



# The Presby Press

September 2024

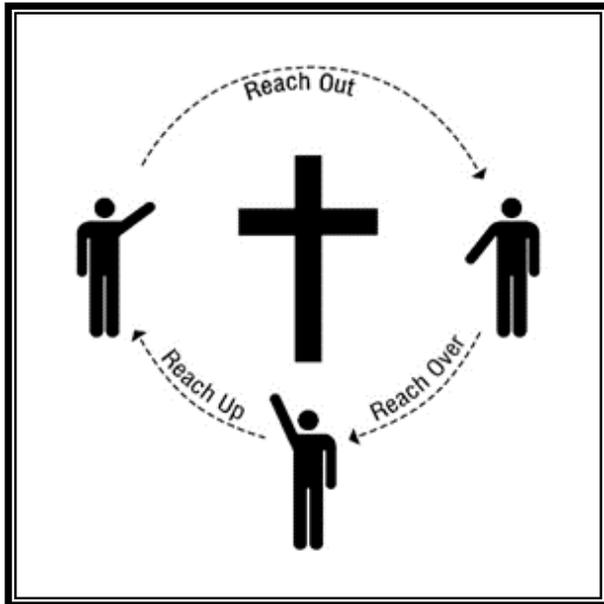
*A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, ARP, Sebring, Florida*

## 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*

### A Work in Progress

We are well on our way into our second year as a restart church. As we Reach Out, Reach Up and Reach Over, we work as the body of Christ, each using gifts and talents to accomplish the call to make disciples. Some work is routine work, such as maintaining church buildings. Some work is special work such as when we recently participated in an outreach day at the mall. Whether it be routine or special, all of it is important. A big thank you for those who have put in time as servants of our Lord Jesus.

Reaching Out is an important work in progress. The outreach team is working hard brainstorming ways to engage with the church community. They are constantly planning new ways to Reach Out to the community of Sebring. We meet on the second Thursday of the month from 2-3pm. If you want to make a difference in our church, then come join us. We would love for you to bring new ideas. Our next meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Church maintenance is another important work in progress. The deacons applied for and received ONA grant funds and have hired Vince Connell to refurbish the sanctuary bathroom. Work is currently underway. Please excuse us for any inconvenience this may cause. The bathroom at the front of the sanctuary remains open and available as needed.

Church organization is another work in progress. Our new Church Administrator, Janine Hart, is in the process of organizing various functions of the church. Please consider making yourself available to her as she will be seeking help in the work she is being tasked to oversee. Office hours are Wednesdays and Thursdays: 9am to 12pm and 1pm to 3pm. The more who help, the more effective we become as a lighthouse for Christ Jesus. Let us unite in the work of the church. Thanks to everyone for your support.

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## Pastor's News and Notes

(continued from p. 1)



### September Sermons

- September 1: 1 John 2:7-11 – Communion Sunday
- September 8: 1 John 2:12-17
- September 15: 1 John 2:18-27
- September 22: 1 John 2:28-3:12 – Fellowship Sunday
- September 29: 1 John 3:13-24

### Wi-Fi

Thanks to the work of Pat Villere, the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall have been upgraded with Wi-Fi repeaters. This new capability allows internet access throughout our church campus. This simple new enhancement allows access to online content for multiple uses such as Christian education courses. We are now able to livestream events and access helpful resources such as Bible and Devotional apps. If you would like access to these apps please call the church office for the password.



### FPCS.church Website

Our website is now up to date with lots of helpful information. For those new to the church, it provides information about our church, our beliefs, and how to locate us.

For our members we also have helpful resources such as our church calendar, past sermon audios and an easy connection to the ARP website. For those folks you meet that are looking for a church home, this website will be very helpful. Most people check out a church online before their first visit, so they will appreciate being directed to it. Our website is: [FPCS.church](http://FPCS.church). Check it out.

*Note: It's very well done and not without a lot of effort. This was supposed to have been my responsibility. When my accident happened, the Lord enabled Pastor Karl to go way out of his comfort zone and get this up and running. –Janine*

### Small Group Bible Study



The Small Group Bible study will meet (starting September 4<sup>th</sup>) each Wednesdays from 4 to 5 pm in the Adult Classroom. During the four weeks in

the month of September, we are offering an introductory/refresher course on the basics of Christian belief and practices of our church. It is called the Inquirer Class. We will discuss why we are a Christian, why we are reformed in our theology, why we are presbyterian in our form of government, and what ways Jesus calls us into fellowship and service as a church.

Small Group Bible study is designed to be a place where there is great fellowship, opportunity to increase our knowledge of the Bible and to grow as disciples of Jesus. Please come and join inquirers like you in the Inquirer Class.

## Benediction

ay the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 3:5

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.

## What God Hath Promised

By Annie Johnson Flint

God hath not promised skies always blue,  
Flower strewn pathways all our lives through;  
God hath not promised sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow, peace without pain.

God hath not promised we shall not know  
Toil and temptation, trouble and woe;  
He hath not told us we shall not bear  
Many a burden, many a care.

God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,  
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;  
Never a mountain rocky and steep,  
Never a river turbid and deep.

*But God hath promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy, undying love*

*Submitted by Val Klossner*

### Statistics for the First Half of the Year

Month	Total Attendance	Total Tithes and offerings
January	154	\$6250.00
February	139	\$9857.00
March	214	\$8784.00
April	121	\$7620.00
May	117	\$ 7620.00
June	157	\$7620.00



ROMANS 8:16

Paul, in quoting Jesus, tells us that as children of God we have the right to call God "Daddy." This is what "Abba" means, not the more formal Father. We are heirs of heaven so we should not have a spirit of fear.

Have you ever thought of what it means to have God as "Daddy?" I'd like you to think for a few minutes about what it might feel like. If we were in the same room, I'd ask you to close your eyes for this meditation. Picture your favorite peaceful spot. It may be in your home, or in a park, or as for me, watching the water lap the shore. You sit on a comfortable chair or bench and God comes and sits beside you. He invites you to share with him, all your concerns, worries, fears, all that is bothering you. You pour your heart out to him as he sits smiling at you. There is no judgment in his eyes, only love. Soon, you are finished and wonder what God will say. Instead, he puts his arms around you and tells you how much he loves you. He tells you that he is with you and will help you carry your burdens; you only need to trust him. After a few minutes, he gets up and walks away.

Feeling lighter and refreshed, you return to your day, knowing you have a loving forgiving father that will always be there when you need to talk to him.

*Submitted by Kristie Busch*



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

# SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

### Anniversaries

**This information is deleted from our online newsletter to protect the privacy of our people.**

# OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

### Anniversaries

**This information is deleted from our online newsletter to protect the privacy of our people.**

*Note: Yes, there will be an October Presby Press, Lord willing. We have started doing this for people who are organized and like to plan ahead. Next month we will publish October dates again and November.*

## CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS



### The Session

Jack Breed, Frank Busch, Jimmy Seay

### The Diaconate

Dennis Green, Robert Harderwijk, Janine Hart, Jeanette Stypa

### Trustees

Barney Hart, Calvin Lome-lino, Patricia Villere

### Staff and Congregational Officers

Karl Davis – Pastor

Janine Hart – Church Administrator

Dan Parsons – Sexton

Barney Hart – Congregation Chairman

Pat Villere – Treasurer

Robert Harderwijk – Assistant Treasurer

**Bible Quiz**

Acts 1:1 (NIV) reads: "In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach." What "former book" did the author write to Theophilus?

A. Matthew  
B. Mark  
C. Luke  
D. John



Answer: C (See Luke 1:1-4)

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

