



# TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN  
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | SEPTEMBER 29, 2024 | ISSUE 979

## A FANNY CROSBY HYMN FESTIVAL



You may not be familiar with the name of Fanny Crosby, but her hymn texts have helped shape the faith of thousands of Christians around the globe.

Fanny was a 19<sup>th</sup>-century American hymn writer, poet, musician, and missionary. She penned more than 8,000 hymn texts and gospel songs; some of which include: *To God Be the Glory*, *Blessed Assurance*, and *Rescue the Perishing*. Blinded by a physician when she was just a baby, Fanny did not let her blindness hinder her music or her incredible faith.

Come hear her fascinating story and sing her songs this **Sunday, September 29 at 2:00 pm** in the Sanctuary.

## WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

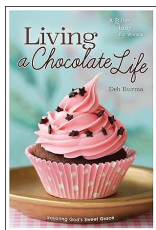


The first Sunday in **October** is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. We will celebrate this special **Sunday, October 6** at both our services at **8 & 10 am**, highlighted by communion.

Following the 10 am service, you are invited to join your church family in McLeod Hall for a time of fellowship. We will enjoy a luncheon of breads & spreads with a deli meat platter hosted by our Worship & Music Committee.

Let us come together and celebrate God's grace, mercy, and peace that truly stretches around the world.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The *Lydia and Joy Circles* have begun a new Bible Study: *Living a Chocolate Life* by Deb Burma.

**The Joy Circle** meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month, the next meeting is **October 15 at 10:00 am** at Carol Carter's house.

**The Lydia Circle** meets on the **3rd Thursday** of each month, the next meeting is **October 17 at 10:00 am** in the Manor Conference Room in the church office.

## 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

Dr. Fred R. Halde  
Parish Associate for  
Visitation

Jeremy T. Rath  
Director of  
Music Ministries

Jenna V. Wall  
Youth Team  
Coordinator

Robin D. Miller  
Director of Finance  
and Administration

Connie J. Shipley  
Administrative  
Assistant

Daryl D. Fenley  
Director of  
Maintenance

## THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Sunday, September 29

- 8:00 am Chapel Worship
- 9:00 am Adult Sunday School (GR)
- 10:00 am Sanctuary Worship
- 10:15 am Children Sunday School (CE 104)
- 2:00 pm Hymn Sing (Sanctuary)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

### Monday, September 30

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

### Tuesday, October 1

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH)
- 6:30 pm Session (MH)

### Wednesday, October 2

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

### Thursday, October 3

- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (MH)

### Friday, October 4

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

### Saturday, October 5

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

## FALL WORSHIP



Members and friends of First Pres are able to choose to worship in the chapel at **8:00 am**, OR the sanctuary (hope springs eternal) at **10:00 am**.

We 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 a children's Sunday school offered during the 8:00 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 include a variety of styles of offering our praise to God through music. We hope you will join us this fall at one of our worship gatherings.



## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

### MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Ken Hart	Norm Patrick
Orrin Champlain	Jane Hayman	Kim Powell
Charles Chilton	Wade & Sandy Hoffman	Sharon Ramseyer
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Betts Huff	Pat Reass
Rob Donaldy	Scott & Becky Irvin	Dick & Nancy Shaw
Richard & Dana Elmore	Joanie Kooser	Joyce Shirah
Bill Everhart	Ray & Gladys Larson	Katie Sparr
Gloria Goss	Lynn Lassater	Linda Stavres
Caitlyn Grady	Kyle Lease	Barbara Tackett
Lynne Grady	Pat McCarty	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Pam Gray	Pat Miller	Jennifer & Mike Vibrat
Heidi Munoz-Gutierrez	Edna Mitchell	Gale & Gwen Waters
	Tom Oldt	

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

Chad Anderson .....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Sara Cliett .....	Kalen West's friend
Pat Cokewell .....	David Lane's mother
Diane Conaly .....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Jenny Crane .....	Gail Van Allen's friend
Bryan Howard .....	Janet Howard's son
Erik Johansson .....	Steve & Debbie Sowards' friend
Juan Joy .....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Tamara Keyes .....	Bethany Owen's mom
Ada Lopez-Mendez .....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
James & Eileen Martin .....	Jane West's friends
Jeannie Martin .....	Rich Dobler's sister
Khyla Martinez .....	Paul & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter
Heather Nelson .....	Janet Howard's friend
Ann Reddout .....	Pat & Rick Reass' friend
Karen Sadler-Banks .....	Lee & Pam Wilkinson's friend
Charles Sample .....	Marilyn Sheffield's brother
Bob & Nikki Shade .....	Richard Elmore's friends
Craig Smith .....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Barbara Spinella .....	Greg & Mary Marrs' friend
Lyric Taylor .....	Arletta Oriani's friend
Nadine Waters-Robbins .....	Gail Damkjer's friend
Danny Williams .....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel'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	

## THE CHOSEN



You are invited to join us on **Sunday, October 13, 5 - 7 pm** in McLeod Hall to watch a Bible round table for season 4 from *The Chosen*, 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.

## FUNTIMERS

### (OUR 55+ FELLOWSHIP GROUP)



Come out and enjoy a Classic Car Show and luncheon on **Monday, October 21, from 11:30 am to 1 pm.**

We'll spend a little time around the lunch (menu: sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks.) tables in McLeod Hall then head out to the parking lot to take a trip down memory lane with some jewels from the past. The cost is \$6.

Call or email the church office so we can plan for lunch. Then come and join the fun and fellowship with your church friends and family.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



We are in need of help bagging lunches for our hungry community. If you would like to join other volunteers on the **first Monday of each month at 10 am**, please call the church office.

## A DISCUSSION STARTER ON END OF LIFE ISSUES

Have you thought about:



The person I want to make care decisions for me when I can't?  
The kind of medical treatment I want or don't want?  
How comfortable do I want to be?  
How I want people to treat me?  
What I want my loved ones to know?  
What would I like included in my funeral or memorial service?

Please join us, **Tuesday, October 29 from 5:30-6:30 pm** in the Golden Center youth house. Dr. Negley will be discussing "Five Wishes", a document which helps open the discussion on these important topics. To reserve your spot at the table, you can call or email the church office, or sign up in McLeod Hall.

## TRUNK OR TREAT

We are planning another incredible afternoon of candy, fellowship and fun. We will be hosting our annual Trunk Or Treat on **Sunday, October 27 from 5 to 6 pm.**



We are in need of decorated trunks and candy. If you can bring your decorated vehicle, please sign up in the church office or on the board in the Narthex. You can also drop off bags of candy in McLeod Hall.

Please come join the fun! Any questions can be sent to Rev. Sarah, [sbishop@firstpreswh.org](mailto:sbishop@firstpreswh.org).

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School has returned for our children (PreK-5th grade) after the Time with Younger Disciples in the 10:00 am worship service. Class meets in **CE room 206**. And ART Sundays meet in **Room 207**. We are excited for a year where together, kids experience God's greatest gift, being Simply Loved.



## ADULT'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Adult Sunday School has begun a new series, *The Story of the Bible*, meeting at **9:00 am** in the **Geneva Room**. In our fall lessons they will join a New Testament professor in videos discussing the four stages of the history, process, critical periods and even recovery of



# UPDATE FOR OUR AIR-CONDITIONING AND ELECTRICAL SERVICE

Dear Members,

I'd like to provide an update on the current power situation at the church sanctuary, which is preventing us from using the space. After investigating, we've confirmed that the main power supply from TECO is functioning properly, and there are no issues on their end. The problem lies where the electrical feed enters our main switch gear that distributes power across the campus. The main breaker has failed and is experiencing what's known as phantom electrical pulses, causing it to trip repeatedly.

We've been working closely with both our electrician and an electrical engineer to explore all viable options for powering the existing breaker while a long-term solution is put in place. Due to the age of our electrical system, we tried installing a reconditioned breaker, but unfortunately, it made the situation worse. As a result, we had to reinstall the original breaker to maintain some level of normal operation while we continue to work toward a permanent fix.

Our current situation is that we are in discussions with the manufacturer of the main breaker (Square D Company), and they are working on designing a workaround. This would involve replacing the outdated breaker with a modernized one, but it requires reconfiguring some internal components of the main distribution system. Unfortunately, the lead time for this permanent solution is estimated to be 6-8 months.

In the meantime, we have been working with the electrical engineer and electrician to find a temporary bypass for the main breaker that complies with all safety codes and won't impact the rest of the electrical systems. This temporary solution would involve modifying the existing breaker to function as a switch. By doing so, we would still maintain the necessary protections required by electrical codes at all sub-panels and implement a lockout/tagout procedure on the main distribution panel.

This approach should allow us to resume normal operations until the new breaker is designed and installed. Once we've finalized all the necessary verifications, we expect to complete this temporary solution within the next two weeks.

We are currently facing a significant challenge, and we are doing everything we can to resolve the situation as quickly as possible. While we wish this were a simpler issue, it is unfortunately a rare and complex one, requiring more time than usual to fully understand and safely address. Rest assured, we are working diligently to resolve it and will continue to keep everyone updated on our progress.

In Christ,

*Gannon Olmert*

Chair of Buildings and Grounds Committee

## 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.

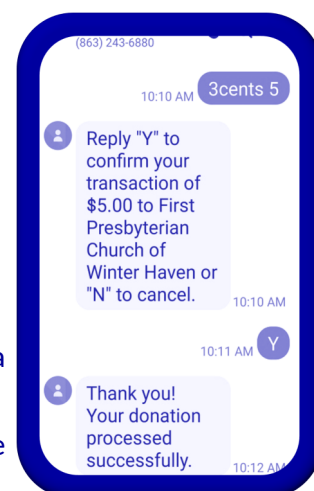
### Keywords are:

- 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**.





# OCTOBER

## BIRTHDAYS

10/1	Ben Garner Steve Luxford Jackson Palomaki Lee Wilkinson	10/11	Matthew Gray Ken Hart Lynn Oakley Cori Swango	10/25	Bob Bentley Bill Siegel
10/2	Ruth Dunham Dick Shaw Kyle Von Hahmann	10/14	Brenda Darte	10/26	Lucie Broyles Martha Burke Bill G. Roe, II
10/3	Sophie Maggard Mele Souza	10/15	Linda Bors Susan Smith	10/27	Leah Melvin Jon Powell
10/4	Pam Baker Karen Gerber	10/18	Bob Hines Arletta Oriani Brittaney Roe	10/29	Julie Dantzler Rossanne Gorsky James Powell Steve Stapor Gwen Waters
10/5	Tilley Montney Jeff Snyder	10/19	Joan Chilton	10/30	Kathy Lockhart Mike Seney Pam Wilkinson
10/6	Karen Alexander Nicole Roe	10/21	Chelle Doyel Abigail Porter	10/31	Richard Baker Caitlyn Grady Sara Koon Dorian Miller Ed Mitchell
10/7	Whitney Dunham	10/22	Jonye Briggs Mary Alice Kennedy		
10/8	Jill Kosmensky Jessica Wilson	10/23	Mark Bostick Olivia Glenn Howard Rambeau Pat Vobornik		
10/9	Michael Baragona	10/24	Reed Dial Jenna Wall		
10/9	Laura Gaye Dunham				
10/11	Al Goetz				

## ANNIVERSARIES

10/1	Mike & Amy McGee	10/17	Wade & Sandy Hoffman	10/25	Gannon & Amanda Olmert
10/2	Jared & Chalsey Lockhart	10/20	David & Theresa Kalb	10/26	Scott & Rusty Hart
10/9	Pete & Missie Snively	10/21	Thom & Amanda Rivers	10/27	James & Patricia Dexter
10/11	Bill & Susan Taylor	10/23	Sam & Kristan Sheffield	10/31	Don & Norma Martin
10/15	Keith & Marjorie Putnum	10/24	John & Cheryl Marchetti Leland & Elizabeth Miller		
10/16	Paul & Debbie Rubner				

## STEPHEN MINISTERS ARE CARE-GIVERS, GOD IS THE CURE-GIVER.



The role of a Stephen Minister is to give care. They listen, empathize, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support on a weekly basis to hurting people for as long as the need persists. God works in and through them to bring hope and healing.

If you are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, struggling through a difficult time, or simply find yourself stressed by everyday life, call Connie Shipley at 863-221-2224. Or you can talk with one of our other Stephen Leaders: Mary Marrs, Steve Negley, or Lisa Snyder to learn more about Stephen Ministry. 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 9/27/24.

**Return Service Requested**

### Bag Lunch Ministry

We gave out 224 lunches  
the week of 9/16/24.



### Soup Kitchen Ministry

We fed 130 people on  
Saturday, 9/21/24.

## CHRIST'S KIDS



Our faith-based after-school program, Christ's Kids continues **Wednesdays at 3:15 pm** on the playground till 5:30pm. Preschool age through 5<sup>th</sup> grade kids will remember 'we are God's accomplishments, created in Christ Jesus to do good things'. (Eph. 2:10) Contact Rev. Sarah for more information.

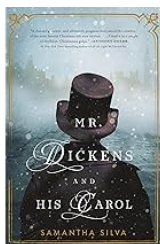
## YOUTH GROUPS

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



Come join us for another awesome year of food, fellowship, and faith building!

## NOVEMBER BOOK CLUB



We will meet on **Monday, November 18 at 3 pm** in McLeod Hall as we discuss **Mr. Dickens & His Carol** by Samantha Silva.

We hope you will join us for this charming, comic, and ultimately poignant story about the creation of the most famous Christmas tale ever written, A Christmas Carol.

## SOUP KITCHEN HELP NEEDED

Would you like to help love and serve those who hunger? We need head cooks for **Saturdays, October 5 & 12** and helpers for **October 5, 12, & 26.**



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

## CHOIR AND BELLS



**Chancel Bells** rehearses every **Wednesday evening** from 6:00 - 7:00 in McLeod Hall.

**Chancel Choir** rehearses on **Wednesday evening** from 7:00 - 8:15 in McLeod Hall.

**Chapel Bells** rehearses every **Thursday afternoon** from 1:15 - 2:15 in McLeod Hall.

For more information, please call Jeremy at the church office or email him at [jrath@firstpreswh.org](mailto:jrath@firstpreswh.org).