



# TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 28, 2024 | ISSUE 946

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



The Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to Review the Pastors' Terms of Call. We will meet in the sanctuary this **Sunday, January 28** at **9:55 am**.

We need 101 members in attendance to achieve our quorum for this congregational meeting. Please plan to join us.

## SOUP KITCHEN HELP NEEDED



Would you like to help love and serve those who hunger this winter? We need head cooks & helpers for **February 10** and **all of March**.

If you can help with this very important and rewarding ministry, please sign up in McLeod Hall or call the church office.

## BLUEGRASS, BIBLE, AND BBQ SUNDAY



Be sure to mark your calendars for our **Bluegrass, Bible, and BBQ Sunday** on **February 4!** During our worship service at **10 am**, all our music for that day will be from the Bluegrass Gospel tradition. The Chancel Choir will share some oldies like *Down in the River to Pray* and *Will the Circle Be Unbroken?*. You will be able to join in on singing some favorites as well, such as *When We All Get to Heaven* and *Church in the Wildwood*.

Accompaniment for the service will be provided by our very own **Polkabilly Presbyterian Orchestra** featuring Laura Greenberg on fiddle, Nat West on banjo, James Koon on mandolin, T. Michael Stavres on guitar, and Squire Smith on the upright bass! Dr. Negley will be preaching on the parable of the prodigal son from The Gospel of Luke.

Following our worship, we will gather for a BBQ luncheon in McLeod Hall. Our menu will feature pulled pork sandwiches, baked beans, coleslaw, tea, lemonade, and Moon Pies for dessert. You won't want to miss this day of worship, praise, and fellowship!

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## 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

Robin D. Miller  
Director of Finance  
and Administration

Connie J. Shipley  
Administrative  
Assistant

Daryl D. Fenley  
Director of  
Maintenance

Tonia L. Milbry  
Custodian

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, January 28

- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (GR)
- 9:55 am Congregational Meeting (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 am Single Service Worship  
(Sanctuary/Facebook)
- 10:15 am Children Sunday School (CE 206)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

### Monday, January 29

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 6:00 pm Associate Pastor Nominating  
Committee (MH)

### Tuesday, January 30

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

### Wednesday, January 31

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)
- 1:00 pm American Mah Jongg (CE 102)
- 3:15 pm Christ's Kids (Playground)
- 5:30 pm Middle School Youth Group (GC)
- 5:00 pm Confirmation Class (GC)
- 6:00 pm Chancel Bells (MH)
- 7:00 pm Chancel Choir (Chapel)

### Thursday, February 1

- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (MH)

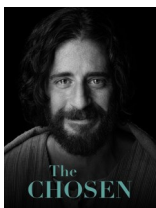
### Friday, February 2

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

### Saturday, February 3

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

## THE CHOSEN SEASON 4 PREMIERE



Our Bible Study group has finished seasons 1 through 3 of this film and discussion series.

The first three episodes of the new season are being released in theaters in February. You are invited to join us on **Sunday, February 4 at 3:15 pm** at Eagle Ridge Mall. If you would like to join us, please contact the church. For those who would like, we will carpool from the church.



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### MEMBERS

Stephen Abbott	Lynne Grady	Pat Miller
Ann Adams	Pam Gray	Edna Mitchell
Pat Berrell	Heidi Munoz-	Jeri & Tom Oldt
Kelly Butz	Gutierrez	Arletta Oriani
Orin Champlain	Ken Hart	Sharon Ramseyer
Ellie Crowder	Jane Hayman	Dick Shaw
Gail Damkjer	Wade Hoffman	Joyce Shirah
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Jim Huff	Katie Sparr
Rob Donaldy	Scott & Becky Irvin	Barbara Tackett
Dana Elmore	Joanie Kooser	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Bill Everhart	Ray & Gladys Larson	Jennifer & Mike Vibral
Gloria Goss	Lynn Lassater	Gale & Gwen Waters
Caitlyn Grady	Pat McCarty	

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Mike Bell .....	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield's friend
Donna Brannen .....	Jill Kosmensky's friend
Bobby Calvery.....	Jeff, Lisa, & Emily Snyder's friend
Rick Cheney .....	Kit Threlkel's friend
Ernie French .....	Greg & Mary Marrs' grandson-in-law
Pam Gordon.....	Zan Dismuke's friend
Brian & Anna Griffin .....	Marilyn Sheffield's niece
Mitzi Gross.....	Gale & Gwen Waters' cousin
Juan Joy.....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
John Linn.....	Sharon Mann's brother
Ada Lopez-Mendez .....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Brian Marino.....	Judy Moots' brother
Khyla Martinez .....	Paul & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter
Dick McCauley.....	Bob Hines' friend
Joe Morton.....	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield's friend
Ed & Anne Neumyer .....	Candy Marshall's friend
Ann Reddout .....	Pat Reass' friend
Dennis Ryan.....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Emily Sheffield .....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Lucinda Shelby.....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Ginger Snively-Chad.....	Peggy Davis' friend
Joyce Snively .....	Larry & Peggy Davis' friend
Randy Spiwak .....	Beth Koon-Spiwak
Ruth Thiebout .....	Lyn Swart's mother
Steve Weeks.....	Zan Dismuke's friend

### 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	

## SUNDAY MORNING HELP NEEDED BEFORE & AFTER WORSHIP IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY



We are installing a new elevator at First Pres. For at least the last two weeks of January and all of February, the only way to access the second floor of the sanctuary building will be the stairs or a new temporary ramp. On Sunday mornings, we will have wheelchairs available for those who would like to use the ramp.

If you would be willing to volunteer to help push people in wheelchairs up and down the ramps before and after worship, please email the church office ([cshipley@firstpreswh.org](mailto:cshipley@firstpreswh.org)) and let us know what Sundays you would be available. Thank you for your assistance.

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY



The membership committee has decided that we will produce a new church pictorial directory in house. When completed, every church family will have at their finger tips pictures, address and contact information for the entire congregation.

You can submit your photo in a JPG or PNG format (not PDF) to [cshipley@firstpreswh.org](mailto:cshipley@firstpreswh.org). If you prefer, a committee or church staff member will be happy to take your picture Sunday after worship, or during office hours.

Please email your contact info if you have had any recent changes. Example, you have eliminated your land line.

## WINTER HAVEN QUILTERS MEET AT FIRST PRES



Winter Haven Quilters is a fun group open all who are interested in quilting and fellowship. Meeting twice monthly, it is a time of sharing quilting skills and tips, quilt patterns and ideas, and usually schedules lunch together and a field trip each year. The group's main outreach is to create small quilts to give to the Sheriff Department which are dispensed by deputies to those in need. The highlight of the year is a lunch with Sheriff Grady Judd and staff where the quilts are presented to the department.

The next meetings are on **Mondays, February 5 & 19, from 10 am to noon** in McLeod Hall. Please come visit or join us. No previous quilting experience necessary! Contact Sue Henry for more information at (863)656-2611.

## THE SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The annual *Souper Bowl of Caring* football game will be **Sunday, February 11 at 2 pm** at the Polk State College soccer fields! Come join as the Geezers & Youth tackle hunger together.

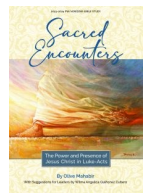


Bring your canned goods donations to the church any time from now until the end of February to support our Feeding the Hungry ministry. Thank you!

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDIES

The *Lydia and Joy Circles* Bible Study is *Sacred Encounters* by Olive Mahabir.

The *Lydia Circle* meets on the **3rd Thursday** of each month. The next meeting is on **February 15 at 10 am** in McLeod Hall.



The *Joy Circle* meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month. The next meeting is on **February 20, at 10 am** at Carol Carter's.

Our circles are open to any and all women of the church interested in fellowship and Bible study.

## AMERICAN MAH JONGG LESSONS

Please join us for the fascinating game of *American Mah Jongg*. Spend a fun and relaxing couple of hours in fellowship with your First Pres family.



Don't know how to play? No worries. We will teach you. We meet weekly on **Wednesdays from 1 to 3 pm** in the **Christian Education Building** in room 102.

If you would like to play or learn to play, please contact Sharon Mitchell at 863-585-0170.

## FUTURE BOOK CLUB SELECTIONS

**MARCH 18**

*Running with Sherman* by Christopher McDougall

**MAY 20**

*Riders of the Purple Sage* by Zane Gray

**JULY 15**

*One Summer America 1927* by Bill Bryson

**SEPTEMBER 16**

*The Wright Brothers* by David McCullough

**NOVEMBER 18**

*Mr. Dickens & His Carol* by Samantha Silva

Mark your calendar to join us at **3 pm** in McLeod Hall to discuss.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

### FOR CHILDREN



Sunday School continues for our children (PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade) growing in God's love after the time with younger disciples in worship service (**10:15-11:00am**), meeting in **CE room 206**. And ART Sundays will meet in **Room 207**. Come grow with us.

### FOR ADULTS



Our current adult Sunday school class series is *The History of the Bible: The Making of the New Testament Canon*. It meets at **9 am** in the Geneva Room. Together we will explore the foundational New Testament books, and answer basic questions about when, their purpose, and why they were finally collected into the Bible as we know it with video lectures from a University of North Carolina Professor of Religious Studies. Come learn with us this year and grow deeper in your faith.

## THE 2024 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.

## ANGELS CARE CENTER NEEDS



Angels Care Center is a free, faith-based medical clinic that serves the poor and needy of Eloise and Wahnetta areas. In addition to medical care, they make and distribute toiletry kits, first aid kits and children's kits to their patients and their families. They also reach out into the greater community and give kits to additional organization serving needy people including Salvation Army, Farmworkers Ministry, HEARTH (serving homeless in schools) and others.

Angels Care Center has an ongoing need for the following items to give out in kits to patients and families. Thank you for your donations—they are a blessing to so many people, and truly an expression of God's love and care for His children. Items may be placed in the collection box in McLeod Hall.

**First Aid Kits:** band-aids, wet wipes, small soaps, washcloths, Q-tips, cotton balls, small bacterial soap or hand sanitizer, Kleenex, etc.

**Toiletry Kits:** shampoo, soap, deodorant, razors, toothbrush & toothpaste, combs, lotion, hand gel, washcloths, small samples from hotel/motels, dental floss, etc.

**Children's "Jesus Kits":** coloring sheets with Biblical themes, crayons, stickers, small books, small containers of Play Doh, small safe toys, toy cars, children's toothbrushes & hair clips

**Miscellaneous:** zip lock bags (quart and gallon sizes)

## 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 email list.

## COME MAKE MUSIC WITH US!

Have you ever thought about participating in our ensembles here at church? Now is your chance! Even if you don't read music, you are more than welcome to join us in ringing and singing music together (music literacy is not a requirement to join – in fact, not all of our musicians read music!).



On **Wednesday evenings**, *Chancel Bells* rehearses from **6 to 7** and *Chancel Choir* rehearses from **7 to 8:15**. *Chapel Bells* is a smaller bell group that plays easier music. We are always looking for more members, too! We rehearse on **Thursday** afternoons from **1:15 to 2:15**.

We are a fun group of people who love making music with each other for the Lord! Weekly rehearsals will take place in McLeod Hall until the new elevator installation is completed.



# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/1 Gary Salomon	2/10 Ethan Boland	2/22 Neal McBride
2/2 Karen Clarke	2/11 Lesley Johnston	Susan Singleton
Bob Gerber	2/12 Ron Dunham	Gail Van Allen
Leah Weeks	Mike Vibral	2/23 Casey Cheatham
2/3 Marjorie Putnum	2/13 Leland Miller	Bill Everhart
Charlie Roe	Eric Roe	Kathryn McAllister
2/5 Kevin Britt	2/14 Marj Crittenden	Bob Sheffield
2/6 Zan Dismuke	2/15 Daryl Fenley	2/24 Cathey Lane
Ann King	2/16 Jenna Johnston	Teresa Negley
Steve Lockhart	Kade Rabern	Drew Powell
Tracy Scheck	JW Scheck	2/25 Thom Rivers
2/7 Tom Wales	2/17 Marie Able	Kassady von Hahmann
2/8 Steffan Bentley	2/18 Kristan Sheffield	2/26 Betts Huff
Chase Reineke	2/19 Matt McGaffigan	Nat West
Argyle Stevens	Edna Mitchell	2/27 Joe Badnell
2/9 Augie Andrews	2/21 Donna Rounsley	2/28 Pam Gray
Vincent Centonze	Squire Smith	Jane Hayman
Collins Counter	2/22 Lynn Aaron	Connie Minich
Kevin Thomas	Winston Cranmer	

## ANNIVERSARIES

2/1 Janie & Bob Hammette	2/14 Norman & Bonnie Patrick
2/2 Gus & Shannon Badnell	2/17 Ross & Jill Kosmensky
George & Kelly Butz	2/19 Ron & Kris Dunham
Greg & Shelly Prather	2/21 Hunter & Jennifer Smith
2/6 Randy & Beth Spiwak	2/22 Adam & Erin Cranmer
2/11 Bob & Shirley Hines	2/24 Bob & Lisa Endres
2/12 Fred & Kathleen Deloach	

## A GREAT WAY YOU CAN HELP A HURTING FRIEND



Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who has suffered a loss or is going through a difficult time? Here's a great way you can help them--tell them about our Stephen Ministry! Stephen Ministers are members of First Presbyterian Church who have received special training to provide high quality, confidential, one-to-one, Christian care to hurting people. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receivers to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. (Males are matched with males, and females are matched with females.) The caring relationship lasts for as long as the person needs care. It's free, and it's a powerful way you can help a hurting friend.

To learn how to connect someone you know 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, Barbara Perkins, or Lisa Snyder.** Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

## 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>.

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**This newsletter is published weekly.**

Church dated material, please deliver by 1/26/24.

**Return Service Requested**

#### Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 208 lunches  
the week of 1/15/24.



#### Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 102 people on  
Saturday, 1/20/24.

## THE SEASON OF LENT IS ALMOST UPON US

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER



Join your church family around the table with a delicious pancake supper on **February 13 at 6 pm** in McLeod Hall. We'll do some fun Mardi Gras activities and of course, the highly anticipated pancake race! Other options will be available for children who do not eat pancakes.

You don't want to miss it.

### LENTEN DEVOTIONALS



Be sure to pick up your copy of this year's family Lenten Daily Devotional. Each day you'll have a simple scripture to read, and word of the day to take a picture in your life that reflects that word. There will also be opportunities to share those photos through our church Facebook page. Printed copies can be picked up in the Narthex or downloaded from our church website.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

We hope you will join your friends in Christ at our **Ash Wednesday** service on **February 14 at 6:30 pm** in the sanctuary.



You will hear the Word proclaimed, and have the opportunity to be marked with ashes as you begin your own Lenten journey to the cross.

### FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

The season of Lent continues on **Sunday, February 18**. We will start our walk to the Cross with a celebration of the Lord's Supper at our **10 am** worship service. We hope you will join us throughout Lent in worship, faith formation, and Christian service.

