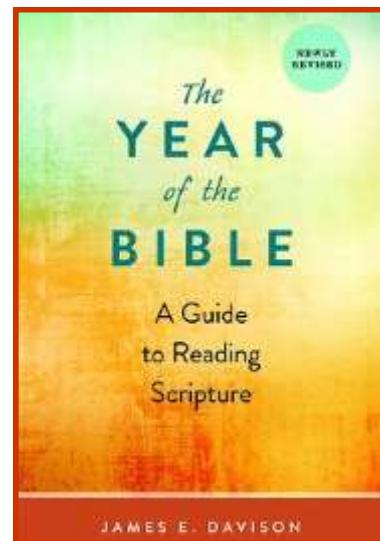
1. go to <https://zoom.us/join>
2. enter Meeting ID **927 8723 9542**
3. click **Join**
4. click **Open Zoom Meeting**
5. enter your name and Meeting Password **637**
6. click **Join Meeting** and wait to join
7. see your church family and wave "hi"

### Reading Plan For Week 9

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 9

DAY	OLD Testament	NEW Testament Psalms
1	Leviticus 27 Numbers 1	Acts 13
2	Numbers 2, 3	Acts 14
3	Numbers 4, 5	Acts 15
4	Numbers 6, 7	Psalms 26, 27
5	Numbers 8, 9	Acts 16
6	Numbers 10, 11	Acts 17
7	Numbers 12-14	Psalms 28, 29



### SECUREGIVE NEWS



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.

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

First Presbyterian Church  
637 6th Street, NW  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
863-294-3121  
FAX 863-294-1105  
[www.firstpreswh.org](http://www.firstpreswh.org)  
[office@firstpreswh.org](mailto: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 3/5/21.

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

### Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 108 bag lunches  
the week of 2/22/21.

We gave out 408  
bag lunches in February, 2021.

### Return Service Requested

### Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 91 people on 2/27/21.

We fed 344 in February, 2021.



## TOWER CHIMES SURVEY FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Community Outreach and Engagement Committee is incredibly grateful for your participation in our first survey about the overall communication efforts from the church. We heard from a majority that you appreciate the Tower Chimes as a primary means of receiving information. Now, we are looking at how best to utilize the Tower Chimes newsletter to communicate with you. Please take a minute to complete this 3 question survey by **Tuesday, March 9**. Your input makes a difference! Thank you!

### What information would you like to receive WEEKLY? (please check all that apply)

- Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month
- Prayer List
- The Calendar for the Week Ahead
- Ongoing events (events that recur on the calendar like Sunday school, Youth Group, Men's Lunch, etc.)
- New Events (ongoing events that are just starting)
- Special Upcoming Opportunities (one-time events)
- Worship Experiences or Themes (Lenten Sermon series preview, communion schedule, etc.)
- Death/Funeral/Memorial Service Announcements
- Mission or Volunteer Opportunities at the Church (how you can help at the church)
- Local Mission Opportunities (how you can connect and help with a partner ministry)
- General info (staff news, electronic giving, lost items, etc.)
- COVID Policy and Worship Attendance Questionnaire
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### What information would you like to receive MONTHLY? (please check all that apply)

- Birthdays and Anniversaries for the month
- Prayer List
- The Calendar for the Week Ahead
- Ongoing events (events that recur on the calendar like Sunday school, Youth Group, Men's Lunch, etc.)
- New Events (ongoing events that are just starting)
- Special Upcoming Opportunities (one-time events)
- Worship Experiences or Themes (Lenten Sermon series preview, communion schedule, etc.)
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- Other: \_\_\_\_\_