



# The Presby Press

February 2026

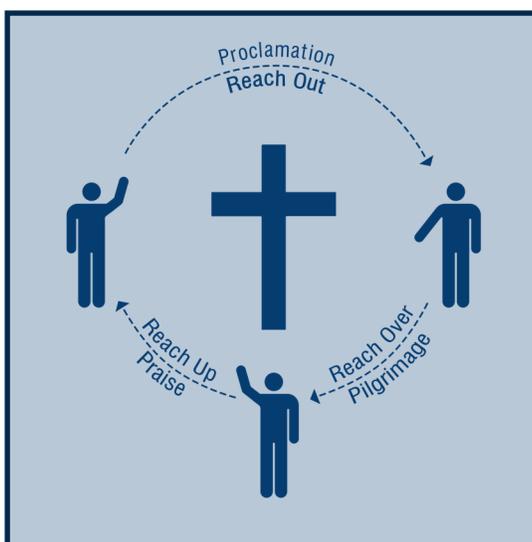
*A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, ARP, Sebring, Florida*

## 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 2026 Renewal Theme Proclamation, Pilgrimage, Praise

Thanks to everyone one who attended our annual congregational meeting. We had a good turnout of our members and several of our extended church family also attended. Thanks for the great Treasurer report by Treasurer/Deacon Pat Villere, Budget presentation by our Diaconate Chairman/Deacon Dennis Green, and the Caring Christian Women's report by Janette Stypa. We appreciate Jack Breed stepping in to lead our meeting and also Janine Hart for taking the minutes.



of Christ. This was important work that also impacts our current situation. By building on the successes of 2025, I believe we are poised to have a strong year in 2026. That is the good news.

Although the data was not as strong as we had hoped. We did experience positive growth: we gained 4 new members, and overall, our church family grew by 11. We averaged between 17 and 48 people in worship each Sunday, with a yearlong average of 31. We welcomed 32

As most are aware, in this season of church life, we are considered a mission church in the process of organization. To organize we need to grow to the point when we are independent both financially and with Elder leadership. The 2026 theme is provided to focus our time and talents in order to grow our church in these areas so that we can organize and be officially be recognized once again as a church member of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.

To help you understand my vision on how that will be accomplished, I have provided the pastoral address given on Jan 25, 2026 at the Annual Congregation Meeting. Please read this message again and consider how God is calling you to become involved and enjoy the blessing of serving the Lord at First Presbyterian Church of Sebring, just as I have for these past four plus years.

#### 2025 In Review

We enjoyed a good year of worship, fellowship, and discipleship. Many of you gave your time, talent, and treasures. Because of your hard work, this church is a place where our church family can grow as disciples

first time visitors in 2025. Our average weekly giving was about \$1,600. However, the financial picture remains challenging. As you can see in our budget, at our current rate of growth we will need to supplement our expected tithing by about \$65,000. Instead of an income of \$1,600 per week, we need to average \$2,800 per week. While we do expect some help from the Florida Presbytery and the Synod Board of Outreach North America, we still anticipate dipping into our reserves by over \$44,000. If nothing changes, we will likely run through our remaining reserves by the end of 2027.

I share this because I want you to be aware of the challenges the Deacons have faced over the last several years. They have accomplished great things. They have cut the budget to the bare minimum and managed to keep the reserve impact in 2025 to \$25,000—less than half of what was expected. They are to be commended. But they cannot do it alone. We all need to do our part to grow this church.

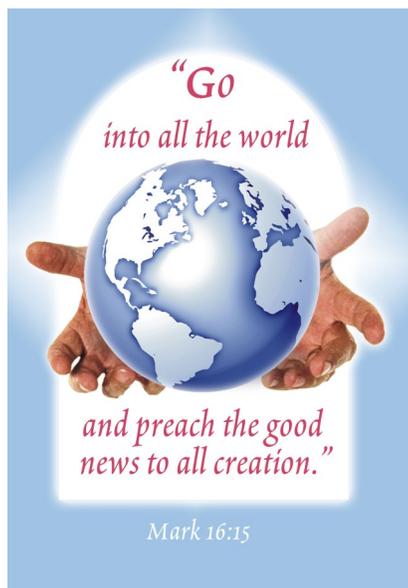
*Continued on p. 2*

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

But remember this: we are not in this alone. God is faithful to His church. Matthew 16:18 tells us that it is the Lord who will build His church, and He is faithful. That we can count on. Brothers and sisters, as we step into 2026, I believe God is calling us to walk boldly and faithfully into the mission of building the Kingdom of God through Proclamation, Pilgrimage, and Praise. This year's theme is more than a slogan—it is an invitation. An invitation into a journey shaped by three powerful movements of the Christian life. Together, they form the heartbeat of our faith and the roadmap for our church.

### Proclamation

Scripture reminds us in Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." This is not a suggestion.



It is not an optional activity reserved for a few. Outreach is our commission.

Proclamation means lifting our voices with courage and compassion. It means sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in our neighborhoods and throughout the Sebring community. When we proclaim, we become living testimonies of God's love. Our

words—spoken with sincerity and truth—can break chains of despair and replace them with hope. We are not silent witnesses. We are heralds of the King. And the world needs the message we carry.

### Pilgrimage

Jesus teaches us in Matthew 7:13–14 that the road to life is narrow, and only a few find it. Discipleship, then, is not a onetime decision—it is a lifelong journey. Pilgrimage means walking daily with Christ. It means growing in maturity, choosing obedience, and encouraging one another long the way. It is a call to intentional living: to study God's Word, to pray with purpose, to hold one another accountable, and to serve with humility. We are not spiritual tourists drifting from moment to moment. We are pilgrims. Our steps are ordered by the Lord, and every step—

whether joyful or challenging—draws us closer to Him.



Psalm 150:6

Psalm 150:6 declares, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord." Praise is not merely a song we sing—it is the overflow of a heart touched by God. Worship is not confined to Sunday mornings. It is a lifestyle of gratitude, reverence, and joy. When we praise, something powerful happens: atmospheres shift, strongholds break, and heaven touches earth. Praise is not just our expression. It is our weapon, our witness, and our worship. It is the sound of victory.

### In Closing

What is our call to action? Beloved, 2026 is our year to rise. Let us proclaim the gospel with boldness. Let us walk the pilgrimage of discipleship with faithfulness. Let us lift our voices in praise with unshakable joy. Together, we will be a light to the world, a church family on mission, and a people of worship. Sebring is waiting. The moment is before us. And the time—God's time—is now. May we step forward with courage, unity, and unwavering faith as we journey together in Proclamation, Pilgrimage, and Praise.

**May God bless  
First Presbyterian Church of Sebring.**

**Remember the word**

**GO**

- ◇ It's 2/3 of the word God
- ◇ 1/3 of the word Gospel
- ◇ And 1/2 of the word Good.

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



<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon Text</u>
February 1 Communion	Genesis 9:1-29
February 8	Genesis 10:1-11:9
February 15 Fellowship Meal	Genesis 11:10-32
February 22 Mission Moment	Genesis 12:1-20

## Benediction+

*"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  
be with you.*

*Romans 16:20*

*Pastor Karl*



## Inquirer's Class

What does it mean to be Presbyterian? What does it mean to be a member of a church? So glad you asked. These are important questions and we have the answers.

Please join us for an inquirer's class which is an introduction or refresher on the basics of Christian belief and practices of our church. We will discuss what it means to be redeemed, why we are reformed in our theology, why we are presbyterian in our form of government, and how Jesus calls us as Christians into fellowship and service as a church.

The class will take place on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 10:00 am-2:00 pm with lunch provided. You can email the church office to sign up or there will be sign-up sheets in the sanctuary.



## Member Anniversary

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

- ◆ Julia Guerra 17 years
- ◆ Barney Hart 43 years
- ◆ Jeanette Stypa 8 years
- ◆ Pat Villere 22 years
- ◆ Phil White 6 years

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



On February 19th the CCW will be hosting a Palms Meet and Greet. We'll gather at the church at 11:30 and then go over to the Palms. We share stories, prayers, and songs. It's a wonderful time. Everyone is invited to join us.

The ladies will be taking a month off in the luncheon department. See you in March.

If anyone has any Christmas cards that we can use for our next card campaign, your donation will be greatly appreciated.



The CCW ladies are being given a break from cooking this month. A group of generous, talented men from the Lake Placid church are making the meal for us on February 15th. We'll have pork loin, green beans, baked potatoes, bread, and, of course, dessert. Bring a friend and join us.

**Gideons International**  
**Sebring Camp**

P.O. Box 1635  
Sebring, Florida 33871-1635

January 12, 2026

Pastor Karl Davis  
First Presbyterian Church  
319 Poinsettia Ave.  
Sebring, Florida 33870

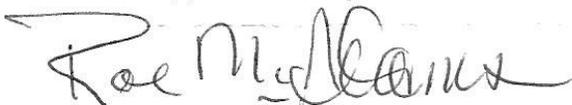
Dear Pastor Davis:

It was the most enjoyable family worship time for Joe, Jan and I to be part of your church's service this past Sunday. Your gracious inclusion and very warm reception by your congregation is genuinely appreciated.

Your congregation's care for a lost world and the Word of God is exciting to see. Your congregation's contribution will be used to provide for Scriptures to be placed in areas throughout the world served by Gideons. Please pray for many people to come to faith in Jesus Christ through these Scriptures.

Thank you for your gracious hospitality. We pray that God's abundant blessings continue for you, your family, and your ministry. We look forward to partnering with you and your congregation in the days ahead. Please let us know how the Sebring Gideon Camp can best serve you.

Most appreciatively,



Roe McAdams  
Church Ministry  
Sebring Camp of Gideons

Cc: Joe and Jan Barey

The church received the following thank you note from the Historical Society for the Community Carol Sing which was a cooperative event with our church and the Maranatha Baptist Church choir.

Dear Pastor Karl and  
Church Members:

1-7-26

Thank you for the wonderful partnership  
with Sebring Historical Society for our  
Christmas Community Sing. This our  
3rd year, was the best ever!

Wishing you a year unlike any other—  
full of new dreams, journeys,  
and wonderful moments  
just waiting to be discovered.

We pray that you and your Church  
would have a terrific 2026. As we  
seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ  
together,

Thanks again so much

Linda Kalarick  
Sebring Historical Society

P.S. If your time permits, come  
on Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> to learn a bit more  
about Sebring's significant history!  
See enclosed.

L.

# FEBRUARY

2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:30 Worship with Communion 11:00 	2	3	4 CCW 11:00	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	9	10 Deacons 1:00	11 Bible Study 4:00	12 Outreach Meeting 1:00	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Lunch 	16	17	18 Bible Study 4:00	19 8:30 Men's Fellowship Breakfast  11:15-Palms Meet & Greet	20 4:00	21 Inquirer's Class 10:00-2:00
12 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	13	24	25 Bible Study 4:00	26	27	28
25 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	26	27	28 Bible Study 4:00	29	30	31

## FEBRUARY

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

11 Arlene Nordin  
19 Joanne Harderwijk-Kube

#### Anniversaries

15 Dennis & Cheryl Green

## Church Staff and Officers



ELDERS &  
DEACONS

#### The Session

Jack Breed, Jim Underwood,  
Roger Warrick

#### The Diaconate

Dennis Green, Robert Harderwijk, Janine Hart,  
Pat Villere

#### Trustees

Barney Hart, Calvin Lomelino, Patricia Villere

## MARCH

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

5 Bob Harderwijk  
18 Hugh Donahue  
23 Daniel Lunceford  
25 Bonnie Smart  
31 Don Childress

#### Anniversaries

*None that we know of-contact the church office 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 March dates again along with April.*

## Our Staff

### 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

