



The Presby Press

July 2024

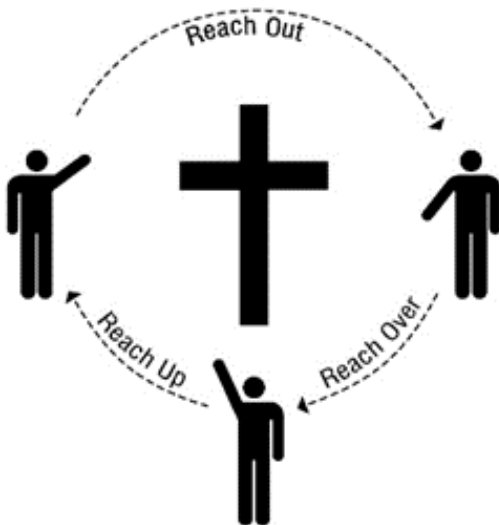
A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, ARP, Sebring, Florida

Pastor's News and Notes

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

FPCS 2024 Renewal Theme

Reach Out, Reach Over, Reach Up



Our 2024 theme comes from the Great Commission that Jesus gave His church:

Jesus said:

- Proclamation: All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- Reach Out: Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,
- Reach Over: baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- Reach Up: teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
- Promise: And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:18-20

Body United in Christ

Starting June 30th, we return to our study of Ephesians. According to the providence of God, we completed the first 3 chapters before taking this unexpected break. As we study this great epistle, you cannot but help noticing the change in focus that begins at chapter 4. In the first 3 chapters, Paul presents who we are in Christ Jesus. We are elected and predestined to be a child of God and are united in Christ in His resurrection and exaltation. Throughout these first chapters, Paul cannot help but to break out in doxology, thanksgiving and prayer for the saints of Ephesus. In Chapters 4-6, we now turn from the indicative of who we are to the imperative of what we are to do as followers of the Lord Jesus. Chapter 4 begins:

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1-2.

On Sunday, June 30th, we will look at the first 16 verses of chapter 1, where we will begin to explore what it means to walk in a “manner worthy” of our calling as Christ Jesus’ disciples. Please take this opportunity to meditate on God’s Word. Doing so will enrich worship as we engage more fully on the words of life given for our benefit. We are in the process of updating our website. One of the things that will be done is adding the Ephesians series audio sermons. If you missed some of these sermons, they will soon be available by going to our website: fpcs.church. Check it out.

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Pastor's News and Notes

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July Sermons

July 7: Ephesians 4:17-32 – Communion Sunday

July 14: Ephesians 5:1-24

July 21: Ephesians 5:22-6:9

July 28: Guest Preacher – Rev. Bob Dewitt

Church Administrator



It is my great pleasure to announce that Janine Hart has agreed to become our Church Administrator. By God's provisions, we have been granted funds for this part time position. Her primary duty and responsibility

is to be FPC's central point of contact between our church and community, as well as all activities within the church. She will be the go to person when you have questions and needs. Starting in July, Janine will be working in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-12:00 am & 1:00-3:00 pm. Her position greatly enhances our outreach efforts and organization within the church. Please encourage her by keeping her in your prayers as she works out the details of this position in order to have the most impact for our church and community.

Reach Out, Reach Over, Reach Up

The summer is upon us. Our northern guests are away and many locals are busy with vacations and various activities. We are using this time to plan our next opportunities to **reach out** to the community. However, that does not mean we are not looking for opportunities, such as the recent community outreach event hosted by the Mall. Thanks to Janine and Val for representing our church. May God use this to grow our church.

As far as our **reach over** efforts, our Wednesday Small group is currently on summer break. We will begin again in September. A great shout out to Elder Roger Warrick (FPCLP) who led our recent study of the Truth Project, and Is the Bible History. Those who attended found it to be of great help understanding who we are in this world of confusion. Truth always cuts through the fog of cultural confusion and this study helped us do just that.

To **reach up** means to worship and we were blessed by many folks who stepped up to fill in for me during my absence. Thanks to all of our guest preachers and for all of our worship team who stepped up in a big way to do the many tasks that are required in planning and leading worship. I thank God for each of you.

Thank You!

As many of you know, I was away for 6 weeks due to a major illness. During that time, your prayers, calls, texts, emails, cards, and loving words of encouragement were of great help in my recovery. Your prayers were heard by the Lord and he was pleased to answer them. Thank you so much for your love and support during this time. I want to thank all those (and there are many) who stepped into the breach and continued the work of the church, especially weekly worship. Your work brought good to our church and glory to the Lord. May you look back, as I have, to this time of trial as a blessing, looking to God as He demonstrated His faithfulness to First Presbyterian Church of Sebring.



July Benediction

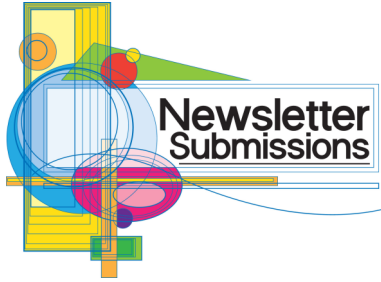
Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Pastor Karl



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00 With Communion	8 Deacons 4:00 Session 5:00	9	10	11 Outreach Committee 2:00	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	15	16	17	18 Men's Fellowship 8:30 am Oscar's Restaurant	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	29	30	31			



The Presby Press is always looking for submissions, either on a one-time or ongoing basis. If you have a content idea or would like to provide content, please talk to Janine Hart or send submissions directly to the church email account.

Caring Christian Women

By Jeanette Stypa

What is up with the CCW?

The women of the CCW have decided to take the months of June, July, and August off. We have successfully held several Fellowship luncheons, Palm given away. Gifts for the women of the Church. Church mouse duties, flowers in the sanctuary and reach out activities. We will be back in September and we will be sponsoring a CCW sign up campaign to entice all our lovely ladies to join us. Stay safe and enjoy the summer months.

In the meantime, the Caring Christian Women are keeping busy, this summer, by relaxing at home and making homemade crafts. We will be participating in craft shows throughout the county in the fall, so therefore we need crafts. Some of the items we are working on include, book markers, aprons, adult bibs, and lap blankets.

What we are asking from our Church Family is to help us with donated homemade items, make new items or if you have quilts, blankets, pot holders, that are in good shape we would love to add them to our collection of crafts to sell this fall. If you have any questions about what you may want to donate, ask us. We will be collecting your craft or donation during the months of August through October. Thank you to all for helping us out. The money we raise continues to fund our fellowship luncheons, as well as our continued outreach projects.



This is long overdue, but I want to thank all of you who sent cards, called, texted, and prayed for me during my extended accident recovery. I particularly want to thank Pat Rhodes for jumping in with no notice and picking up both the bulletin and the Presby Press. She is a true servant to our church family.

I haven't spent much time trying to figure out the why of my accident, but I know I have learned a lot from it. Being in a position of need, whether physically, emotionally, relationally, financially or in any other way gives one a different appreciation for how great the Lord is and how much He loves us. I have one more surgery ahead of me and I feel quite certain the Lord will be in that OR with me. I appreciate your continued prayers for my surgery and reab.

Janine



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- to inform
- to enrich
- to recognize service
- to build fellowship

