



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | MAY 28, 2023 | ISSUE 915

PENTECOST SUNDAY



We hope that you will join us **this Sunday, May 28** at our All Church Gathering Worship Service at **10 am** as we celebrate coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of Christ's followers with Holy Communion.

CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY



You are invited to join us on **Sunday, June 11 at 5:30-7 pm**. We meet in McLeod Hall to watch a Bible Round Table discussion for *The Chosen*, season 1. 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.

VBS IS JUNE 4-8 AND REGISTRATION IS OPEN



Vacation Bible School is **June 4-8, 5:30-8 pm**, and we will head to Babylon! Registration is open for 4 years through 5th graders as participants. Younger children may join with an adult volunteer.

Calling all teen and adult volunteers, don't forget to sign-up too! Check the church website for more information or contact Rev. Sarah.

FUNTIMERS (OUR 55+ FELLOWSHIP GROUP)



We hope you will join us on **Friday, June 23 at 11 am - 2 pm in McLeod Hall**. We will share our past or present hobbies through pictures, lectures or examples. Catered Lunch will be served for \$15 per person.

We hope you will join us and bring a friend. Please RSVP by calling or emailing the church office or signing up in McLeod Hall.

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, May 28 PENTECOST COMMUNION

- 10:00 am All Church Gathering Worship
(Sanctuary/Facebook)
5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, May 29 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, May 30

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MH)
12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH/Zoom)
5:00 pm Vacation Bible School Decorating
(MH/CE)

Wednesday, May 31

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
7:00 pm Chancel Choir (MS)

Thursday, June 1

- 5:00 pm Vacation Bible School Decorating
(MH/CE)

Friday, June 2

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, June 3

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

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	



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Jane Hayman	JP & Kim Powell
Debbie Anderson	Jim Huff	David Ryan
Pat Berrell	Scott & Becky Irvin	Marilyn Schleifer
Orin Champlain	Jill Kosmensky	Dick Shaw
Ellie Crowder	Dena Lancashire	Joyce Shirah
Julie Dantzler	Ray & Gladys Larson	Dale Smith
Brenda Darte	Beth Luxford	Sarah Summers
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Pat McCarty	Katie Sparr
Zan Dismuke	Dick McCauley	Kathy Taber
Rob Donaldy	Sue McClew	Barbara Tackett
Dana Elmore	Pat Miller	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Bill Everhart	Edna Mitchell	Jennifer & Mike Vibral
Lynne Grady	Jeri & Tom Oldt	
Pam Gray	Joe Oriani	
Heidi Munoz- Gutierrez	Jackie Pinkney	
	Mary Ellen Porter	

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Holton & Briley Adcock..... Jeff, Lisa, & Emily Snyder's friends
Jameson Adcock Jeff, Lisa, & Emily Snyder's friend
Dolores Clay-Barton Karen Gerber's sister
Phillip Burkhardt Lynn Oakley's friend
Caren Coleman Lynn Van Gundy's friend
Scott Davis Larry & Peggy Davis' son
Phillip Deblinger Greg & Mary Marrs' friend
Merrybeth Etherton & family Bob & Judy Winfree's daughter
Paul Gilliam Debbie Anderson's dad
Hap Hazelwood Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Stephen Houmard Rick & Pat Reass' grandson
Bruce Leinback Bill Everhart's friend
Khyla Martinez Paul & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter
Kile McKee Greg Marrs' cousin
Ginger Stanley Lynn Oakley's friend
Karen Thompson Kristen Sheffield' mother
Jack Tyler & Family Becky Irvin's brother-in-law
David Young Lynn Oakley's friend

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS 2023 GRADUATING CLASS.



DEAR FRIENDS



To all who sent cards, made telephone calls, brought beautiful flowers, sweet treats or other gifts, and still come to visit and help with errands, please except my humble thanks. You made my hospitalization and rehab easier to bear. And you've made my adjustment to being home easier.

For years my vision has been affected by floaters. Now I have developed double vision impairing my eyesight to the point that my driving has been jeopardized. So for my personal safety and the safety and well being of others I have given up driving. This decision has been a difficult one. I face this challenge with God's grace and the caring and support. Your Kindnesses are appreciated more than you know. Blessings, Alan Harvey

THE 2023 FLOWER CHART IS POSTED IN NARTHEX



You are invited to sign up for your important Sunday worship dates. Please be sure to call or email the church office the week before with bulletin information.

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATES



These 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.

ANGEL VAN DRIVERS NEEDED



We are trying to, once again, have our Angel Van offer transportation to and from our worship services on Sunday for church members who have transportation needs. We are looking for qualified drivers to help us staff this ministry.

If you have a good driving record, are at least 25 years old (to meet requirements of our church vehicle insurer) and would be willing to volunteer a couple of Sunday mornings a year before and after worship to help brothers and sisters in Christ attend worship, please call or email the church office.

A CONFIRMATION JOURNEY

On Sunday, May 21, we celebrated an important point in faith with 5 young people in our congregation, Confirmation.

On each Wednesday afternoon from the beginning of February through mid-May, several of our church's sixth grade youth – **Cody Dugger, Brooke Gunderson, Ellie Hoagland, Jackson Palomaki, and Delanie Stavres** joined with our pastor, **Dr. Negley** and church member **Connie Shipley**, for an exploration of faith. Early on, each young person was presented with a new Bible from the congregation of First Presbyterian Church. These compact, hardcover New International Version student Bibles contain a wealth of study aids suited for believers of this age. Two weeks of our Confirmation training were spent "shaking hands with the Bible." During our months together, we became familiar with the life of Jesus by reading the gospels one chapter each day.

As our months of meetings unfolded, we discussed the Christian year, the history of the Christian church and the PC(USA), worship, and personal faith. We also conducted an historical scavenger hunt around the church property, and looked at our church's confessions as we studied some banners and climbed to our church's secret hiding place. We made stoles that help express our faith in symbols. (Our heartfelt thanks go out to **Sue Henry & Cecilia Linn** for sewing these beautiful stoles this year for our Confirmands.) The young people selected six symbols with which to adorn these. They are wore their stoles on Confirmation Sunday.

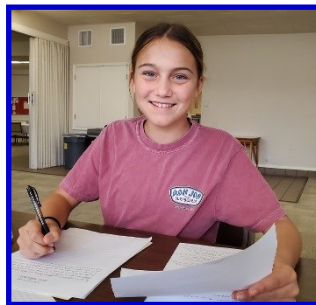
One of our Confirmation highlights was our Retreat. From 6:00 pm on Friday, May 5 to 5:45 pm on Saturday, May 6, our group was marvelously busy. After climbing the steeple and enjoying an "organ crawl" hosted by **Jeremy Rath**, our Director of Music Ministries, we started work on writing individual statements of faith. Each Confirmand was invited to respond in writing to the prompt "To me God is ..." The full copies of their statements of faith are posted on a bulletin board in McLeod Hall.

The confirmation retreat also included an early morning trip to Publix where we shopped for food for the Saturday Soup Kitchen. **For the last four hours of the 24-hour retreat, we prepared and served baked ziti with beef, salad, garlic bread, & dessert for our Saturday Soup Kitchen.**

Finally, on May 10, our young people were invited to share a meal with the Elders of the church. The conversation that night revolved around what we believe. The Session members read the statements of faith, and then joined them in responding to the questions which form the basis for membership in our church: *Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior? Do you trust Him? Do you intend to be His disciple, to obey His Word, and to show his love?*

We welcome these followers of Christ into new avenues of ministry. Please pray for these young people as they continue in their life of discipleship.





A STATEMENT OF FAITH

God is the creator. He looked at the Earth and was like "Hey, I can do something with this!" He knows me, and understands me.

To me God is a wonderful person who created his people. We are God's people, who he created for us to live.



To some people God is a great being who looks over us. Others may see him as Jesus, his son, walking around villages and healing the sick and the hurt. I see God as a presence that is always with us when we are scared or frightened. I see him inside of all of us, helping us guide a path to him.

To me God is the creator of Earth and mankind. God helps me through every struggle. God is always there for me, in school, on the baseball field, and throughout life. God will always be there with me no matter what he is with me for my best and worst times.



To me God is the GOAT (greatest of all things). He is the creator, we are the creation. The creation in which he sent his only son to die on the cross saving us from our sins.

MEALS ON WHEELS NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!



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.

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.

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:

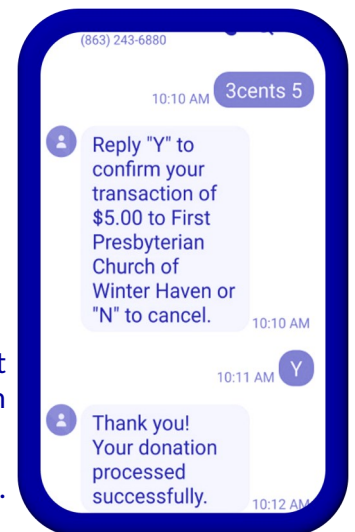
- Pledged (for your offering to be credited to your pledged amount for the current year)
- Offering (Non-pledge or undesignated gifts)
- Music (for Capital Music Campaign Organ/Music)
- 3cents (for 3 Cents-a-Meal)
- Memorial (for when donating in memory of someone)
- Special (for all other donations;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



June

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|---|------|--|
| 6/1 | Carol Carter
Luci Glenn
Barbara Perkins
Grayson Putnum | 6/8 | Pat Miller | 6/23 | Camryn Swango |
| 6/2 | Dusty Marshall | 6/9 | Laura Frost | 6/24 | Dana Elmore
Rhonda Garneau |
| 6/3 | Bob Endres
Hadley Owen | 6/11 | Spike Thompson | 6/25 | Joyce Anderson
Dicky Jeffcoat
Stella Schwenk
Jane Whitney |
| 6/4 | Shannon Badnell
Joe McKee
Sarah Rennie
Kylie Robinson | 6/12 | Richard Johnson
Karen King
John Van Allen | 6/26 | Sherry Kennedy |
| 6/5 | Manderley Barthel
Janet Lawlor
Adam Smith | 6/14 | Pam Blackburn
Sue Henry
Sadie Owen | 6/27 | Millie Kline
Emily Snyder |
| 6/7 | Ann Adams
Sue Hankin
Adam Roe | 6/15 | Lyn Swart
Julie Wilson | 6/28 | Rich Dobler |
| | | 6/16 | TJ Fellows
Kathy Lockhart | 6/29 | Brett Hunter
Clare McAdams
Brigitte Thompson |
| | | 6/19 | John Eycleshimer | 6/30 | Genie Birch
Ellie Threlkel |
| | | 6/19 | Steve Lockhart
Anna Munoz-Gutierrez | | |
| | | 6/21 | MaryBess Thompson | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | | | | | |
|-----|---|------|---|------|---|
| 6/1 | Kevin & Lynne Grady | 6/10 | Rob & Laura Frost | 6/22 | Adam & Leah Weeks |
| 6/2 | Andy & Sherie Ray | 6/10 | Steve & Kim Lockhart | 6/24 | Ron & Gail Damkjer
John & Gail Van Allen |
| 6/4 | Richard & Dana Elmore
Jim & Ellie Threlkel | 6/11 | Dick & Nancy Shaw | 6/25 | Dana & Denise Cole
Ed & Sharon Mitchell |
| 6/6 | Mark & Patti Bostick | 6/12 | Rich & Nancy Dobler
George & Ruth Dunham | 6/28 | Charles & Nancy Chilton |
| 6/8 | Steven & Jen Barthel
Spike & MaryBess Thompson | 6/13 | Bill & Gloria Allen | 6/30 | Jim & Betts Huff |
| 6/9 | Geoff & Nicole Roe
Jeff & Lisa Snyder | 6/14 | Tom & Pat Nepute | | |
| | | 6/16 | David & Carrie Mitchell | | |
| | | 6/21 | Mike & Cheryce Harris | | |

WHAT DO STEPHEN MINISTERS DO?



Stephen Ministers are members of First Pres who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to people who are facing a crisis or simply going through a difficult time. Your Stephen Minister will meet with you once a week for around an hour to listen to you, care for you, pray with and for you, and provide emotional and spiritual encouragement. Men are matched with male Stephen Ministers, women are matched with female Stephen Ministers.


To find out more about how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, 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**.

First Presbyterian Church
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This newsletter is published weekly.
Church dated material, please deliver by 5/26/23.

Return Service Requested

Bag Lunch Ministry
We gave out 187 lunches
the week of 5/5/23. 

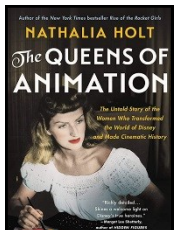
 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**
We fed 110 people on
Saturday, 5/20/23.

MOM CAREGIVER NOW HIRING



We are excited for a great year at our Morning Out Mom's ministry starting in August but in order for that to happen, we need one more staff person. Know of someone who is reliable, caring, and just a joy around young children? Would they be interested in a part-time, MOM's caregiver position? Have someone in mind and they have more questions, please contact Rev. Sarah to learn more.

BOOK CLUB



We invite you to join us **Monday, July 17 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss *The Queens of Animation* by Nathalia Holt.

We hope you will come together with us for a time of fellowship and discussion of this gripping story of how women's vital contributions were made to Disney's Golden Age and their continued impact on animated filmmaking.

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