



The Presby Press

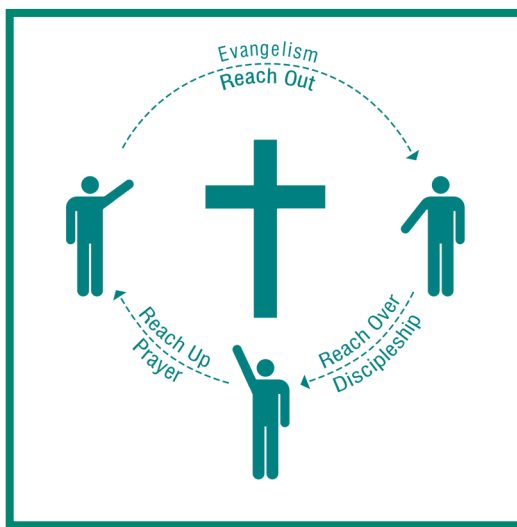
September 2025

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**

Fishing Pond

As a church that is in a season of re-starting, it is good to remind ourselves of the start of the Christian movement when Jesus, walked along the Sea of Galilee and called ordinary fishermen (Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John) to an extraordinary purpose. We read in Matthew 4:19 that Jesus with just a few words, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men," invited his disciples into a life of divine adventure, transformation, and eternal impact. They left their nets immediately, without hesitation or delay. They stepped out in faith, trusting that the One who called them would equip them. Church, this is our call, too.

God is still walking along the shores of our lives, calling us to leave behind what's comfortable and step into what's eternal. Whether you feel like a seasoned disciple or a weary soul unsure of your place, know this: Jesus sees you, calls you, and desires to work through you. You are not just disciples; you are fishers of men. Your prayers, your service, your love, your presence, they all matter. Every handshake, every word of encouragement, every act of kindness is bait on the line of grace, drawing hearts toward the Kingdom.

Let us not grow weary or distracted. The world needs the light we carry. Let's cast our nets wide with faith, knowing that the harvest is plentiful and the Lord is with us. My prayers for this church are that we rise up, walk in boldness, serve with joy, and follow Him with abandon. The same Jesus who called fishermen is calling us today with the same power, the same love, and the same call: "Follow Me."

We all have our own fishing pond. People who labor have their workplace ponds, students have class ponds, service volunteers have club ponds, shoppers have local business ponds, and we all have neighborhood ponds. The ponds are out there and the fish are plentiful. Let's go fishing!



Continued on p. 2

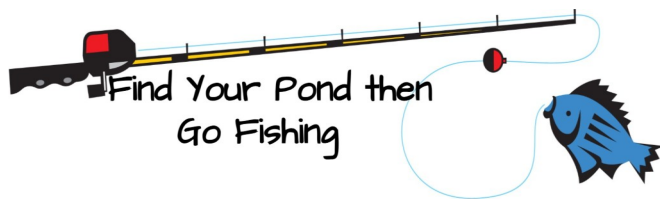
Pastor's News and Notes *continued from p. 1*

Reaching Out - Fishing Challenge

The church has some handy fishing lures for you to use on your fishing trips. Our church flyers have all the information anyone needs about our church. The flyer, along with our church website (fpcs.church), are great guides for anyone who wants to know more about who we are and what we believe. Occasionally we encounter fish that are in need of spiritual help. For those folks, we have a prayer card and invite anyone in need of prayer to email me (Pastor Karl) and I am happy to pray for and help them in any way I can. Please let those you contact know that this communication is strictly confidential. Finally, the latest in our tackle box of lures is our new Invite Cards. They are handy, business-like cards that you can carry with you to invite folks to our church, to Bible studies, and to fellowship times.

Here is our challenge. Let's make fellowship Sunday each month the day we each invite at least two people to join us for worship and a meal. You have the lures, you have your fishing pond, let's go fishing!

Reach Over – Making Fisher Men and Women



Discipleship is like Jesus teaching us to fish with a cane pole, simple in appearance, but rich in depth and reward. It begins with stillness. Just like fishing in a quiet pond, Bible study begins with slowing down. You don't rush into the water swinging your pole wildly. You sit, breathe, and prepare your heart to listen. The stillness is where the insight begins.

A cane pole isn't flashy and it's not loaded with gadgets. It's humble, like the Bible itself. You don't need fancy commentaries or degrees to start. Just the Word, your attention, and a willingness to learn. At first, you might not catch much. You drop your line, maybe read a passage and wait. Maybe nothing bites. But over time, you learn where to cast, how to be patient, and how to recognize the tug of truth when it comes.

When you do hook something, like a verse that speaks to you, a deeper understanding, it's like reeling in a fish. It feeds your soul. You clean it, reflect

on it, and let it nourish your spirit. Eventually, you're not just fishing for yourself. You're teaching others, sharing your catch, helping them learn to use their own poles. Bible study becomes discipleship. No matter how many times you return to it, the Word always has more to offer with new insights and new depths. The pond is alive, and the fish are always moving.

We have two Bible study classes: Sundays at 9:30 AM and Wednesdays at 4:00 pm. Both are held in the classroom. If these two discipleship fishing ponds are not good times for you, consider hosting a Bible study in your home. I would love to see our small group Bible Study to expand and would love to help you get that going. Let's go fishing!

Reach Up – Fish Camp



A prayer meeting is like a group of fishermen gathered at Fish Camp by a quiet lake. Just as fishermen cast their lines into the water with hope and patience, those in a prayer meeting lift their requests to the heavens, trusting that something unseen will respond. Fishing requires stillness, attentiveness, and faith that beneath the surface something is stirring. In

prayer meetings we collectively quiet the noise of life to tune into the divine. At the pond, sometimes the fish bite quickly, other times not at all. In prayer, answers may come swiftly, slowly, or in ways we don't expect. But the act of showing up, of being present, is part of the miracle. Fishermen often gather together, sharing stories, encouragement, and bait. A prayer meeting is a spiritual version of that, where people unite in hope, share burdens and lift one another up. Whether it's a fish or a moment of peace, clarity, or comfort, both fishing and prayer offer rewards that go beyond the surface. Sometimes the catch isn't what is expected, but it's exactly what is needed.

Continued on p. 3

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

Thank you to all the prayer warriors who are daily praying for the spread of the gospel and the building up of our church. Our next prayer meeting is a Prayer Luncheon on Thursday, September 11th at Noon. We will have lunch together and then we will answer the call of the ARP Church Synod to pray collectively for the persecuted church, after which we will discuss the future of our church. Let's go fishing!



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

- Dennis Green 7 Years
- Lee Hughs 8 Years
- Leslie Hughs 8 Years
- Carol Wolfe 7 Years
- Terry Wolfe 7 Years

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

Benediction

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

Pastor Karl

Westminster Catechism

Since the beginning of the year, we have been using the text of the Westminster Larger Catechism for our responsive reading during worship. In the interest of simplicity, Pastor Karl has begun using the Shorter Catechism. A link to that document can be found [here](#) or there are copies in the office. Stop by and we'll give you one.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Text</u>	<u>Smaller Catechism</u>
September 7		
Communion	John 14:15-31	49-50
September 14	John 15:1-17	51-52
September 21		
Fellowship Meal	John 15:18-27	53-54
September 28		
Mission Moment	John 16:1-15	55-56

Officer Training

"If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task."
1 Timothy 3:1

Officer Training is for those who are preparing to serve as a church officer and for those who simply want to know what church officers do.

The first step is to let us know that you plan to participate. Call or email the church office. Then you will watch a series of 6 videos produced by Catawba Presbytery on your own between now and the end of September. There will be 3 in-person sessions between October and December to discuss the videos.

The link to the videos is available [here](#) or you can use the QR code below.



First Presbyterian Church of Sebring

PRAYER LUNCHEON

Gather with your church family to pray for our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who are persecuted because of their faith in Christ.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Lunch at noon in the fellowship hall then prayer time and a chance to share your vision for moving our church forward.







Rev. Cameron Retirement

Rev. Ray Cameron is retiring as Senior Pastor of the Lake Placid church at the end of this month after 40 years of serving the Lord there. The photos below show a tumbler that our church gifted to him in honor of his retirement.





SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Bible Study 4:00	4	5	6
7 Sunday School 9:30 Worship with Communion 11:00 	8	9 Deacons 1:00 Session 3:00	10 CCW 10:00 Bible Study 4:00	11  Prayer luncheon noon	12	13
14 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	15	16	17 Bible Study 4:00	18 8:30  MEN'S BREAKFAST	19	20
21 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Lunch 	22	23	24 Bible Study 4:00	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	29	30				

SEPTEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

11 Danny & Jane Farrer

OCTOBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

9 Janine Hart
12 Pat Villere
17 Ellen Waldock
19 Nancy (Mrs. Don) Davis
26 Nelson Wood
30 Jeanette Stypa

Anniversaries

5 Don & Linda Childress

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

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

