



TOWER CHIMES

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WINTER HAVEN
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 1, 2024 | ISSUE 988

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated **this Sunday, December 1, the First Sunday of Advent**. Prepare your heart to come to the Lord's Table.

FUNTIMERS (OUR 55+ FELLOWSHIP GROUP)



Thursday, December 5 will be the FunTimers Christmas Party! We will meet at **11:30 am** in McLeod Hall for a catered lunch of holiday mixed greens salad, pork loin, zucchini medley, mashed potatoes, rolls & butter, and dessert. The cost of lunch will be \$15 cash. Please sign up in McLeod Hall or call the office to RSVP.

Our program will be Carols and Christmas Songs through the ages with a special surprise!

SOUP KITCHEN HELP NEEDED



Would you like to help love and serve those who hunger? We need a **head cook** for **December 7** and **head cook & helpers** for **December 28**.

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

NATIVITY SHOW AND TELL



Join us on **Sunday, December 8**, immediately following the 10 am worship service for our **Nativity Show and Tell**. Please feel free to bring one of your favorite Nativities to share with those attending the lunch. (If your Nativity is extra special, you can set it up following the lunch, to make sure it's safe and sound.) We will have sandwiches and "donkey/camel" nuggets for the children to enjoy. A fun nativity craft will be provided for the kids. Come celebrate the Advent Season with your friends from First Pres.

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
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, December 1 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT COMMUNION

- 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)
- 5:30 pm High School Youth Group (GC)

Monday, December 2

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

Tuesday, December 3

- 9:00 am Staff Meeting (MCR)
- 12:00 pm Men's Lunch (MH)
- 5:00 pm Stephen Minister Leaders (MCR)
- 6:00 pm Stephen Ministers (MCR)
- 6:30 pm Session (MH)

Wednesday, December 4

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

Thursday, December 5

- 11:30 pm FunTimers Christmas Lunch (MH)
- 1:15 pm Chapel Bells (MH)

Friday, December 6

- 8:45 am Morning Out Mom (CE)

Saturday, December 7

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

THE CHOSEN



You are invited to join us on **Sunday, December 8, 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.

SUMMER SURVEYS



The Session would like to thank those people in the congregation who responded to our summer survey regarding church programs. Information

for the survey is being reviewed by Session.



REMEMBER IN PRAYER

MEMBERS

Ann Adams	Jane Hayman	Gutierrez
Orrin Champlain	Wade & Sandy Hoffman	Norm Patrick
Charles Chilton	Scott & Becky Irvin	Kim Powell
Marjorie DiLorenzo	Joanie Kooser	Sharon Ramseyer
Rob Donaldy	Ross Kosmensky	Dick & Nancy Shaw
Richard & Dana Elmore	Ray & Gladys Larson	Suzanne Sherry
Bill Everhart	Lynn Lassater	Katie Sparr
Dolly Goetz	Steve Lockhart	Linda Stavres
Gloria Goss	Pat McCarty	Barbara Tackett
Caitlyn Grady	Pat Miller	Jay Tackett
Lynne Grady	Edna Mitchell	Pam Tallent-Blackburn
Pam Gray	Heidi Munoz-	Glenn Thomas

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Diane Conaly.....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Sean Duerr.....	Saturday Nite Live Drew's friend
Kim Hastings.....	Kelli Ivey's sister
Erik Johansson.....	Steve & Debbie Sowards' friend
Juan Joy.....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Misty Judd.....	Lynn Oakley's friend
Tamara Keyes.....	Bethany Owen's mom
Brian Marino.....	Jody Moots' brother
Ada Lopez-Mendez.....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend
Khyla Martinez.....	Paul & Anne Montgomery's granddaughter
Carroll Negley.....	Steve Negley's mother
Patty Oakley.....	Lynn Oakley's daughter-in-law
Ann Reddout.....	Pat & Rick Reass' friend
John Shoberg.....	Saturday Nite Live Drew's friend
Barbara Spinella.....	Greg & Mary Marrs' friend
Jenni Wilson.....	Punkin Smith's friend
Tom Wood.....	Jim & Ellie Threlkel's friend

PLEASE NOTE

We update the Family & Friends prayer list periodically. If there is someone who needs to remain on the list, please call the church office.

MILITARY

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



DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

12/2	Ron Damjker Ken Henry Teresa Renney	12/11	Dave Sparr	11/22	Weston Thibodaux
12/3	Bruce Eelman Daphne Gray Edward Jordan	12/12	Kaylie Arnold Bill Lockhart	12/23	Ceci Linn
12/4	Jack Scamehorn	12/13	Dawn Fellows Peggy Kennedy	12/24	Ryan Johnson Mary Anne Knowles Carrie Mitchell Stephen Winhoven
12/5	Janie Hammette Amanda Rivers Jane Tillman	12/14	Wade Hoffman	12/25	Carol Roe
12/6	Cathy Kegler Steve Saterbo Ginger Schreier	12/15	Merry Stewart Borowski Lia Gray Lynn Lasseter Griffin Powell	12/26	David Alexander Patti Forum Calen Nowroozi
12/9	Katie Rivers	12/16	Marty Bentley Randy McCann Kim Powell	12/27	Rusty Hart
12/10	Marile Weeks	12/18	Geoff Roe	12/28	Madison Thomas
12/11	Jane Ray	12/19	Megan Kosmensky	12/30	Keith Putnam
		12/22	Cynthia Halde	12/31	Steve Sowards

ANNIVERSARIES

12/05	Josh & Jessica Lockhart	12/22	Nat & Jane West	12/29	Howard & Cheryl Beckert Gale & Gwen Waters
12/09	Mike & Jenna Wall	12/26	Steve & Laura Dunham Fred & Cynthia Halde Drew & Lindsay Stapor	12/30	Richard & Pam Baker Pete & Merry Stewart Borowski
12/14	Tom & Polly Ritter	12/27	Mike & Martha Seney	12/31	Paul & Anne Montgomery
12/16	Jim & Daphne Gray	12/28	Bob & Carol Carter		
12/20	Steve & Teresa Negley				
12/21	Jose & Alison Batista				

COME TO THE STABLE: A LIVING NATIVITY STROLL



On **Saturday, December 14, 6-7:30 pm**, First Pres hosts an outdoor Living Nativity (including live animals!) and musical performances throughout our parking lot.

We'd love for you to be a part, whether its joining the all ages cast during the 7:15 pm performance, providing cookies, or being welcoming at our hospitality table or helping to keep the parking lot safe; volunteers will be needed.

Please mark your calendar and begin to think about how you can be a part of this gift to our community. Sign-ups are on the bulleting board of the narthex or call the church office.

ARE YOU STRESSED? DISCOURAGED? FEELING DOWN?



You don't have to go through difficult times alone. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide you with confidential, one-to-one, Christian care and support to help you get through a tough time. So don't keep it all inside and struggle alone through the holiday season. Our Stephen Ministers are "there to care."

To find out more about Stephen Ministry, 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.

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

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

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1162
Lakeland, FL

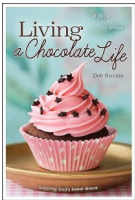
This newsletter is published weekly.
Church dated material, please deliver by 11/29/24.

Return Service Requested

Bag Lunch Ministry
We gave out 203 lunches
the week of 11/18/24. 

 **Soup Kitchen Ministry**
We fed 83 people on
Saturday, 11/23/24.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The *Lydia and Joy Circles* Bible study is *Living a Chocolate Life* by Deb Burma.

The Joy Circle meets on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month, the next meeting is **December 17 at 10 am** at Carol Carter's house.

The Lydia Circle meets on the **3rd Thursday** of each month, the next meeting is **December 19 at 10 am** in the Manor Conference Room in the church office.

POINSETTIA ORDER FOR 2023



Poinsettias will be in the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve Worship Services: **Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols** at 5 & 7 pm. Please fill out this order form. The cost per plant is \$15 and checks, marked "Poinsettia Fund", should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Place the order form and check in the offering plate, mail it, or take it to the church office by **Wednesday, December 18.**

IMPORTANT ~ PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Donor(s): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Number of plants ordered: _____ Enclosed: \$ _____

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

For **Christmas Eve, Wednesday, December 24**, both worship services will help us to focus on the celebration of our Savior's birth with the reading of the biblical story and the singing of traditional carols.



The **5 pm** worship service will feature acoustic sounds of the season with our Praise Band and other musicians from our congregation.

The **7 pm** worship service will include music from our Chancel Choir & Chancel Bells.