



# The Presby Press

March 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

#### 2026 Theme

In our season of church revitalization, we are using 2 Corinthians 2:14 as our guiding text for 2026:

*"Thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere."*

This reminder from the Apostle Paul calls us first to praise. So we begin with gratitude. We thank God for reviving this body of believers and for bringing new friends to join us in the work of the church.

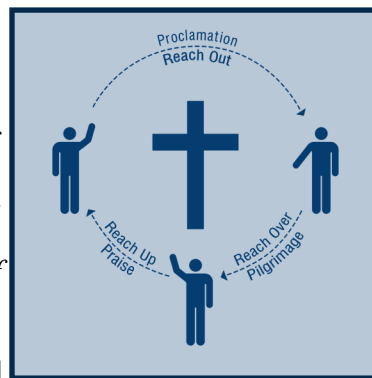
Paul reminds us that those who are "in Christ" are being led by Him in a triumphal procession. What a powerful image for our pilgrimage of faith! We are not wandering aimlessly. We are not striving for victory on our own. Christ Himself leads us. Victory is assured in our service and obedience to King Jesus.

And as we walk this pilgrim path, we spread the sweet fragrance of Christ. We do this as we proclaim Him, love others in His name, and faithfully live out the gospel in everyday life.

Church family, keep this text close to your heart. As you go about your daily routines, look for the divine appointments our Lord has prepared. May we faithfully spread the glorious fragrance of Jesus wherever He sends us.

#### Praise

Thanks be to God for the ways He is strengthening our outreach efforts. We are grateful that Allen and Sherida Ridgdill have joined us in this season. Many of you met them at our recent fellowship meal, where



they blessed us not only with wonderful food but with joyful fellowship.

They are members of our sister church in Lake Placid, and we rejoice that the Lord has given them a desire to assist in our revitalization work.

Allen is a Licentiate of the Florida Presbytery. A licentiate is someone who has been formally examined and approved by the Presbytery and is licensed to preach—a recognized step between completing theological training and full ordination. He holds a Master of Divinity from Erskine Theological Seminary and is currently seeking a pastoral call. He has joined us as a volunteer intern.

This is truly a win-win blessing. We are strengthened by Allen and Sherida's gifts and outreach ideas for the Sebring community, and Allen gains valuable pastoral experience as he serves alongside me. You will see him participating in worship and occasionally preaching on Sundays. He has already begun serving through teaching in our recent Inquirer Class.

Please join me in warmly welcoming them to our church family.



*Continued on p. 2*

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

### **Pilgrimage**

Christ is leading us in triumphal procession. Along this pilgrimage, our Lord continues to achieve victory after victory—lives engaged, hearts encouraged, souls strengthened for His glory. As we travel together, He teaches us and blesses us through His Word.

Many expressed appreciations for the Christmas devotional by Reverend Alistair Begg, which beautifully unfolded the message of Christ through Scripture and hymnody.

On Wednesdays, we are currently engaged in an Easter study exploring the fragrance of Jesus from Creation to the Cross and Resurrection. It is not too late to join us in this journey through God's Word.

### **ADULT** *Sunday School*

On Sundays, our Adult Sunday School class is studying Ezra using the Adult Quarterly. Over a seven-year cycle, this curriculum leads us through the entire Bible—another way Christ faithfully leads us step by step in His procession.

### **Proclamation**

Our outreach team continues to seek the Lord's direction as He "through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of Him everywhere." Plans are already underway for several gospel outreach opportunities.



During Holy Week, (March 29- April 5) we will host a special series rooted in Genesis 3:15, the first promise of the gospel. In addition to Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday worship, we will gather:

**Maundy Thursday** (4:00 PM) – A prayer and communion service

**Good Friday** (4:00 PM) – A solemn service of remembrance

These services provide wonderful opportunities to invite friends and loved ones who do not have a church home.

### **Hope Explored**

In April, we will teach Hope Explored in the clubhouse at Sebring Village. We thank God for Jeanette Stypa, who has already gathered, at last count, 19 of her neighbors to attend. If you would like to host a study in your neighborhood, please let me know. Let us spread the fragrance of Christ into every corner of our community.

### **July 4th Outreach**

We are in the early planning stages for another Fourth of July celebration on our church grounds. We are considering a BBQ event prior to the fireworks over Lake Jackson, which many of us have enjoyed from our parking lot in recent years.



### **100-Year Celebration**



On June 7th, we will celebrate 100 years of the Lord leading us in triumphant worship in our sanctuary. For a century, God has faithfully upheld this church bringing glory to His name, joy to His people, and salvation to the lost. Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph. Please join us at the Outreach Committee meeting as we plan this celebration.



## Pastor's News and Notes

continued from p. 2



### March Sermon Series

Date	Sermon
March 1 Communion	Genesis 13
March 8	Genesis 14
March 15 Fellowship Meal	Genesis 15
March 22	TBA

### Holy Week

March 29 Palm Sunday	Matthew 21:1-33
Mission Moment	
April 2 Maundy Thursday	Luke 22:14-26
April 3 Good Friday	John 19
April 5 Easter	Matthew 28:1-10

### Member Anniversary



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

- ◆ Nancy M. Davis 26 years
- ◆ Kathleen Shisler 25 years

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

## Benediction

*"Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.*

2 Corinthians 13:11

**Pastor Karl**

On March 3rd the CCW will be joining the Palms for a Tea Party. If you would like to join the group meet us at The Palms at 9:15 am. The next CCW meeting is on Thursday, March 5th at 11:00 am at Dimitri's. Our CCW meetings are focused on new ways to fulfill our pilgrimage, our praise of Christ and ask ourselves what is our proclamation for ourselves as well as our community.

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



Our monthly fellowship lunch will be on Sunday, March 15th. Our theme is "salads." Sounds a bit odd but the CCW has never disappointed you and we promise to make it worth your trip to the fellowship hall. We will be making a variety of salads and desserts for your enjoyment.





## Caffeine & Calvin

*Grounded in Grace. Lived in Christ.*

*Eph. 3:17*

Monthly Devotional — M. Allen Ridgill

### A Brief Word About Lent

*Lent is a season of spiritual reflection observed by many Christians in the forty days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. It follows Jesus' forty days of fasting in the wilderness*

*(Matthew 4:1–11).*

*In the Associate Reformed Presbyterian tradition, Lent is not required or commanded in Scripture. However, many churches use it voluntarily as a helpful teaching season to focus on repentance, prayer, and gratitude for Christ's work. It is not a way to earn God's favor, but an opportunity to renew our devotion to Christ as we prepare to celebrate His resurrection.*

### Looking to Jesus in This Lenten Season

“Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross...” Hebrews 12:2–3 (ESV)

During the Lenten season, Christians around the world are reminded of the road our Savior walked for us—the road of humility, obedience, and suffering. Jesus did not come seeking comfort or applause. He came to do the will of His Father and to give His life for sinners.

The writer of Hebrews tells us to “look to Jesus.” That simple command is at the heart of the Christian life. When we are weary, we look to Him. When we are discouraged, we look to Him. When our bodies grow weaker and our days feel uncertain, we look to Him.

Our Westminster Shorter Catechism reminds us that “Christ executes the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God” (WSC 25). On the cross, Jesus did not merely suffer as an example—He suffered as our substitute. He bore our guilt, carried our judgment, and secured our peace with

God.

Jesus endured the cross for “the joy set before Him.” That joy was not found in suffering itself, but in what His suffering would accomplish: the salvation of His people. As the Catechism teaches, we are justified “only for the righteousness of Christ imputed to us and received by faith alone” (WSC 33). Our hope rests not in our faithfulness, but in His.

Many of us in this congregation have walked with the Lord for many years. We have seen His faithfulness in seasons of joy and in seasons of sorrow. Lent gives us an opportunity to slow down and remember again that our confidence has never been in ourselves, but always in Christ.

We do not reflect on the cross to earn God's favor. We reflect on it because Christ has already secured our favor. We do not examine our hearts to condemn ourselves, but to return again to the grace that saves us. As the Catechism reminds us, our chief end is “to glorify God, and to enjoy Him forever” (WSC 1). Fixing our eyes on Christ leads us to both.

As we move toward Good Friday and Easter, may we look again to Jesus with renewed faith. May His love deepen our gratitude. May His sacrifice strengthen our assurance. And may His resurrection remind us that our future is secure in Him.

### Prayer:

*Gracious Father, thank You for sending Your Son to bear our sin and satisfy Your justice in our place. Thank You that in Christ we are reconciled, forgiven, and accepted. Help us in this season to look to Him with humble hearts and steadfast faith. Strengthen us by Your Spirit and keep us trusting in Your promises. Through Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

## New Testament Mission Shopping List



The CCW will be holding a Shopping List drive for New Testament Mission. We will be collecting items throughout the month of March and take it to them in April. Their list includes:

- individual wrapped snack chips, crackers, cookies, cereal
- canned vegetables , #10 canned vegetables (these are the 100 oz. size)
- instant mashed potatoes, cans of soup or Chef Boyardee items with a pop-up top, jelly, canned meats
- disposable forks, napkins, paper towels, laundry soap, bleach, Ziploc bags sandwich size and quart size
- Dawn soap
- gift cards for perishable products

*Containers will be available in both entrances. Your support is greatly appreciated.*



### Living Stone

Ambassadors of Hope Ministries

While they were home from the mission field, Martin and Rebecca Mingus came to our worship service on February 22 just as guests to enjoy visiting with us. And yet, somehow they ended up speaking in front of the congregation about their ministry in the Philippines, despite having no time to prepare. Ask Pastor Karl how that came about.

They are not World Witness missionaries but they do have an association with the Lake Placid ARP church.

“Living Stone Ambassadors of Hope Ministries, Inc. was founded by Martin and Rebecca Mingus in May of 2024. We started with 5 beneficiaries who were trained in cooking street foods to sell to raise money to help support their families. We have continued to help additional families earn sustainable income through trainings, financial assistance, livestock projects, education, and other programs. We desire to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and encourage Christians to live in more Christ-like ways. Through Bible studies, our kids club, and mentoring, we hope to help others develop a close, personal relationship with our Lord.”

If you would like to see photos of their ministry in action, their website is

<https://livingstoneambassadors.org/> .



Their email is [lsm.mingus@gmail.com](mailto:lsm.mingus@gmail.com).

If you feel led to support their ministry, you can make a check out to First Presbyterian Church of Lake Placid. Make a note for the Mingus Mission Fund. Send it to the church at 118 N. Oak Ave., Lake Placid, 33852



# MARCH

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School 9:30 Worship with Communion 11:00 	2	3 Palms Tea Party 9:15	4  Bible Study 4:00	5  CCW 11:00 at Dimitri's	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Time begins  <i>Spring Forward</i>  Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	9	10  Deacons 1:00 Session 2:00	11  Bible Study 4:00	12  Outreach Meeting 1:00	13	14
15 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Lunch 	16	17  <i>Saint            Patrick's            Day</i>	18  Bible Study 4:00	19 8:30 Men's Fellowship Breakfast  Men's Fellowship BREAKFAST	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	23	24	25  Bible Study 4:00	26	27	28
29	30	31				

# 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.*

# APRIL

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- 1 Jimmy Seay  
 9 Leslie Hughes  
 17 Jim Adam  
 18 Linda Childress  
 28 Carol Brasier

### Anniversaries

- 29 Nelson & Fay Wood

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

## First Presbyterian Church

**319 Poinsettia Ave.**

**Sebring, FL 33870**

**863.385.0107**

**FPCSerling319@gmail.com**

**fpcs.church**

**Like us on Facebook**



## Church Staff and Officers



### 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



## 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.

## The Mission of our Newsletter is . . .

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

