



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 26, 2023 | ISSUE 903

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT WITH COMMUNION



The season of Lent continues **this Sunday, February 26**. We will start our walk to the Cross with a celebration of the Lord's Supper at both worship services, and continuing our sermon series **Follow Me**, focusing on the disciples of Jesus. We hope you will join us throughout Lent in worship, faith formation, and Christian service.

CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY



You are invited to join us on these **Sundays, March 5 & 19, from 5:30 - 7 pm** in McLeod Hall to watch an episode from *The Chosen*, Season 3, then discuss what we have seen. Please join us even if you haven't watched the series, we will help you catch up.

Please bring a covered dish to share and enjoy an evening with your friends from First Pres. Childcare will be provided.

ARE YOU READING FOR OUR NEXT BOOK CLUB



We invite you to join us on **Monday, March 20 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss *The Woman Who Smashed Codes* by Jason Fagon.

We hope you will come together with us for a time of fellowship and discussion of this incredible true story of the greatest codebreaking husband and wife duo.

Contact **Sue Henry** at 863-656-2611 with any questions.

ATTENTION FUNTIMERS (OUR 55+ FELLOWSHIP GROUP)



We invite you to join us for our next gathering on **Thursday, March 23**.

We will meet in McLeod Hall at **10 am**. From there we will travel to *Hollis Garden* in Lakeland to enjoy exploring the grounds. Then we will enjoy a delicious lunch at Reececliff Family Dinner. You won't want to miss the pie!

We will return to the church by **3 pm**.

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. 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, February 26 1ST SUNDAY IN LENT COMMUNION

- 9:00 am Heart of Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 9:15 am Children Sunday School (CE 206)
- 10:10 am Adult Sunday School (GR)
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook Live)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, February 27

- 8:15 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating
Committee (MH)

Tuesday, February 28

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

Wednesday, March 1

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 3:30 pm Christ Kids (CE)
- 5:00 pm Confirmation (GC)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
- 6:00 pm Chancel Bells (BR)
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, March 2

- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (BR)

Friday, March 3

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, March 4

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



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Pam Gray	Jackie Pinkney
Debbie Anderson	Jane Hayman	JP & Kim Powell
Pat Berrell	Jim Huff	Marilyn Schleifer
Helen Champlain	Scott & Becky Irvin	Dick Shaw
Ellie Crowder	Jill Kosmensky	Joyce Shirah
Julie Dantzler	Dena Lancashire	Susan Singleton
Brenda Darte	Ray & Gladys Larson	Dale Smith
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Pat McCarty	Katie Sparr
Zan Dismuke	Dick McCauley	Kathy Taber
Rob Donaldy	Pat Miller	Barbara Tackett
Dana Elmore	Edna Mitchell	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Bill Everhart	Jeri & Tom Oldt	Pat Vobornik
Lynne Graddy	Norm Patrick	

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Billy Bennett	Rossanne Gorsky
Philip Burkhardt	Lynn Oakley's friend
Ruth Calloway	Kate Eelman's cousin
Dolores Clay-Barton	Karen Gerber's sister
Caren Coleman	Lynn Van Gundy's friend
Rick Colen	Rossanne Gorsky's friend
Bill Fisher	Becky Everhart & Rob Donaldy's cousin
Flo McNeer Hamilton	Peggy Davis' friend
Alisa Hart	Zan Dismuke's daughter
Keaton Haywood	Dale & Marcia Smith's friend
Stephen Houmar	Rick & Pat Reass' grandson
Bryan Howard	Janet Howard's son
Jim & Belinda Hurst	Tom & Jeri Oldt's friends
Jim Joiner	Ann Meadows' friend
Mitch Katros	Lisa Endres' uncle
Reed & Trish Layne	Larry Davis' friends
Khyla Martinez	Jim & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter
Kile McKee	Greg Marrs' cousin
Jackie & Harold Murphy	Lynn Oakley's friend
Christy Noll	John & Gail Van Allen's niece
Brynne Nowroozi	Cindy Curry's friend
Les & Alison O'Neal	Sandra Hoffman's friends
Ray Owen	Johnathan Owen's father
Carol Redner	Rossanne Gorsky's friend
Jack Snively	Bob & Lisa Endres' friend
Karen Thompson	Kristen Sheffield' mother
Seretha Tinsley	Tom & Jeri Oldts' friend
Jack Tyler & Family	Becky Irvin's brother-in-law
Phillip Waters	Gale & Gwen Waters' son
Jess Wilkinson	Lee Wilkinson's brother
David Young	Lynn Oakley's friend

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

March 26, April 16, May 7

BABY ANNOUNCEMENT



Congratulations to
Porter & Sarah Summers
upon the birth of their son,
Pierce Summers, born
February 17, 2023.

MILITARY

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

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT MARCH 25-26



Register now! All Church Retreat at Cedarkirk will be a weekend away with your church family and friends. Together, we'll enjoy the movie **UP** and discuss the themes found within; such as why it could be dangerous to live in the past and the importance of community.

Scan the QR code and register today. Weekend and day rates available for families and individuals. See the brochure for more information, or contact Rev. Sarah.

COME JOIN US IN SONG!



Have you ever thought about participating in our music groups here at church? Now is your chance! Even if you don't read music (not all of our musicians read, so you'd fit right in!), you are more than welcome to join us in making music together.

Chancel Bells rehearses on **Wednesday evenings** from **6 - 7 pm** and **Chancel Choir** rehearses from **7 - 8:15 pm**. We are an open group of people who love making music with each other and spending our Wednesday evenings together! **Chapel Bells** is a smaller bell group that rehearses easier music. We are always looking for more members, too! We rehearse on **Thursday afternoons** at **1:15 pm**.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Jeremy, our Director of Music Ministries, at jrath@firstpreswh.org or by calling the church office at (863) 294-3121.

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.

CHRIST'S KIDS



Our engaging and nurturing disciples of Jesus Christ program, Christ's Kids happens on **Wednesdays** at **3:30 pm till 5:30 pm**. Starting on our playground, we support developmental relationships, continue to expand Biblical knowledge with stories, music, and movement and also caring for other children of God every Wednesday. If you'd like to learn more about volunteering or supporting this ministry, contact Rev. Sarah.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL



Continuing to *Grow in Faith*, Children's Sunday School follows the Time with Younger Disciples in the Heart of Worship service in CE room 206. Children will explore people Jesus met, healings and miracles of Jesus, and of course, art! Preschoolers through 5th grade are encouraged to join us and continue to grow in God's love. Meeting every Sunday with two services.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE APOCRYPHAL JESUS



Got questions regarding the New Testament and why some texts are in our Bible while others, that have even been discovered recently, are not? Want to explore the early Church, teachings of Jesus and his first disciples? Join other seekers on this journey as we watch a video from an esteemed professor and discuss. We meet at **10:10 am in the Geneva Room** every Sunday with two worship services.

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEER!



Kitchen and thrift store needed most for February & March. Volunteering for Meals on Wheels is a great way to make a huge impact in a short amount of time. By packaging and/or delivering meals you bring nutritious food and a friendly visit to seniors in your community. Volunteering in our Thrift Store helps us bring in funds to provide meals as we do not receive government funds. We welcome volunteers of all ages and it's a great volunteer opportunity for individuals or groups of friends. Most volunteer 1 day a week or month, and some substitute or help seasonally. Get Rewarded with smiles!

Call 863-299-1616, email susan@mealsonwheelspolk.com, fill out an online volunteer application at MOWpolk.org or visit/tour our office at 620 6th ST NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881.

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES



These recent past years 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:

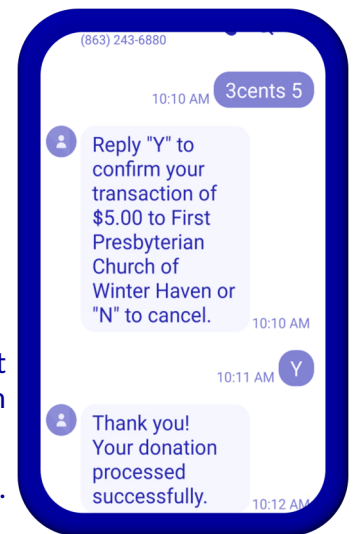
- Pledged (for your offering to be credited to your pledged amount for the current year)
- Offering (Non-pledge or undesignated gifts)
- Music (for Capital Music Campaign Organ/Music)
- 3cents (for 3 Cents-a-Meal)
- Memorial (for when donating in memory of someone)
- Special (for all other donations;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



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 3/1 Michael & Jennifer Vibral | 3/18 Joel & Cheryl Price |
| 3/2 Ben & Ellie Crowder | 3/21 Jerry & Teresa Renney |
| 3/4 Warren & Charlene Glenn | 3/22 Deane & Jonye Briggs
Bill & Carol Roe |
| 3/9 Rick & Julie Dantzler | 3/23 Bill & Kathy Lockhart |
| 3/10 Tim & Jane Tillman | 3/24 Dru & Nichole Gainey |
| 3/13 Chase & Sarah Counter | 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 | |

When "Pull Yourself Together" Doesn't Work!



You've heard it time and time again: "Pull yourself together. . . Cheer up. . . Tough it out. . . It's not that bad." Perhaps people have said it to you. Or perhaps you keep saying it to yourself. But it hasn't helped. You are still hurting. Things are coming apart, not coming together. Here's the good news: You don't have to go through your struggles alone. Help is available. Our Stephen Ministers are trained caregivers who will walk with you, listen to you, and provide confidential one-to-one care as you search through the pieces and find what is truly in your heart.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry for yourself or someone you know, **call Connie Shipley at 863-221-2224.** Or you can talk with one of our other Stephen Leaders: **Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Barbara Perkins.** Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.

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Lakeland, FL

This newsletter is published weekly.
Church dated material, please deliver by 2/24/23.

Return Service Requested

Bag Lunch Ministry
We gave out 167 lunches
the week of 2/13/23. 

 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**
We fed 75 people on
Saturday, 2/18/23.

EASTER EGG HUNT DONATIONS NEEDED



It's time to prepare for some super happy children and the resurrection celebration at the Easter Egg Hunt! So please drop off individually wrapped candies, small toys or filled Easter eggs in McLeod Hall this month. Please no chocolate as melted chocolate is no fun in the FL heat. Thank you!

EASTER LILY FORM



It is time to order your Easter lily for **Easter Sunday, April 9**. 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".

Please turn form in by **Monday, April 3**.

A complete listing will be available Easter Sunday. We 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: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

BUTTERFLY FORM

In memory of church members who have died since last Bright Sunday, April 24, 2022, and for those who have sustained the loss of a child, parent, sibling, or spouse since that date, we will release butterflies following our Single Service Worship on **Sunday, April 16 at 10 am**. 

If you would like to release a butterfly in memory of a loved one who died outside of the parameters mentioned above (for example, before last year's Bright Sunday and/or grandparent, aunt, cousin, son-in-law, etc.), you may purchase a butterfly for **\$5**.

Please turn in form by **Monday, April 10**.

Your name: _____

Deceased loved one: _____

Relationship to you: _____

Number of butterflies: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____