



# The Presby Press

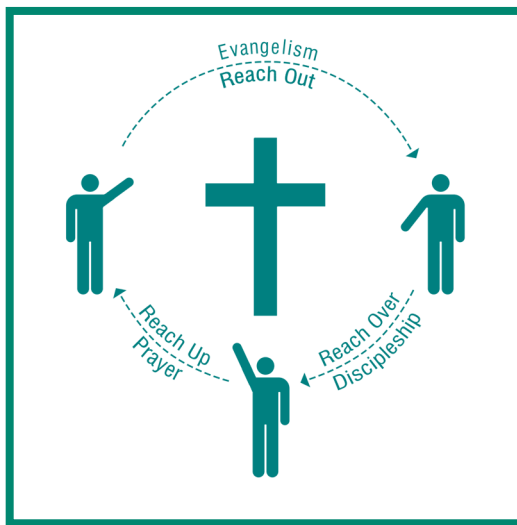
August 2025

*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



**25 in 2025**

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

### August – A Month of Anticipation

Hurricane activity in June and July is low to moderate. We have already experienced some storms popping up to grab our attention but mostly it has been quiet. August, however, is the month that the season starts to ramp up with widespread development across the Atlantic basin ushering in the peak month of September. About 40% of all tropical cyclones occur in September after which the storms start decreasing through October and November. August is the month in which we start to feel anticipation of what is to come. Anticipation is a good thing if handled correctly.

Anticipating the future begins with trusting that God has a plan. The Lord declares in Jeremiah 29:11: For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Knowing the future is according to God's plan we can then look forward with joy even in times of uncertainty. In Proverbs 23:18 we read: There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

By looking forward we then can anticipate God's guidance for the future. It is not a mystery when we walk with God. In James 1:5 we are assured that: If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. In Psalm 32:8, God promises: I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

Having been assured that God is actively working for our good, we then wait and watch for times of revitalization. In Philippians 1:6 Paul reminds us: I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

We not only anticipate the future individually, but we also anticipate the future of the church. Jesus tells Peter in Matthew 16:18: I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Brothers and Sisters, join with me this month with anticipating prayer, asking the Lord to revitalize First Presbyterian Church by filling His church to the brim! And as you anticipate His mighty work, may you find hope and a future in this your church home.

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

### **Reach Out**

We continue to anticipate the future growth of our church through reaching out into our community. The Lord builds his church through the work and service of His people in various ways. In order to proceed we are looking back at how each of us came to be part of our church. We are conducting a survey to determine how we came and what that teaches us about how we should be reaching out to others in the same way. If you haven't done so, please fill out the survey. You can use the online survey sent out by Janine or fill out the paper form, which is available at the church office or in the vestibule of the sanctuary. Please complete the survey by August 12th so that we can review the results at our next meeting on August 14th.



Led by our outreach team, our church manned a booth on July 19th during the Christmas in July fair held at the downtown Circle Theater. We met many people and gave out book markers, door magnets, gospel tracts and information about our church. Over 100 folks came by our booth and it was a joy to get to speak to many of them. Please pray that God will use the faithful service of His saints at this booth to make lasting connections for His kingdom. Thanks to all who stepped in faith to reach out to our community with the love of Christ Jesus.

### **Reach Over**

Hopefully, prayerfully, and in anticipation, in the near future we will move from mission church status to becoming organized once again. In order to organize, we need officers trained and prepared to take on the duties of governing the church. In the interim, we have been blessed with provisional elders from our sister churches in Lake Placid, Bartow, and Lake Wales. We also have been blessed with deacons within our church body who have sacrificially continued to dedicate their time and talent to the upkeep and financial health of our church campus. Now is the time to train up our future leaders through officer training.



The officer training is open to our entire church family (even if you are not currently serving in a leadership role), however only members may go on to serve as officers. We will begin by asking participants to view 6 online videos, produced by the Catawba Presbytery, and answer some short questions about each video. These can be viewed at your own pace over the next 2 months. From October through December, we will have 3 in person training sessions, the first of which will begin with a review of the video lessons. If you plan on participating in the classes, please let me (Pastor Karl) or the church office know and I will send you the training material either as an email attachment or as a handout.

### **Reach Up**

In anticipation of the what the Lord will be doing, we want to be purposefully and consistently in prayer for our church. I am sending out weekly prayer emails with a specific weekly prayer focus. Additionally, Janine is sending out weekly church family prayer needs. Please use these resources to help guide you in your daily prayers.



As part of our church's prayer life, we want to meet collectively as a united body to pray. We had our first prayer meeting on the 4th of July when many of our church family and friends gathered together for an evening of fellowship and prayer. Thanks to everyone who prepared the great food and table decorations. We engaged in friendly spirited competition as tables competed with each other for prizes during the trivia competition. We then joined in unified prayer praising the Father for Jesus His Son, for our church, for the unchurched and for our nation. The night wrapped up with a beautiful display of fireworks over Lake Jackson. Thank you to all who participated and I look forward to our next prayer meeting later this summer. If you would like to help plan the next event, please let me know. I need the help.

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

In anticipation of meeting spiritual needs of others, we will continue to provide prayer cards to give away. The purpose of the card is to provide an anonymous place where folks can email me in confidence in order to ask for prayers. I check this page frequently and respond as soon as I am able. It can be used for anyone in our church family as well as anyone in our surrounding community. I am also available to pray with anyone in person. Additionally, each communion Sunday our elders will remain after worship to lay on hands and pray for those in need.



### **Member Anniversary.**

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

Carol Braiser 10 Years

Nancy A. Davis 3 Years

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



*The grace of the Lord Jesus be  
with all. Amen.*

*Revelation 22:21*

*Pastor Karl*

### **Westminster Catechism**

Since the beginning of the year, we have been using the text of the Westminster Catechism for our responsive reading during worship. This statement of faith was written in 1647, and to say it can be challenging reading is an understatement. If you would like to pre-read, you can find these questions and answers [here](#).



	Sermon Text	Larger Catechism
August 3 Communion	John 11:45-12:11	95-97
August 10	John 12:37-50	98-100
August 17 Fellowship Meal	John 13:1-20	101-103
August 24	John 13:21-38	104-106
August 31 Mission Moment	John 14:1-14	107-109



# Photo Gallery



By now you have probably read Pastor Karl's column about July 4th. When we played trivia, each table was a team and they're discussing their answers.

After sometimes fierce debate, they settled on their choices and the table in the foreground of the photo won each of the three rounds we played.

As you can see, there were a few seats available at the table on the left; so if you weren't able to be there, there will be room for you next year.



Once it got dark, we moved down to the grass lot and watched the fireworks. After a lot of uncertainty due to the storms, it turned out to be a great evening for fireworks. Rumor has it that the mosquitoes weren't even terrible.



# Photo Gallery



The woman on the left is Ana. She won the gift basket the church had as a raffle item at the Christmas in July event. It contained a t-shirt, Bible/journal combination, devotional book, prayer card, and (in keeping with the theme) Christmas candles.



The Christmas in July vendor fair was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and held in the historic Circle Theater downtown.

Phil, Jeanette, Val, and Janine joined Pastor Karl at our table to greet people and give them information about the church.

Events like these originate with the Outreach Committee. We talk about what is going on in the community and what might be good opportunities for us to connect with others. Please join us for the next meeting on August 14.





# August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Sunday School 9:30 Worship with communion 11:00 	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00 	11  Deacons 4:00	12  Session 3:00	13  Discovering Deuteronomy 4:00	14  Outreach Committee 1:00	15	16
17 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Lunch 	18	19	20  Discovering Deuteronomy 4:00	21  Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8:30	22	23
24  Sunday School 9:30  Worship 11:00  31 <hr/> Sunday School 9:30  Worship 11:00	25	26	27  Discovering Deuteronomy 4:00	28	29	30

## **AUGUST** Birthdays & Anniversaries

### **Birthdays**

14 Sandy Breed  
16 Jim Graves  
19 Julia Guerra  
22 Cheryl Green  
24 Debbie Donahue  
25 Dennis Green  
29 Kathy Shisler

### **Anniversaries**

10 Frank & Christie Busch  
22 Rev. Karl & Nancy Davis  
27 Jimmy & Julie Seay

## **SEPTEMBER** Birthdays & Anniversaries

### **Birthdays**

*Nobody that I'm aware of. If I missed someone, please let me know.*

### **Anniversaries**

11 Danny & Jane Farrer

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

## **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.

## **First Presbyterian Church**

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## **The Mission of our Newsletter is ...**

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

