



# The Presby Press

August 2024

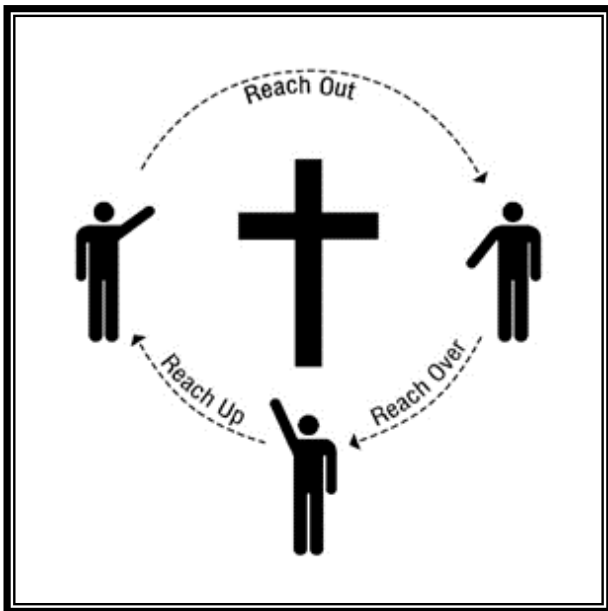
*A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, ARP, Sebring, Florida*

## 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*

### 1 John Study

This month we end our study of Ephesians and begin a new study of the epistle of 1 John. While the author of this book does not identify himself, when compared grammatically with the gospel of John, most scholars believe they are one in the same authors. The theme of 1 John is a reminder of the basic truths of Christianity, in contrast to false heretical teaching. It is good to be reminded of the foundational principles of our faith so that we do not fall for the false claims of those who would lead believers astray. In this epistle we experience a pastoral tender teaching of the assurance of faith. The assurance is so complete that the author uses “we know” over and over as a reminder of basic truths. For example, John writes in chapter 5:13:

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life.*

Beloved, do you know that you have eternal life? It is not uncommon to question one's beliefs, especially under the strain of conflicting teaching and worldly assaults. John wrote this letter to his church family so that they would stand on the solid rock of truth and an unbreakable assurance of salvation. I invite you to make it a weekly habit to read, study and mediate on 1 John as we work our way through it in the next couple of months.

### August Sermons

August 4: Ephesians 6:10-24 – Communion Sunday

August 11: 1 John 1:1-4

August 18: 1 John 1:5-10

August 25: 1 John 2:1-6

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## Pastor's News and Notes

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### Sanctuary Bathroom renovation

Outreach North America has blessed this church with a \$6000 grant to help pay for renovation of the Sanctuary bathroom that is located near the Franklin Street entrance. This work is expected to begin in August. We do not anticipate that we will have to close down the bathroom, but if it becomes necessary the south bathroom will remain open. We are grateful for this gift that is very much needed.

### Election Season



On August 20th voters will head to the polls for primary elections. While there are some primary considerations, such as US Senator, several elections will be decided during this primary vote. I encourage everyone to exercise their right to vote. As followers of Jesus, we are not called to vote for one party or another but to “not walk as unwise but as

wise”.(Ephesians 5:15)

A wise Christian investigates and becomes knowledgeable about the candidates being considered. Seek to know if they follow God’s moral laws as well as Constitutional laws. Many of our current leaders claim that this election season will greatly impact the direction our nation takes. Whether that is true or not, is not important, what is important is that God has given this right and privilege to be a voice in the governance of this great nation and we are called to exercise that right faithfully. Please make this season of campaigning over the next few months leading to the general election on November 5th a season of regular prayer. Pray for the unity of our nation, the safety of our people, and the return of our people to be a people of God. May God bless the United States of America and bring a great revival!

### Personal Follow-up

On July 24th I met with my pulmonologist who has given me a clean bill of health. I cannot say more strongly, that I believe I am still here serving this church because of your prayers. God has a plan to build this church and together following Jesus we will accomplish just that. I truly believe that. It’s what mo-

tivates me. It’s what motivates your brothers and sisters who have volunteered their time for this work. We cannot do it alone. We need your help. You might have just started thinking about what can you do. May I suggest this: Pray. Pray that God will show you what is your part in rebuilding First Presbyterian Church to become a great lighthouse in Sebring. The body is made of many parts, each necessary. I am still here because God has more work for me to do. What about you?

# Benediction

### August Benediction

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

*2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

Pastor Karl



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.



# AUGUST

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



## Memorial Butterfly Bush

On May 16, 2024, the Caring Christian Women planted a butterfly bush in honor of Mary Strenth. The bush was donated by Cal and Mary Lomelino and was planted in a memorial garden at the New Testament Mission. Mary was a very active volunteer at the Mission. Several people spoke about Mary and what she meant to them and the memories

Sherri Henley, daughter of Bonnie Smart, is a kindergarten teacher at Lake Placid Elementary. We will be collecting school supplies for the kindergarten team through the month of August.

- ◆ Playdough
- ◆ Black Expo markers
- ◆ Crayola crayons
- ◆ Crayola Washable markers (fat)
- ◆ Crayola colored pencils
- ◆ Swiffer dry sweeper cloths
- ◆ Kleenex
- ◆ paper towels
- ◆ glue sticks
- ◆ watercolor paints



Pictured from left to right are Mary's daughter Shannon, her grandson Jaxson, her husband Robert and her daughter Christina.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
 319 Poinsettia Ave.  
 Sebring, FL 33870  
 863.385.0107  
 FPCSebring319@gmail.com  
 fpcs.church  
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- to inform
- to enrich
- to recognize service
- to build fellowship

