



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FEBRUARY 25, 2024 | ISSUE 950

AN ADDITIONAL SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY FOR LENT!



The Session is pleased to announce an **Early Sunday Morning Lenten Chapel Worship Service**. Running thru **March 24**, members and friends of First Pres will be able to choose to worship in the chapel at **8 am**, OR the sanctuary at **10 am**.

We plan to focus on the same scriptures at both Sunday services as we sing, pray, and reflect together on God's Word each week. (There will not be children's Sunday school offered during the **8 am** hour, but the pastors will include A Time with Younger Disciples in the service with any children who might attend.) Both Sunday worship services will include a variety of styles of offering our praise to God through music.

We hope you will join us each Sunday in Lent at one of our worship gatherings.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS



Be sure to pick up your copy of this year's family Lenten Daily Devotional Calendar. 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.

EASTER CANDY COLLECTION



Our celebration of Christ's resurrection with a children's Easter Egg Hunt will be happening on **Easter Sunday, March 31 at 9:30 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. And don't forget your Easter basket and camera for a wonderful morning when we hide and hunt for the eggs on the playground.

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, February 25

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

- 8:00 am Early Morning Lenten Chapel Worship Service
- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (GR)
- 10:00 am Sanctuary Worship (Sanctuary/Facebook)
- 10:15 am Children Sunday School (CE 206)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, February 26

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

Tuesday, February 27

- 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)
- 6:15 pm Worship & Music (UR)

Wednesday, February 28

- 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 29

- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (MH)

Friday, March 1

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, March 2

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

THE CHOSEN SEASON 4, 4-6



For *The Chosen* Season 4, Episodes 4-6, we will go to the theater and watch on our own.

Then we will come together on **Sunday, March 3, 5:30-7 pm** in McLeod Hall for a covered dish discussion.

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.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

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

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Mike Bell	Bob & Marilyn Sheffield's friend
Donna Brannen	Jill Kosmensky's friend
Rick Cheney	Kit Threlkel's friend
Mason Dorsey	Bob & Carol Carter's nephew
Ernie French	Greg & Mary Marrs' grandson-in-law
Lisa Golden.....	Bethany Owen's friend
Pam Gordon.....	Zan Dismuke's friend
Cole Gorham	Tom & Polly Ritter's grandson
Brian & Anna Griffin	Marilyn Sheffield's niece
Mitzi Gross	Gale & Gwen Waters' cousin
Hobby Jeffrey.....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel
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
Ann Reddout	Pat Reass' friend
Jack Robinson	Gale Waters' cousin
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's friend
Randy Spiwak	Beth Koon-Spiwak
Ruth Thiebout	Lyn Swart's mother
Isaac Tillman	Tim & Jane Tillman's grandson
Steve Weeks	Zan Dismuke's friend

MILITARY

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

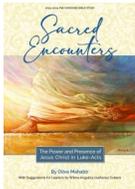
SOUP KITCHEN HELP NEEDED



Would you like to help love and serve those who hunger this winter? We need head cooks & helpers for **March 2, 9, 23, & 30.**

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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BIBLE STUDIES



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

The Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month. The next meeting is on **March 19, at 10 am** at Carol Carter's.

The Lydia Circle meets on the **3rd Thursday** of each month. The next meeting is on **March 21 at 10 am** in McLeod Hall.

The Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month. The next meeting is on **March 19, at 10 am** at Carol Carter's.

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24



On the Christian calendar, Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter. The name comes from the triumphal entry of Jesus into the holy city of Jerusalem and how the people waved branches taken from the palm trees to celebrate Jesus' arrival. Palm Sunday is often marked in churches with songs of praise and the joyful shouts of God's children.

We invite you to join us on **Sunday, March 24 at 8 or 10 am** to add your voice to the chorus of praise.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31



The Community Sunrise Service will be held in Martin Luther King Jr. Park on Lake Silver at **6:30 am.**

Easter breakfast will be served in McLeod Hall from **8:45 until 9:45 am.** If you would be willing to help cook or serve at breakfast contact the church office.

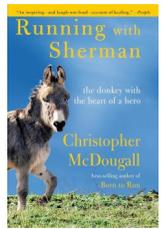
The Easter Egg Hunt will meet on the CE building front steps at **9:30 am.**

We will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ at the **10 am** Single Worship Service.

MARCH BOOK CLUB

We will meet on **Monday, March 18 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss *Running with Sherman*, by Christopher McDougal.

We hope you will join us for this heartwarming story about training a rescue donkey to run one of the most challenging races in America.



FUNTIMERS

Our next FunTimers event will be on **Thursday, March 21.** We will meet in McLeod Hall at **10:30 am** then travel to the historic Hotel Jacaranda in Avon Park. There we will enjoy an elegant, casual dining experience. The cost is the price of your lunch.



Please RSVP by signing up in McLeod Hall or calling or emailing the church office. And bring a friend!

AMERICAN MAH JONGG

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. We meet weekly on **Wednesdays from 1 to 3 pm** in the **Christian Education Building** in room **102.**



GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

The Chapel will be open for prayer and meditation on **Good Friday, March 29, Noon-3 pm.**

EASTER LILY FORM

It is time to order your Easter lily for **Easter Sunday, March 31.** 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 \$16 per plant. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked "Easter Lily Fund".



Please turn form in by **Monday, March 25.**

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: \$ _____

FIRST PRES PICTORIAL DIRECTORY CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

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 fingertips pictures, addresses, and contact information for the entire congregation.

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

We would also like to be sure we have your most current contact info. So please email, along with your picture, or fill out this form:

Last Name: _____ Address: _____

Family Members: _____

FM Name: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT APRIL 13-14 AT CEDARKIRK



Registration is now open for a weekend away with our theme, *Building Blocks of Life: The LEGO Movie Building the Body of Christ*. 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. Let's build a stronger body in Christ together.

SAVE THE DATE VBS JUNE 9-13



We'll be gathering around the campfire at *Vacation Bible School's Camp Firelight*. Save the date and be sure to join us as a camper or counselor at this Summer Camp Adventure with God!

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

FOR CHILDREN

Sunday School continues for our children (PreK-5th 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.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3/1	Sarah Bishop Anne McBride Madelaine Scamehorn	3/12	Joel Price	3/21	Karen Siegel
3/2	Gus Badnell Rob Frost Diane Repass	3/13	Larry Lincoski	3/23	Ed Rounsley Randy Spiwak
3/3	Fred DeLoach Dick Wales	3/14	Richard Elmore Bonnie Patrick	3/25	Jim Gray III Amy Powell Destiny Rivers
3/4	Don Reckenbeil	3/16	Madison Britt Jim Montgomery Mark Wilson	3/26	Peyten Palo Addison Putnam Adam Weeks Carson Weeks
3/5	Judy Moots Shelly Prather John Strang Polly Wilson	3/17	Pat Davidson Jay Dugger Bryce Snively	3/27	Mary Ellen Porter Cheryl Price Joyce Wander
3/8	Jared Lockhart Tom Oldt	3/18	Nancy Brooks Nicholas Glenn Marion Hearn Miller Thompson	3/29	Nolan Roe Declan Wichrowski
3/9	Lynn Boland Allen Miller Emma Skipper Aaron Thibodaux	3/19	Richard Chilton Marcie Dershimer Paul Palo Joey Volpe	3/30	Karl Duce Pat Nepute Debbie Shinn
3/10	David J. Alexander Gayle Johnston Teri Reineke Mary Ellen Rowker Sophie Summers	3/20	Becca Alexander Ross Kosmensky Bonnie Ryan Delanie Stavres Nancy Chilton	3/31	Courtney Croteau Heidi Hook David Matha Marilyn Schleifer
		3/21	Agnes Harland		

ANNIVERSARIES

3/1	Mike & Jennifer Vibral	3/14	James & Debbie Shinn	3/23	Bill & Kathy Lockhart
3/2	Ben & Ellie Crowder	3/15	Bill & Becky Everhart	3/24	Dru & Nichole Gainey
3/4	Warren & Charlene Glenn	3/18	Joel & Cheryl Price	3/25	John & Teri Reineke
3/9	Rick & Julie Dantzler	3/21	Jerry & Teresa Renney	3/27	Daniel & Erin Miller
3/10	Tim & Jane Tillman	3/22	Deane & Jonye Briggs	3/29	April & Kyle Porter
3/13	Chase & Sarah Counter	3/22	Bill & Carol Roe		

IT'S OKAY TO BE HUMAN . . .



We're brought up to be strong, self-sufficient, independent people. We tend to think that if we ask for help, it is a sign of weakness. So we try to keep our struggles hidden, stuffed deep inside. However, that's not God's plan. **Galatians 6:2** says "*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*" God wants us to care for others--and allow others to care for us in our time of need.

If you're sad or struggling inside, don't suffer alone. Ask for help. We've got a team of Stephen Ministers who are ready to listen, care, encourage, pray, and help you through a tough time. Men are matched with men, and women with women. (It's completely confidential too!) To learn more about Stephen Ministry for yourself or someone you know call **Connie Shipley**. Or you can talk with one of our other **Stephen Leaders: Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Lisa Snyder**. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you.

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>.

First Presbyterian Church
637 6th Street, NW
Winter Haven, FL 33881

863-294-3121
www.firstpreswh.org
office@firstpreswh.org
Facebook.com/FPCWinterHaven

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This newsletter is published weekly.

Church dated material, please deliver by 2/23/24.

Return Service Requested

Bag Lunch Ministry
We gave out 240 lunches
the week of 2/12/24.



 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**
We fed 80 people on
Saturday, 2/17/24.

MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP: *THE LIVING LAST SUPPER*



On March 28 at 6:30 pm we will observe the service of Maundy Thursday in our Sanctuary. This is the night where Jesus and the disciples celebrated the Passover in the Upper Room on the eve of Jesus' crucifixion. The word "maundy" comes from the Latin "mandatum" which means "commandment." After the Thirteen had eaten their "Last Supper" together, Jesus washed His disciples' feet and gave them a "new commandment." In John 13:34, Jesus says: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."

Our Maundy Thursday service this year will transport us back to the Upper Room on that somber final Passover that Jesus celebrated with his friends. The chancel of our church will be transformed into the iconic image of Leonardo DaVinci's masterpiece, "The Last Supper." Thirteen men from our congregation will portray the images of Jesus and the Twelve around the table that night. Each disciple will share a monologue; their own private thoughts on the evening and what is to come in the hours ahead. Interspersed between the monologues will be anthems sung by our Chancel Choir. Following the drama, the cast, choir, and congregation will Celebrate the Lord's Supper together as God's redeemed people. You will not want to miss this unique worship experience as we present *The Living Last Supper* by composer Ruth Elaine Schram.

SUNDAY MORNING HELP NEEDED BEFORE & AFTER WORSHIP



We are installing a new elevator at First Pres. The only way to access the second floor of the sanctuary building is the stairs or a 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 (cshiplew@firstpreswh.org) and let us know what Sundays you would be available. Thank you for your assistance.