



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 28, 2022 | ISSUE 878

FALL IS ALMOST HERE! CHOIR AND BELLS RETURN!



Our First Pres Musicians are getting ready to begin our fall season of music making and we would love to extend an invitation to YOU. Rehearsals will start on **Wednesday, September 14** for **Chancel Bells and Chancel Choir**, and **Thursday, September 15** for **Chapel Bells**. Please read below for more details.

Chancel Choir: We rehearse on **Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:15** (later at times leading up to holidays/special events). Our rehearsals begin with a time of prayer, followed by vocal warmups, and then into learning songs and anthems to share at the 11:00 am Traditional Worship service. We are an open group of people united by our passion to join our voices together in praise and worship. Our rehearsals are filled with joy, laughter, and music making. We extend an open invitation to you on **September 14** to come experience rehearsal with us (no commitment necessary!). After rehearsal, we will share a time of fellowship and refreshments. Come make a joyful noise with us!

Chancel Bells: We are a group of people who love to ring out praise of our great God together. Chancel Bells rehearses every **Wednesday evening from 6:00 - 7:00** in the Bell Room on the third floor of the Sanctuary building. We (usually) ring the prelude at the 11:00 am worship on the first Sunday of each month, and offer special anthems at holidays and other services. Handbell music looks like piano music, but each ringer is assigned a certain number of bells/notes for the entire piece. It takes us all to create a beautiful piece of music. If you don't know how to read music, that is okay! – It is no excuse for you to try your hand at bell ringing! If you are interested in trying us out, we'd love to have you ring with us!

Chapel Bells: We rehearse on **Thursday afternoons from 1:15 - 2:15** in the Bell Room. We use the same bells and read the same type of music as the Chancel Bells, but our music is quite a bit easier to play. If you've never rang bells before, this would be the group for you to start in and see how you like it! We offer music throughout the year at the 11:00 am worship service.

We are so excited to start this choir season and hope you will join in making music with us! For more information, please call Jeremy at the church office or email him at jrath@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.

STAFF

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
and Administration

Connie J. Shipley
Administrative
Assistant

Rose S. Flynn
Office Assistant

Daryl D. Fenley
Director of
Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry
Custodian

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, August 28

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
5:30 pm The Chosen Bible Study (MH)
5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, August 29

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Tuesday, August 30

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
6:15 pm Worship & Music (UR)

Wednesday, August 31

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
5:30 pm Middle Youth Group (GC)

Thursday, September 1

- 3:30 pm Praise Band Practice (Sanctuary)

Friday, September 2

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, September 3

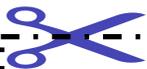
- 2:00 pm Soup Kitchen Prep (Kitchen)
4:00 pm Soup Kitchen (737)

EVEN MONTH BOOK CLUB NEXT READ



We invite you to join us on **Monday, October 17 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss *The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* by Catharina Ingelman-Sundberg.

We hope you will come together with us for a time of fellowship and discussion of this intriguing book. Contact Sue Henry at 863-656-2611 with any questions.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR THESE UP-COMING
10 AM WORSHIP SERVICES**

September 11 November 20
October 2 December 18



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

John & Ann Adams	Jim Huff	John & Marilyn Schleifer
Debbie Anderson	Scott & Becky Irvin	George Seagreaves
Pat Berrell	Autumn, Zemon, & Remy Jacobson	Dick Shaw
Bill Brack	Jill Kosmensky	Joyce Shirah
Helen Champlain	Dena Lancashire	Susan Singleton
Charlie Darte	Ray & Gladys Larson	Dale Smith
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Pat McCarty	Katie Sparr
Zan Dismuke	Dick McCauley	Barbara Tackett
Rob Donaldy	Pat Miller	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Dana Elmore	Edna Mitchell	Glenn Thomas
Bill Everhart	Judy Moots	Suzy Threadgill
Rossanne Gorsky	Jeri & Tom Oldt	Mike Vibral
Pam Gray	Jackie Pinkney	Pat Vobornik
Jane Hayman	Kaden & Carley Rabern	Jane West
Frances Heath		Kalen West
Bryan Howard		

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Jessica Bowles	Peter Coppini's daughter
Philip Burkhart	Lynn Oakley's friend
Susie Fisher	Rob Donaldy & Becky Everhart's cousin
Kathy & Ron Giuffre	Tom & Jeri Oldt's in-laws
Jasper & Sam Gray	Lynn Oakley's friends
Flo McNeer Hamilton	Peggy Davis' friend
Jim Hindley	Mary Marrs' friend
Lori Houmard	Rick & Pat Reass' daughter
Dia Hurst	Lee & Pam Wilkenson's friend
Jim & Belinda Hurst	Tom & Jeri Oldt's friends
Kevin Jackson	Doris Brack's friend
Jim Joiner	Ann Meadows' friend
Funner Judd	Lynn Oakley's friend
Cindy Laeng & family	Becky Everhart's friends
John Lauffer	Peter Coppini's nephew
Reed & Trish Layne	Larry Davis' friends
Khyla Martinez	Paul & Ann Montgomery's granddaughter
Dwight McKee	Greg Marrs' uncle
Brynne Nowroozi	Cindy Curry's friend
Les & Alison O'Neal	Sandra Hoffman's friends
Kristin Schmid	Rick & Pat Reass' daughter
Myra Shelton	Punkin Smith's friend
Lindsey Tomlinson	Lee & Pam Wilkinson's friend
Jess Wilkinson	Lee Wilkinson's brother

MILITARY

Zach Anaya	Ernie French	David Knowles
Brenden Anderson	Stephanie Gillie	John Marotti
Christian Anderson	Eddie Gray	KaitLin Marotti
Zach Drum	Daniel Harp	Mathew Massam
Robert Ferguson	Sean Harp	Jet Sanderson

IT'S TIME FOR CAKE!



Rev. Dr. Steven R. Negley joined First Pres as Head of Staff and Senior Pastor on February 15, 1996. That's over 26 years of service to our congregation and community.

Last year, we celebrated his 25th anniversary with a video prior to a worship service. Unfortunately, we were unable to have an appropriate in-person commemoration of this anniversary due to COVID restrictions. Well, the time has come to have a party!

Following our single worship service on **Sunday, September 11**, we will have a fellowship reception with cake and punch to thank Steve and look ahead to more years of shared ministry. We hope that you will make plans to join us in worship and for this special time together as a church family in September.

FUNTIMERS RETURN!



Calling all First Pres Funtimers (the 55 + crowd in our congregation.) We will be gathering on **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19** for food, fellowship, and a fanciful organ demonstration by Director of Music Ministries, **Jeremy Rath**.

It all starts at **11 am**. Lunch will be served family style in McLeod Hall and then we will head to the sanctuary where Jeremy will explain some of the details of our recently renovated Moeller church organ, and treat us to some tunes.

We'll wrap up at **1 pm**. To help us have plenty of food prepared, please let us know you're coming by calling or emailing the church office.

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY



We invite you to join us **every Sunday, 5:30 - 7 pm**, on a journey into the life of Jesus with the film series **THE CHOSEN**. We gather in McLeod Hall for dinner,

to view an episode, and then discuss the Bible passages that undergird the story.

We hope you'll join with other believers as we share faith, fellowship, and film. Please bring a covered dish to share for our meal. Child care is provided.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!



Our Soup Kitchen provides an incredible outreach and positive impact in our community. Every Saturday, this church helps to feed 80-100 hungry people. For many, this meal is one of the few of significant substance that they will eat all week.

Many of our members volunteer just a few hours of their time to help prepare the food and serve those in need. **We currently have September dates available**. If you have never helped before or have questions, fear not, our Deacons can address any uncertainties and help you feel comfortable in serving.

Interested in learning more or signing up? Contact the church office, any of our Deacons, or check out the sign-up sheet in McLeod Hall.

SERVICE FOR WHOLENESS

We will be conducting our fall season Service for Wholeness on **Sunday evening, September 18** in the Chapel starting at **7 p.m.** Prayers will be offered



for healing and wholeness in our world, our community, our families, and our lives.

Dr. Steve Negley will be leading reflections on scripture and Jeremy Rath will be offering the music for the evening. Communion will be served to those present, and people will be given the opportunity to come forward for individual prayers and anointing with oil if they desire. Please join us for this time of worship and communion.

YOUTH GROUPS HAVE RETURNED

The **Middle School Youth Group** meets on **Wednesdays** from 5:30 until 7:30 pm.

The **High School Youth Group** meets **Sundays**, from 5:30 until 7:30 pm.



Come join us for another awesome year of food, fellowship, and faith building in the *Golden Center* youth house! If you have any questions or would like to sign up to provide a meal for our students, please contact Emily Snyder at 863-224-4403 or esnyder@firstpreswh.org.

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES



The past year has reminded us all of the importance of staying in touch with those we care about. We are always looking to keep our directory current and are seeking to make sure we have your current information on file.

If you have a new phone number, home address, email, or additional contact info (such as a seasonal address), please contact the church office so we can make sure you stay informed. Thank you.

DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN TEXT TO GIVE?



To donate, you will text a **keyword**, (those options are below and special events will be added as they come.), then a **space**, and an **amount** to **863-243-6880**. Example: Text keyword **3cents 5** for gifting \$5 to *3 Cents-a-Meal*. An auto-response will confirm your gift offering. Respond **Y** to confirm and send. Save this number as a contact for future giving.

Keywords are:

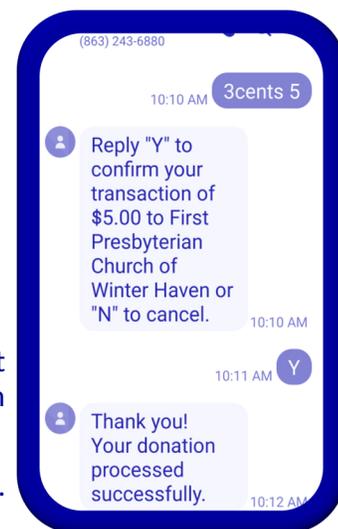
- Pledged (for your offering to be credited to your pledged amount for the current year)
- Offering (Non-pledge or undesignated gifts)
- Music (for Capital Music Campaign Organ/Music)
- 3cents (for 3 Cents-a-Meal)
- Memorial (for when donating in memory of someone)
- Special (for all other donations; example 1 time events)

If you are donating through Text To Give for the first time, you will receive a text containing a link to login or create your Secure Give account. Please save that login information.

You will then be asked to save your default payment information for giving by text. The system will confirm your donation and you will receive an email receipt.

The only time that you should have to enter your login or card information is the first time you donate through Text to Give. After your first transaction, your Secure Give account and card information will be recognized automatically and you will simply reply **Y**.

The next time you would like to give by text, simply type the keyword and amount to the number above and you will receive a request to confirm with **Y**.



HOW TO EASILY ACCESS SECURE GIVE

Go to our Church website and click on **give** (top right), you will be re-directed to <https://app.securegive.com/firstpreswh> or you can go directly to the SecureGive website, <https://app.securegive.com/firstpreswh>.

Robin Miller is available to assist you during office hours or email rmiller@firstpreswh.org.

YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH...

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 with the same products, same prices, same service.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.



SEPTEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|--|------|--|
| 9/2 | Pat Bentley
Richard White | 9/9 | Brayden Olmert
Frances Stapor | | Gary Chilton |
| 9/3 | Cody Dugger
Hal Jeffcoat
Sawyer Speer | 9/10 | Rick Reass
Hunter Smith | 9/20 | Mary Ann Koon |
| 9/4 | Sarah Pickos
Kit Threlkel | 9/11 | Freya Abbott | 9/21 | Eric Lindstrom
Al Porter
Katie Stine |
| 9/5 | Adam Cranmer
James Miller
Tom Nepute
Jonathan Owen
Kristen Siegel | 9/12 | Elizabeth Miller
Amanda Jo Nicholson
Jeremy Rath | 9/22 | Steven Barthel
Mike Harris
Scarlett Lockhart |
| 9/6 | Lauren Clarke
Cooper Kirkland
Ben Tucker | 9/13 | Nancy Dobler
Spike Lucia | 9/23 | Kathy Garner |
| 9/7 | Sherie Ray | 9/15 | Denise Cole | 9/24 | Pete Borowski
John Clarke, Jr.
Merle Griffin |
| 9/8 | Bill Taylor
Lindsay Thibodaux
Dalton Weihrauch | 9/16 | Jane Dickey
Nell Speer | 9/25 | Sam Sheffield |
| | | 9/17 | Beckett Chilton
Tricia Dugger | 9/26 | Nikki Gann
Beth Koon-Spiwak |
| | | 9/18 | Delaney Gray
Kathy Michaels
Bo Palo | 9/29 | Jackson Gray |
| | | 9/19 | Jose Batista | 9/30 | Melissa Rowker
Bob Wilson |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--|------|---|------|--|
| 9/6 | Lynn & Tommy Oakley
Kim & J.P. Powell
Pat & Rick Reass | 9/8 | Pat & Ken Miller
Loretta & Ed Smith | 9/19 | Lori & Quentin Roe |
| 9/8 | Pat & Gary Gardner
Amy & Joe McKee | 9/11 | Bethany & Jonathan Owen | 9/21 | Marty & Bob Bentley
Peggy & Larry Davis |
| | | 9/17 | Rose & Denny Flynn
Donna & Ed Rounsley | 9/25 | Charlie & T. Michael Stavres |
| | | | | 9/30 | Marie & Hal Jeffcoat |

STRESSED? FEELING DOWN? NEED ENCOURAGEMENT?



Stephen Ministers don't just provide care for people experiencing a major crisis. They also provide care and support for people weighed down by the little things in life. If you (or someone you know) are feeling down, lonely, stressed or discouraged, you could benefit from the care, support, and encouragement of a Stephen Minister. It's free. It's confidential. And it will really make a difference in your life!

To find out more, contact **Connie Shipley** at 863-221-2224 or one of our other Stephen Minister Leaders, **Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Barbara Perkins**.

MEN'S LUNCH GROUP



Every **Tuesday**, the men of the church gather from **12:00-1:00 pm** for lunch together in McLeod Hall. This fellowship group offers men an opportunity to build friendships and grow in faith.

We hope that you will join us. This gathering is hybrid; meaning you can come in person or join by Zoom. To receive the Zoom invite, please contact the office by phone or email and ask to be added to the list.

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This newsletter is published weekly.

Church dated material, please deliver by 8/26/22.

Return Service Requested

Bag Lunch Ministry
We gave out 197 lunches
the week of 8/15/22. 

 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**
We fed 71 people on
Saturday, 8/20/22.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OUR YOUNGEST DISCIPLES KNOW AND FOLLOW CHRIST



Fall educational programming is just around the corner and all these are possible because of the members and friends of First Pres taking seriously the promises made at the baptism of our youngest disciples.

There are opportunities this year to serve, from on-call, Sunday nursery substitutes, to rotating every 2-3 months teaching Sunday School or weekly every Wednesday at our Christ's Kids faith-based after-school program.

Interest peaked and would like to know more? Talk with Rev. Sarah.

CHRIST'S KIDS STARTING SOON

Our faith-based after-school program, Christ's Kids starts **Wednesday, September 14 at 3:30 pm** on the playground. At Christ's Kids, our mission is to develop and nurture disciples of Jesus Christ while fostering and building relationships with the church community. This is achieved through supporting developmental relationships and growth of the children in our community. We will be expanding biblical knowledge through stories, music, and movement as well as serving and caring for other children of God while participating in helping the larger community. Your child doesn't want to miss it!

Kids PreK through 5th grade are invited to join. Just visit our website for this year's registration or contact Rev. Sarah at sbishop@firstpresw.org.



ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE BIBLE RETURNS!



Our Adult Sunday School class, meeting in the Geneva Room from **10:10 till 10:50 am**, continues its exploration of the history and archaeology of the Bible on **Sunday, September 18**. Each Sunday, historians and archaeologists, connect the biblical story with the larger historic world, ancient literature, and archaeological findings. Join this fascinating class's interactive time with guided conversation and visits from our pastors to answer your questions.