



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WINTER HAVEN

Tower Chimes

Week of March 21, 2021

Issue 809

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

3 CENTS-A-MEAL IS THIS SUNDAY

We will collect the **3 Cents-a-Meal Hunger Offering** during worship services this **Sunday, March 21**. This offering is divided between our Soup Kitchen/Bag Lunch Ministry, Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry, and Honduras.

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.



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, 294-3121 for more information.

RESERVATIONS NOW OPEN FOR EASTER WORSHIP

Our celebratory and joyful worship of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, **Easter Sunday, April 4** at First Presbyterian Church Winter Haven will require in-person reservations.

Please go to <https://rsvp.church/r/vv6RORfk> to reserve your family's spots if you plan to join us for in-person worship at **9 am or 11 am**.

This glorious worship service will be filled with music, scripture, the Good News, and Alleluias.

And as always, both will also be live-streamed on our Facebook page.

Alleluia He is Risen!



Our Purpose

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

Opportunities This Week

Sunday, March 21 5TH SUNDAY IN LENT 3 CENTS-A-MEAL

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 10:20 am Adult Bible Study (MH/Zoom)
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)

Monday, March 22

- 6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating
Committee (GR/Zoom)

Tuesday, March 23

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

Wednesday, March 24

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

Thursday, March 25

Friday, March 26

- 6:00 pm Young Adult Gathering (Off-site)

Saturday, March 27

- 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.



*Congratulations to
Porter & Sarah Summers upon
the birth of their daughter,
Sophie Lee born March 10, 2021.
Proud grandparents are
Bob & Lisa Endres.*

Remember in Prayer

MEMBERS

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Marie & Roger Able | John Gray | Dick McCauley |
| Melvin & Debbie
Anderson | Jane Hammette | Bob McClew |
| Kathy Andrews | Jane Hayman | Pat Miller |
| Pat Berrell | Joyce Hayman | Edna Mitchell |
| Jonye Briggs | Frances Heath | Richard & Judy Moots |
| Orrin & Helen
Champlain | Kay Hedden | Arletta Oriani |
| Kathy & Casey
Cheatham | Doris Hill | Barbara Roberts |
| Charlie Darte | Bryan Howard | John Schleifer |
| Marjorie DiLorenzo | Isobel Hubbard | Joyce Shirah |
| Zan Dismuke | Jim Huff | Dale Smith |
| Jana Easterling | Scott & Becky Irvin | Joel & Barbara H. Smith |
| Dana Elmore | Martha Johnson | Pam Tallent-Blackburn |
| Bill Everhart | Dena Lancashire | Lorraine Todd |
| | Eric Lindstrom | Gwen Waters |
| | Spike & Jane Lucia | Sug Zowarka |
| | 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 |
| Louan Crumbly | Connie Shipley's friend |
| Susie Fisher | Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin |
| Lynda Giles | Polly Wilson's niece |
| Ryan Hampton | Bill Lockhart's friend |
| Nonie Hicks | Bob & Cindy Steele's friend |
| 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 |
| Pat Lynch | Roger & Marie Able's friend |
| Susan Marsh | Rober & Marie Able's friend |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| 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 | |

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 is an image to inspire you and be sure to share your creation as a family, individual, or couple with Rev. Sarah!

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.



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.

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Youth groups are meeting at the youth house. We are so excited to be socially distanced & safe in-person!

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. It is an 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, 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.



2021 EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

It is time to order your Easter lily for **Easter Sunday, April 4**. Easter lilies are a yearly tradition to decorate the church on Easter Sunday.

To purchase a lily "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one or friend, please fill out this order form. The cost is \$12 per plant. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Easter Lily Fund".

Place the order form and check in the offering plate, mail, or take to the church office by **Monday, March 29**. A complete listing will be available Easter Sunday. The Sanctuary Committee will again remove the yellow stamen from each lily so it will not bother your allergies.

Donor(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

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

I will pick up my lily after the 11:00 am service Easter Sunday.

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



HAVE YOU LOST GLASSES...

Prescription, reading, or sunglasses?

Maybe it was last week, last month, or even last year? If so, we could have them.

We have a collection that has been found over time and would like to find their rightful homes. Please check the desk next to the maintenance office.

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.

MORE ABOUT FACEBOOK

Stay in the know with everything First Pres on Facebook!

Have a Facebook Account and want to be sure you never miss a post, video, or update from your church? We have things happening daily!

1. Find our Church Facebook page by typing **@FPCWinterHaven** in the search bar.
2. Like our Page! Click the **'thumbs up' Like Icon**. You'll know that's done when the color changes from gray to blue. **IMAGE 1**
3. Set notifications by clicking the **Three dots** (circled) and then **'Follow Settings'** (circled). **IMAGE 2**
4. Mark First Pres as a **FAVORITE** and then click **UPDATE** and First Pres always be at the top of your news feed! **IMAGE 3**

IMAGE 1

IMAGE 2

IMAGE 3



YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT FIRST PRES...

just by shopping at this special Amazon link.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-0668481>



Your shopping will support
**Winter Haven First
Presbyterian Church**

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at **smile.amazon.com**.
- In the last quarter of 2020 alone, the church received **\$83.22**

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.



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 Passcode **637**
6. click **Join Meeting** and wait to join
7. see your church family and wave "hi"

WEDNESDAY CLASS

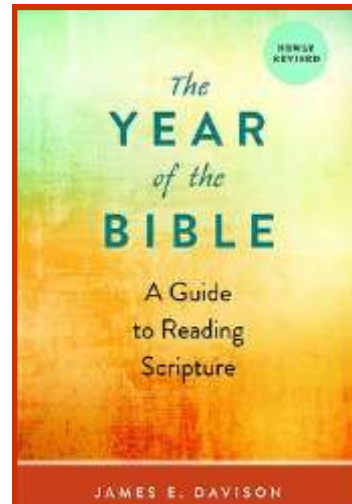
1. go to <https://zoom.us/join>
2. enter Meeting ID **927 8723 9542**
3. click **Join**
4. click **Open Zoom Meeting**
5. enter your name and Meeting Passcode **637**
6. click **Join Meeting** and wait to join
7. see your church family and wave "hi"

Reading Plan For Week 11

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 11

DAY	OLD Testament	NEW Testament Psalms
1	Numbers 30, 31	Acts 23
2	Numbers 32, 33	Acts 24
3	Numbers 34, 35	Acts 25
4	Numbers 36 Deuteronomy 1	Psalms 32
5	Deuteronomy 2, 3	Acts 26
6	Deuteronomy 4, 5	Acts 27
7	Deuteronomy 6, 7	Psalms 33



SECUREGIVE NEWS



SECUREGive
Giving Made Simple

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.

OUR STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING CLASS



Please continue to lift up our Stephen Ministers, leaders, and trainees in prayer. Here is what our trainees are currently studying.

Session Ten (March 23), Confidentiality. Our Stephen Ministers take an in-depth look at an essential principle of quality Christian care—confidentiality. Everything a care receiver tells a Stephen Minister and even the identity of the care receiver remain strictly confidential. It is in this safe environment of trust and acceptance that God can bring hope and healing to a care receiver.

WORSHIP MASK POLICY

Everyone is required to wear a face covering and maintain social distancing while entering, moving throughout, and exiting the building.

People who wish to attend in-person worship at 9 am are asked to:

Once seated and 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 the face covering is replaced.

And people who wish to attend in-person worship at 11 am will be asked to follow our current worship guideline which includes:

Face coverings are required to be worn at all times while seated for worship.

Worshippers are invited to sing while wearing face coverings.

Our session continues to review COVID safety measures for worship monthly.

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.

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.)



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 3/19/21.

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

Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 92 bag lunches
the week of 3/8/21.

Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 60 people on 3/13/21.

Return Service Requested

A DRIVE-BY SALUTE TO SAMMY BRYANT ON SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 12:15-12:45 PM

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.**