



The Presby Press

November 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**

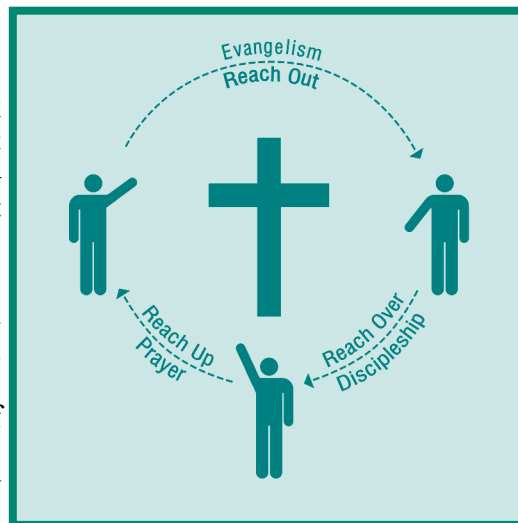
Living the Acts 2 Church: A Review

In 2022, we began the work of revitalization by looking at the early church. In Acts 2:42–47, we see a powerful snapshot of the early church, a community alive with purpose, unity, and spiritual vitality. They devoted themselves to four foundational practices: the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. These pillars didn't just sustain them; they ignited a movement. As we reflected on this passage, we were reminded that these same practices are essential for us today. As the body of Christ, we are united in Christ and with one another in these practices. Being dependent on one another, it is important that each of us engages personally by giving of our time, our talents and our treasures in service to our Lord Jesus. Here's how we, as a fellowship of believers, are living them out today.

Apostles' Teaching

Let's stay rooted in Scripture, allowing God's Word to shape our hearts and guide our steps.

Whether through Sunday messages, Bible studies, or personal devotion, every moment in the Word strengthens our foundation. The early church devoted itself to the apostles' teaching, which was rooted in



the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This wasn't casual learning, it was transformational. Biblical teaching grounded the church in truth, protecting from false doctrine and guiding spiritual growth. Today, this means immersing ourselves in Scripture, sound preaching, and discipleship. As Paul wrote, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). The Word is our compass. It shapes our worldview, convicts our hearts, and equips us for every

good work. Along with our worship gatherings on Sundays and other special occasions, we also participate in small groups to study the Word of God together. I encourage everyone to join in either our Adult Sunday School class at 9:30 am each Sunday morning or Our Small Group Bible study on Wednesdays at 4 pm. If you are unable to attend either of these days or times, I am open to adding another study at another time. Please let me know what would meet your needs.

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

Fellowship



Fellowship is more than friendly conversation, it's sharing life. It's showing up, supporting one another, and building relationships that reflect Christ's love. Your presence matters. Your story matters. Together, we are stronger. Fellowship in Acts wasn't just social, it was sacrificial. Believers shared possessions, met daily, and cared for one another's needs. The Biblical word for fellowship is *koinonia*, which means a deep, spiritual bond rooted in Christ. It's about mutual encouragement, accountability, and love. Hebrews 10:24–25 urges us to “consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds... not giving up meeting together”. Fellowship is where we grow together, heal together, and reflect the unity of the body of Christ. We gather each third Sunday after worship and share a meal together. Make it a practice to join us. Better yet, invite a friend to come join you and your brothers and sisters in Christ. We also have two fellowship groups who meet monthly to share in friendship: Caring Christian Women (women's ministry) and Men's Fellowship Breakfast. These are two great opportunities to get to know one another.

Breaking of Bread

From communion to shared meals, breaking bread reminds us of Jesus' sacrifice and our unity in Him. It's a sacred rhythm of remembrance and celebration. Every table becomes a place of grace when Christ is at the center. This pillar includes both the Lord's Supper and shared meals. It's a rhythm of remembrance and celebration. In communion, we proclaim Christ's death and anticipate His return (1 Corinthians 11:26). In shared meals, we build relationships and express hospitality, which is an essential mark of Christian love. The early church broke bread “with glad and sincere hearts”, showing that joy and gratitude are central to Christian life. We serve Holy Communion as part of our regular service on the first Sunday of each month. Please remember your friends and family who do not have a church home and are missing out on this blessing.

Prayer



Prayer connects us to the heart of God. It's where we find peace, power, and purpose. As we pray together, whether in services, small groups, or quiet moments, we invite heaven to move in our midst. Prayer

was the heartbeat of the early church. It connected them to God's power, guidance, and presence. They prayed in the temple, in homes, and in crisis. Acts 4:31 shows that after prayer, “the place where they were meeting was shaken”. Prayer invites the Holy Spirit, strengthens faith, and aligns us with God's will. Paul exhorts us to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17), because prayer is where revival begins. We have met on two occasions this year for special prayer meetings, and we want to do more. We are looking for someone who can help our church grow through prayer. This pillar is vital to the good health of our church. My appeal is this: Join me in making this church be known as the praying church. How? I don't know, but together we can figure it out.

Let's Be That Church

Just like in Acts, when we devote ourselves to these pillars, we become a church that is alive, growing, and overflowing with joy. The Lord added to the early church's number daily and He can do the same through us. Let's recommit today to these pillars not as rituals, but as rhythms of revival. May God bless you and bless First Presbyterian Church of Sebring.

Extend an Invitation — Share the Gift of Hope

Our church has been passionate about reaching out to the community, and many of you have faithfully invited friends and loved ones to join sometimes, those closest to us already have their own church homes. That's why we're inviting you to take a bold and joyful step: make it a habit to invite a stranger to church. Whether it's someone you meet at the grocery store, a neighbor you've yet to get to know, or a new face in town, your invitation could be the beginning of a life-changing journey. Here are some special times to invite folks to:

Special Sundays to Share

- The First and Third Sundays of each month — Communion Sunday and
- Fellowship Sunday — are especially meaningful times of worship and connection.

These are perfect opportunities to welcome someone new into our church family.

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

Upcoming Events to Celebrate and Share

Over the next three months, we'll be hosting several events that are ideal for inviting newcomers:

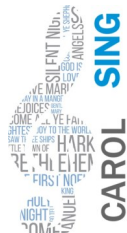
◆ November 25th – Sanctuary Open House

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of our sanctuary's cornerstone! Come admire the stunning stained-glass windows, especially the breathtaking rose window behind the Choir Loft. It's a beautiful way to share our history and hospitality.



◆ December – A Season of Joy

- ◆ Community Carol Sing December 16 at 4:00
- ◆ Advent Sundays
- ◆ Christmas Eve Services

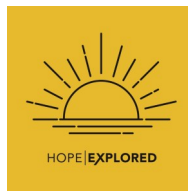


These gatherings are filled with warmth, music, and the message of hope, perfect for welcoming someone who may be seeking light in a dark season. We will provide specific information in our Sunday bulletin for these upcoming events.



<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Text</u>	<u>Smaller Catechism</u>
November 2 Communion	John 18:28-40	67-69
November 9	John 20:19-31	70-72
November 16 Fellowship Meal	John 21:1-14	73-75
November 23	John 21:15-25	76-78
November 30 Mission Moment	Genesis 1:1-13	79-81

◆ January – Hope Explored



We're launching a three-week class called Hope Explored, designed especially for newcomers. It's a gentle, engaging way to discover the real hope found in Jesus, a hope that speaks to the heart of every human longing.

Your Invitation Matters - Every event is a chance for someone to encounter love, community, and the hope of Christ. You can be the one to open that door. Let's be intentional, courageous, and joyful in extending invitations, not just to friends, but to strangers who may be waiting for someone to reach out. This season, let's give the greatest gift of all: **hope**.



November Benediction

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father

Pastor Karl



Member Anniversary.

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

- James Adams 10 Years
- Nancy Ratzlaff 10

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



On October 16, 2025 three lovely CCW ladies went to the Palms for our monthly meet and greet. Along with Cecil we enjoyed talking and singing with fourteen residents. They have invited the CCW to their monthly Tea Party. So, from now on we will be going on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00am and attend their party. We have the chance to pray, sing, and possibly play some Bible Trivia with them. We invite anyone from our congregation to join us. The Tea Party begins in December. Our next outing to the Palms is November 19th at 12:30pm. Please join us. We'll meet at the church first and walk over together.



November Fellowship Meal

The November fellowship lunch is a potluck Thanksgiving feast. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share on November 16th. The CCW will provide turkey, gravy, drinks and rolls. Come and join us for a great meal and a time to get to know the people with whom you worship.



We'll be gathering to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday, November 29 at 10:00. We need all the help we can get. There will be something you can do no matter what your skill level. We'll play Christmas music and have fun with it.

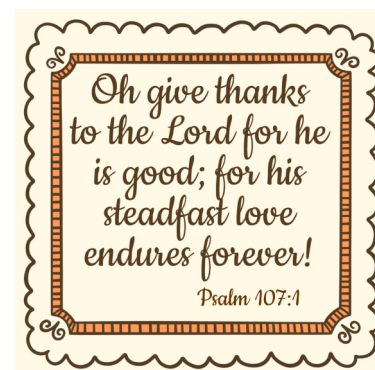


Here are a few things to remember:

- “Ornaments” (gift requests) are available on the tree in the Poinsettia St. entrance.
- All donations go to *local* veterans.
- They would rather not have your gifts wrapped, but would appreciate gift bags.



If you park on the Franklin Street side, you might have noticed the yellow stripes on the sidewalk near the ramp. We're trying to designate that as a loading zone. If you are driving someone who has mobility challenges, you can pull in there and help them out and then go park somewhere else. We have a lot of people with this need and we want to ensure that everyone can get into the sanctuary without a longer walk than they can manage.



NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH AND MISSION

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2025



BLESSINGS COMING IN - BLESSINGS GOING OUT

October is upon us even though us Floridians haven't quite felt the autumn crispy air we are eagerly awaiting for Florida to participate in the weather change. Changes can be a good thing or they can be a difficult thing. I want to apologize for the delay in our monthly news. My family once again was faced with some recent health challenges as we recently discovered a large mass on my husband's thyroid. It was a difficult time for us we trucked through doctors, tests, labs etc the thought of cancer! This was a heavy weight as it was one of the largest our specialist ever seen. I needed to be by his side. We are post surgery he's home recovering, PRAISE GOD NO CANCER WAS FOUND! Sorry to make half of this message about us but, I wanted you readers to know the absence of mission news. Even though I didn't get this out didn't mean nothing wasn't happening! We have had a full month of pouring into those in need! Our averages are increased! We are feeding into the 80's these days! Needs are increasing all around us but, we also can see the goodness of God moving around as well! More are returning to church, our men's Bible study is growing, it's in the little things we are counting joy because there are a lot of big needs that we are trying to meet as well. We are still working towards our goal to build Karl's Place more and more families are desperately becoming homeless in our area, more are moving to our area as well! God knows our needs and I thank each one of you for your love, prayers, support because it's not easy what we do but, we do it unto the Lord! Love you guys - Katie Beatty



This beautiful local mobile coffee truck decided to bless our people this month with coffee and lemonades! Many take luxury of getting coffee when they want but, many do not have that luxury and the Brew Crew pulled in our parking lot and offered their entire menu for free! God bless them and their hearts to give back to this great community.

September totals

meals	Housing	Food	Outreach
4,980	102	boxes 147	12



REAL TALK!

I feel like I've always been able to be open and real with each one of you who have supported our ministry for either all 49 years or maybe some of you just months. We have seen such a shift in the wind with people and their hearts lately !

Loving the unlovable was a phrase my grandparents used from day one! Through the years we had many people not like that phrase but, in the reality lately we have seen more lack gratitude than ever before. I had to step out of the kitchen and speak from my heart that we don't have to feed you, we don't have to clothe you, we don't have to shelter you but, we choose to because this is what Jesus has called us to do ! They are hard to love when they spit back in your face but, to be honest we know they are broken, challenged, discouraged people who I learned to pray for even harder! Please join me in praying for them as well ! It's been really hard lately.



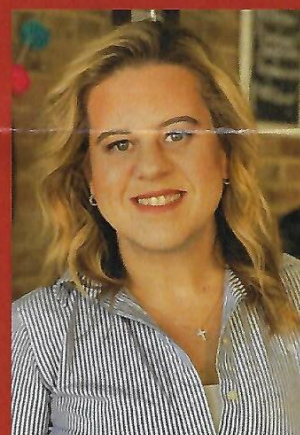
SUCCESSFUL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our 5th Annual golf tournament was a huge success - we had over 200 golfers who participated on two courses along with so many other businesses in our community who helped sponsor and make this event the success it was ! Coming out of the summer months can be a difficult challenge at the mission and this event helped us immensely with projects we are looking forward to starting , along with food purchases and various other needs we had so thank you to everyone who helped us !



MISSION NEEDS:

**MAYONNAISE
MUSTARD
JELLY
HEFTY PLATES
SNACK ITEMS
BOTTLED WATER
BAKED BEANS
SHAMPOO
DEODORANT
DAWN DISH SOAP
RICE
SPAGHETTI SAUCE
PICKLES**



**Executive Director -
Kathleen Beatty**

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NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Sunday School 9:30 Worship with Communion 11:00 	3	4	5 CCW 11:00 Bible Study 4:00	6	7	8
9 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	10	11	12 Bible Study 4:00	13 Outreach Committee 1:00	14	15
16 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Lunch 	17	18 Deacons 1:00 Joint Meeting 2:00 Session 3:00	19 Bible Study 4:00	20  8:30 Officer Training 4:00	21	22
23 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	24	25  100th Anniversary Open House 2-5 pm	26 No Bible Study Church office closed	27  THANKS GIVING	28	29 Decorate the church 10:00
30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00						

NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Calvin Lomelino
- 5 Kristie Busch
- 7 Cindy Warrick
- 17 Jack Breed
- 19 Mary Lomelino
- 27 CK (Ken) Palmer

Anniversaries

- 4 Richard & Earleen Jumont
- 14 High & Debbie Donahue
- 20 Daneil & Jeanette Stypa
- 26 Barney & Janine Hart

DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 2 Frank Busch
- 14 Diane Graves

Anniversaries

None that we have a record of-please let us know if we have made a mistake.

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

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

