



The Presby Press

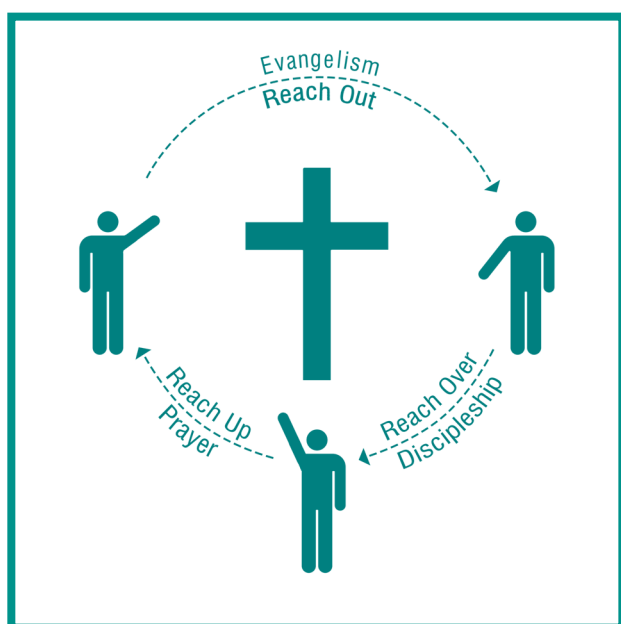
April 2025

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 Renewal Theme Reach Out, Reach Over, Reach Up 25 in 2025



Reach Out, Reach Over and Reach Up through Evangelism and Discipleship and Prayer

Pledging to Reach up and Reach Out

On March 23rd we began our pledge drive to gather prayer warriors for our church, gain participants in our 5 outreach groups to bring in 25 new worshipers in 2025, and to identify future leaders of our church.

As a result, 16 of you agreed to pray regularly for our church. In addition, many of you signed up to participate in our 5 outreach activities. We now have

5 members in our 24/7 witness, 6 in our worship team, 6 in the Palms team, and 3 in the neighbor team. Several of you have joined multiple teams, because you believe, as I do, that the Lord is leading us to a greater witness in the community of Sebring.

If you haven't signed up to pray or join one of the 5 teams, please let me know and I will add you to the list. For those who were not able to attend, here are the 5 groups:

Our 24/7 witness of on-line connections to bring in 5.

- These 5 will be invited through the Communications Team consisting of church members who work on our online and digital advertisement platforms such as our website, Facebook, and other advertisement mediums.
- We will be conducting Weekly Communications.
- Website, Facebook, and other media are already having results.

Our Outreach Committee to bring in 5.

- These 5 will be invited by the Outreach Team through evangelism/outreach community events.
- Reach into the community 4 times as a committee and facilitate and support consistent ways of reaching out as church members individually.
- Committee is leading the church in outreach planning.

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Pastor's News and Notes *continued from p. 1*

Our Individual Witness to bring in 5.

- These 5 will be invited through personal invitations and evangelism opportunities.
- Prayer Cards: Give out to businesses and anyone needing prayer.
- Tracts – Give out to anyone including friends and loved ones.
- Individual invitations are the most effective way to invite.

Our Palms Outreach to bring in 5.

- These 5 will be invited through outreach activities such as fellowship of the Caring Christian Woman's (CCW) group with the next-door residents.
- Monthly visits.
- Benchmark actions: Engage and Invite residents to all church activities.
- CCW is an example of putting our outreach vision into action. Come join the fun.

Our NEW Neighbor Team to bring in 5.

- These 5 will be invited through visitations of our local neighbors.
- Going out in teams of 2, we will begin by visiting local businesses.
- Pair up with the pastor for outreach visits.



Reaching Up in Prayer

I am sending out a Prayer of the Week. Beginning in April, I will be adding specific prayer requests about our outreach efforts to help focus our corporate prayers to build our church. Our efforts are best applied when they are undergirded in prayer. I praise God for each



of you who agreed to participate in the vital work!

Reaching Over in Discipleship

We continue to grow slowly in the number of people joining in Bible study on Sundays and during the week. Speaking of Sundays, Bob Harderwijk will begin a new video series study during Sunday school soon. Please keep an eye out for it.

Reaching Out with Evangelism

Individually, the Lord is providing divine appointments for each of us as we go about our daily lives. I encourage you to keep a witness tract and a prayer card on you at all times in order to be ready for your appointment. If you run out you can pick them up at the church office.

Praise Him!

As we go out and fulfill our calling as a church to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to our community, we will have many opportunities to praise Him. Please pass along any praise reports so that we can celebrate them together. For example: as a result of the Palms outreach one the Palms residents joined us at the Wednesday Small Group Bible study. We would love that more of the Palms folks join us not only in Bible study but also at worship. Thanks to the CCW for leading this outreach effort.



Member Anniversary.

We want to wish a happy anniversary for the following brothers and sisters who joined our church in March:

Nancy M, Davis – 26 years

Kathleen Shisler – 25 years

May another year bring you joy in our Savior Jesus Christ and love for one another in our church family.

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THE MAN IN THE ARENA

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

“The Man in the Arena” is a famous passage from his speech “Citizenship in a Republic,” delivered on April 23, 1910, in Paris. While the speech itself is not a direct biblical quotation, its themes of perseverance, courage, and striving despite adversity resonate with certain biblical principles and passages. Meditation on these is helpful to keeping the right mindset as we engage in the hard work of sending out the gospel into our community.

1. Perseverance and Effort in the Face of Struggle

- Hebrews 12:1-2 (NIV) “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.”

2. Courage and Daring Greatly

- Joshua 1:9 (NIV) “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

3. The Worthy Cause and Reward for Effort

- Galatians 6:9 (NIV): “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

4. Disregard for Unjust Criticism

- Proverbs 29:25 (NIV): “Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe”



Sermon

	Larger Catechism
April 6 Communion John 6:16-34	39-42
April 13 Palm Sunday John 12:12-36	43-45
April 18 Good Friday John 19:1-42	46-50
April 20 Easter John 20:1-18	51-53
April 27 John 6:35-59	54-56

Benediction+

Knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1 Peter 1:18-21

Pastor Karl



We're on Facebook

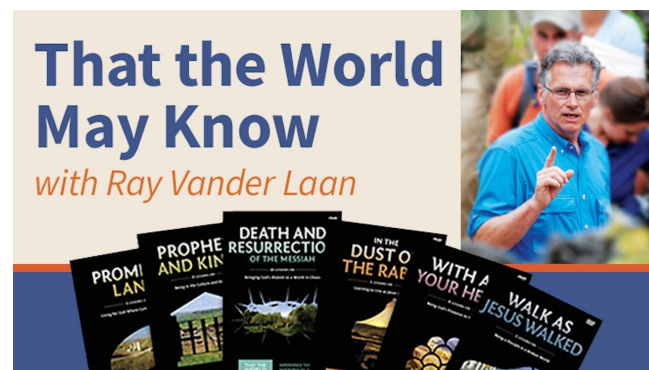
SHARE – SHARE- SHARE

When you go to our Facebook site: First Presbyterian Church of Sebring Florida and find our weekly post, please SHARE. Just a click of the arrow at bottom of the post sends it to everyone that is friends with you. Every time you click and share, that is another way of reaching out. You can even share to any groups you belong to on Facebook. You just never know when a visitor might come to our service and say they came because a friend shared the post on Facebook.

Fellowship Luncheon



The Caring Christian Women are having a fellowship luncheon on Sunday, April 13th . The women will be making a ham and macaroni and cheese . We will have rolls and bread and as butter available. We are asking all of you to bring a side dish for our lunch. We look forward to sharing a meal and great conversation. Please bring your dish downstairs before our service. Just so everyone knows, the ladies are taking the summer months off, so our last luncheon will be in May. We will begin the meals in September. Thank you all for your support you have shown us throughout the year.



New Sunday School Lessons

Starting on April 27, the format of the adult Sunday school class will change. We will begin using a series of videos produced by Focus on the Family featuring Ran Vander Laan.

“Ray has always believed that to more greatly understand and appreciate the Bible, one had to have a sense of the land and the culture from which it sprang. Biblical analogies and examples, while meaningful and helpful even to this day, were first meant to convey God's truth to particular people in a particular time and place. So the more fully we can appreciate those times and places, the more fully we can respond to the power of the Word.

Ray's preaching and teaching ministry is focused on understanding the Bible in light of the historical and cultural context in which God placed it. This perspective on the Bible highlights God's call for His people to be a transforming influence on their culture. He uses research of the top scholars in the fields of archaeology, history, and Biblical study as tools to explore the Biblical text ever more deeply.”

Click [here](#) for a link to a sample video. Plan to join us at 9:30 in the Classroom.

Flash Stars Walk a Thon

On Tuesday, March 25, roughly 30 elementary and middle school kids from Flash Stars Achievement Center gathered in our paved parking lot on Lakeview for a walk a thon to raise funds for their program. Flash Stars is a 501 © (3) after school program located in downtown Sebring. Joining in to help were Key Club members from Sebring High School and members of the Kiwanis Club of Greater Sebring.

The kids were put in groups of 5 and assigned to a Key Club member who led them around the course in the parking lot (sometimes skipping, sometimes hopping). They got a star for each lap, and after 10 laps, they went downstairs for treats provided by the Kiwanis and our own lovely CCW ladies.

The kids had a great time with both the walk a thon and the hot dogs, chips, and cookies afterwards. One of them even asked to go over and see the sanctuary, so Janine took a few of them over. They sang “Sanctuary” in the choir loft and had a lot to say about the beauty of the old building. They were amazed to hear that it’s 100 years old.

Vernetta Bolton, director of Flash Stars was grateful for the use of our facility.





A·P·R·I·L

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 CCW 10:00 Uncommon Retirement 4:00	4	5
6 Sunday School 9:30 Worship with communion 11:00 	7	8	9 Discovering Deuteronomy 4:00	10 Outreach Committee 1:00 Uncommon Retirement 4:00	11	12 Mall Outreach 10:00 Food Court
13 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Lunch 	14 Deacons 4:00	15 Session 3:00	16	17 Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 CCW Palms Outreach 9:30	18  Good Friday Worship 4:00	19
20  Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	21	22	23 Discovering Deuteronomy 4:00	24	25	26
27 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	28	29	30 Discovering Deuteronomy 4:00			

APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Jimmy Seay
- 9 Leslie Hughes
- 17 Jim Adam
- 18 Linda Childress
- 28 Carol Brasier

Anniversaries

- 29 Nelson & Fay Wood

MAY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Cecil Hess
- 7 Nancy Ratzlaff
- 11 Barney Hart

Anniversaries

- 14 Jim & Diane Graves
- 15 Robert "Bob" & JoAnn Harderwijk

Note: We have started doing this for people who are organized and like to plan ahead. Next month we will publish May dates again along with June.



CHURCH STAFF AND OFFICERS

The Session

Jack Breed, Jimmy Seay

The Diaconate

Dennis Green, Robert Harderwijk, Janine Hart, Pat Villere

Trustees

Barney Hart, Calvin Lomelino, 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



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.

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The Mission of our Newsletter is . . .

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

