



The Presby Press

May 2025

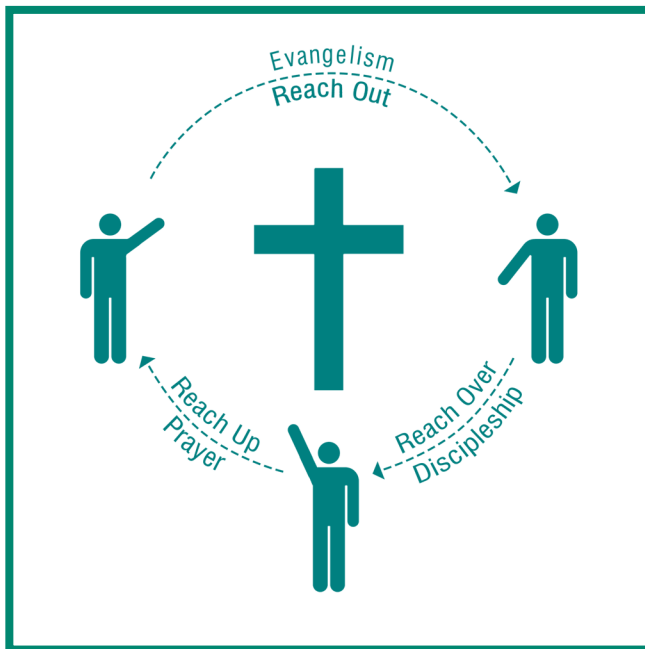
A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, ARP, Sebring, Florida

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

Easy Evangelism

Not everyone has the gift of evangelism. Not everyone feels comfortable discussing faith with everyone they meet. That is where the church comes in. The Lord Jesus distributes various gifts about the church body. *“For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having*

gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.” (Romans 12:4-8)

While these are not exhaustive, the aforementioned gifts are given by God to carry out the task of evangelism in various ways. Some are given gifts of service or acts of mercy in which they work behind the scenes providing for the comfort and care of others, thereby showing gospel work in deeds. Some evangelize by teaching what the Bible actually says about who is Jesus, why he came, and what that means to mankind. Some are called to evangelism support by contributing generously to gospel ministries. Spiritual gifts are given to the body to make the work of the great commission not only easy but a joy. When we use God's gifts for Kingdom work, we GET to bless others, all the while we are being blessed ourselves.

Additionally, one of the easiest ways to obey the call of Jesus to witness to the world is through invitation to worship on Sundays. Regardless of how eloquent a Christian may or not be, anyone can say, “Why don't you come to church with me?”. If God is calling them, they will say yes, and at worship they will encounter our risen Lord through the Word preached, the Word sung, and the Word experienced in Christ's body.

Continued on p. 2

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

Changing of the Guard

It is the responsibility of elders, both individually and jointly, to guard and promote the spiritual welfare of the congregation.

(ARPC Form of Government 6.4)

Guarding the flock of the church is an important responsibility of the elders. Mission churches, such as ours, are provided provisional elders from nearby ARP churches to “guard and promote” the church until such time as the church becomes organized. We are thankful for the service of each one of our elders for they have given freely and generously of their time and talent in support of this church.

Farewell: Frank Busch, from First Presbyterian Church of Lake Placid, has stepped down as provisional elder. He faithfully served this church since 2021 not only as elder but also as Clerk of the Session. We much appreciate his help and care for this church and thank him and Kristi for being part of our family.



Welcome: Roger Warrick has agreed, and has been confirmed by the Florida Presbytery, to serve on our provisional session. Roger and his wife Cindy are long time members of First Presbyterian Church of Lake Placid. I was privileged to serve with Roger on the Lake Placid session for many years. We welcome Roger and Cindy into our church family.



Praying

Using the Lord's prayer as our guide, let us join together in prayer for our church.

- For the week of May 4th, please pray to God for our daily bread, asking God to give us what is necessary to carry out the Great Commission.

- During the second week of May 11th, ask God to forgive us our debts, repenting of our past failures to reach out to our neighbors and giving us courage to do so in the future.
- For the third week of May 18th, pray that the church will not be led into temptations of abandoning the call to go.
- Finally, in week four of May 25th, ask God to deliver us from evil that is working to prevent First Presbyterian Church of Sebring from becoming a great light in the community of Sebring.



Being a Disciple

The great commission calls the church to make disciples by teaching them the Bible. Outside of Sunday Worship we offer two great opportunities to be learn God's Word: Adult Sunday School at 9:30 am on Sundays, and Small Group Bible study at 4:00 pm on Wednesdays. Discipleship is a lifelong pursuit. Come join your brothers and sisters seeking God to know Him and enjoy Him in ever increasing ways. If you desire to be part of the discipleship ministry but are unable to attend either of these meetings, let me know and together we will determine another time or place to meet.

Praise Him!

Outreach North America is our denomination's board that supports local churches through all Presbyteries. We were blessed to be approved at the most recent Florida Presbytery Meeting to receive financial support for the next coming year. We will be receiving \$18,000, divided into monthly installments, from June of 2025 to May of 2026 to supplement our church operational budget. church, connecting the people within the church and establishing a link to the community of Sebring.



Continued on p. 3

Pastor's News and Notes *continued from p. 2*

And the blessings keep coming as we were also blessed to receive a \$6,000 grant to use for Reaching Out to our community in order to build up our church. We are not quite sure how we will use this particular grant, but if you have ideas, I urge you to join our outreach team. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the pastor's office at 1:00 pm. Our next meeting is May 8th. See you there!



Sermon	Larger Catechism
May 4 Communion John 6:60-71	57-59
May 11 Mother's Day John 7:1-13	60-62
May 18 John 7:14-31	63-65
May 25 Fellowship Luncheon John 7:32-52	66-68

Member Anniversary



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

Janine Hart – 39 years

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

Benediction

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Pastor Karl



The Caring Christian Women are having their last fellowship luncheon on May 25th, after the service. We will be having a taco bar, featuring taco meat, tortilla, and many condiments to go with the tacos. I hope you will come and support the CCW. We will be taking the summer months off but will be back in September with our monthly fellowship luncheons.

Watch this space for news about simple summer meals so we can stay connected.

**CMSGT
DENNIS GREEN
(CHIEF)**

Hanging up the uniform after 52 years of wear!



"SHOW ME YOUR FRIENDS, I'LL SHOW YOU YOUR FUTURE."



Please join us in honoring his Retirement by dropping in and enjoying Hor'd'oeuvres, cake, tea, coffee and water

**MAY 13TH, 2025
SEBRING ELKS LAKESIDE
DINING ROOM
4PM - 7PM**



★ ★ ★ ★
If you are not able to attend, please email your favorite "Chief" memory, inspiration or picture to
mcgoverc@yahoo.com

Palms Outreach



Ask Arlene, Earleen, Val, and Jeanette what blessings look like and they may say, The Palms visit on April 20th. We enjoyed prayer and stories with seven lovely ladies who reside at the Palms. Thanks to Cecil, we sang a few songs, that the ladies wanted to sing and we played Bible trivia. We have decided to take the summer off from our monthly visits but we will be back in the fall.

National Day of Prayer Luncheon



The Kiwanis Club of Greater Sebring hosted a luncheon following the prayer event on the courthouse lawn on Thursday, May 1. The invocation was given by Rev. David Juliano, senior pastor of the host church, First Church Sebring. Two beautiful musical selections were performed by the Sebring Middle School Show Choir. The featured speaker was Jerome Kaszubowski, Highlands County Clerk of Courts. Pastor Robert Maulella of Faith Lutheran Church also gave some remarks and gave directions for the table prayer activity. Pastor Karl closed the program by giving the benediction. Several of our people were able to attend and commented about what a great blessing it is to live in a community that comes together to acknowledge their faith.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee made the first of what will be several visits to local merchants on Tuesday, April 28. Five people gathered at the church around 10:00 and from there went downtown to introduce our church to merchants on the Circle. The brave members of the group walked downtown. The others rode in an air conditioned car.

The intent was not so much to preach the gospel as to “meet the neighbors.” We handed out church brochures and prayer cards but found a couple of businesses still closed. Having learned that, our next attempt will be later in the morning. Our two groups went in different directions around the circle and each one reported great interactions with business owners. One owner of a couple of restaurants was sitting at a table outside the restaurant before it opened and invited some of us to hear his story of healing through prayer.

After about an hour, it was time to wrap up and Sebring Soda Shop seemed like a great place for the two groups to share experiences and make plans for our next merchant outreach. Ice cream all around was a great way to celebrate. Thank you, Pastor Karl.



NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH & MISSION

NEWSLETTER

April 2025 | Whats new ?

This month came with many blessings, so many local groups wanting to volunteer, hands on beautification projects, serve and more. The airing of the HGTV show also brought a lot of attention and excitement to the mission from visitors from other cities to even those who live right here in town who didn't know who we were. It has really been a God thing to sit back and watch. This month has brought new faces to the mission that we have been able to help them in numerous ways to get back up on their feet. Our shower project has also brought a fresh clean feel for so many. This month we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus. When the enemy tries to tell us that Friday was a horrific day Christ reminds us that Friday is good because Sunday is coming. Many who come to our doors have some difficult Friday's (losses, rejections, addictions, defeats) but, on Sunday Christ redeemed us and bore all of those things for us on Calvary. We are here today to tell them that Friday is Good because Sunday is coming. Happy Resurrection Sunday and thank you for being on this journey with us.

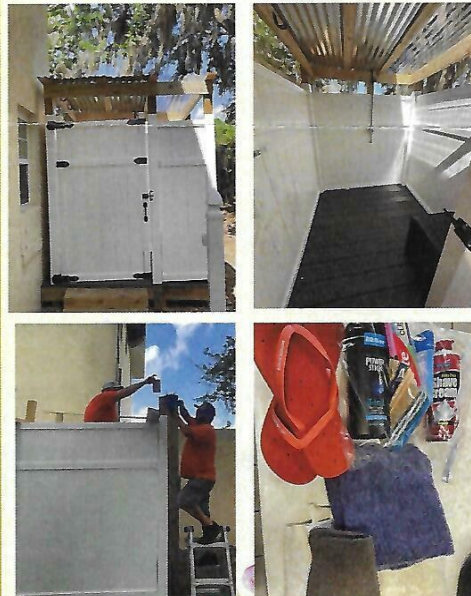
Karl's Place



Full Plans are back- In honor of my grandparents I give you - Karl's Place ! This 7 bedroom space will be a transitional housing space for those who are diligently working to get back on their feet! We will have 24 hr counselor, mentor, minister to help them with their mental and spiritual health! Please pray with us that we can bring project from plans to reality! If you would like to be a sponsor or contribute to this project please let us know. We have had to gut this space out so it's a new start build . This is a great need and I can already see lives changed by this space .

Outdoor Shower

This project has become an essential change in individuals lives to have access to a shower daily! Most take this gift for granted



NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH & MISSION

**Thank You
United Way
HCA
Day of Giving**

United Way blessed us with Heartland Christian Academy who on Day of Giving sent us 85 workers to clean, paint, plant, work on projects throughout the mission! They blessed us immensely ♥



HGTV came to Sebring for a Hometown Takeover the producers seen the work the mission has done for 50 Years!

The mission would be too big of a project nor would be able to close for weeks! This gift was a huge blessing not only to my family but, the world has been seeing all we do to be the hands and feet of Jesus



**Sebring High
IB class
did a planting
project this
month
too !**

Total Meals 4,208

Total Housing 83

Total Food Boxes 86

Total Outreach 9

Mission Needs

**Jelly
snack items
plastic knives
sandwich meat
tall kitchen garbage bags
cereal
disposable plates
to- go containers
bottled water**

**Thank You to those who
bless us each month
with our mission
needs**



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venmo



**From the desk of
Katie Beatty**





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

MAY Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

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

JUNE Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 7 Pat Rhodes
- 12 Nancy (Mrs. Karl) Davis
- 20 Phil White
- 22 Earleen Jumont
- 23 Rev. Karl Davis
- 24 Fay Wood
- 25 Lee Hughes

Anniversaries

- 26 Lee & Leslie Hughes
- 30 Bob & Pat Rhodes

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

Church Staff and Officers

The Session

Jack Breed, Jimmy Seay,
Roger Warrick



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

