



The Presby Press

April 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

Holy Week

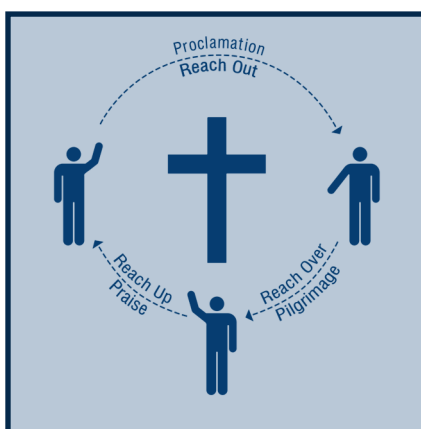
Dear friends in Christ, Holy Week is the heart of our faith, the sacred journey from triumph to tragedy to triumph again. This year, our church invites you to walk with Jesus through four observances that bring the Gospel to life:

- ◆ Palm Sunday – The Triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
- ◆ Maundy Thursday – Prayer and gathering around the Lord's Table.
- ◆ Good Friday – The Lord's sacrifice on the Cross.
- ◆ Easter Sunday – He is risen indeed!

These services are not merely events on a calendar; they are an invitation to encounter the living Christ afresh. May the Spirit draw you close as we worship together in our praise, pilgrimage and proclamation of our Lord.

Praise

Holy Week begins with exuberant praise on Palm Sunday. As Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey, the crowds spread their cloaks and palm branches on the road and cried out in adoration: "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!" (*Matthew 21:9*) On Palm Sunday morning, we will sing "Hosanna," and lift our voices in the same ancient praise. Even in the shadow of the cross that lay ahead, Jesus received the worship due to the King of kings. Let this be our reminder: no matter what trials we face, we can still cry "Hosanna!" because our King has come. Join us as we fill the sanctuary with joyful song and declare that Jesus is Lord.



Pilgrimage

From Palm Sunday's cheers we move into the quieter, costlier steps of pilgrimage on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Jesus gave us a new commandment: "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). That same night He took bread and cup, saying, "This is my body... this is my blood... do this in remembrance of me" (Luke 22:19-20). The next day He carried the cross to Calvary. Our Maundy Thursday service will include corporate and personal prayer and Holy Communion in an intimate reminder that we follow a Servant-King. Good Friday will be a solemn reminder of the greatest sacrifice of all when Jesus died for us. These hours are our pilgrimage: we walk with Jesus through betrayal, suffering, and death, learning that true discipleship often travels the road of humility, obedience, and sacrificial love. You are invited to travel these steps with us, for it is on this path that we discover the depth of Christ's love for us.

Proclamation

The journey reaches its glorious climax on Easter Sunday. The women came to the tomb expecting to anoint a dead body and instead heard the angel's triumphant announcement: "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said" (Matthew 28:6). Death could not hold Him. The stone was rolled away. The grave is empty! On Easter morning we will gather with flowers and hallelujahs to proclaim the resurrection.

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Pastor's News and Notes

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This is not merely a happy ending to a sad story, it is the central proclamation of the Christian faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Because He lives, we live. Because the tomb is empty, our hope is full. Come and hear again the Good News that changes everything. Then go and tell others: "The Lord is risen indeed!" May this Holy Week draw you deeper into the mystery of God's saving love. I look forward to seeing you at each service as we praise, pilgrimage, and proclaim together in the risen Christ.

Upcoming Events

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 of planning 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.

New Members



We rejoice in the Lord that Diane and Jim Graves, along with Pat and Bob Rhodes, have met with the elders and joined our church family in membership. Their commitment brings our membership to 36, and we give thanks for the ways God

continues to strengthen our fellowship.

As we move forward in rebuilding and renewing the life of our church, we warmly encourage others to consider joining us in membership. Your presence, your gifts, and your partnership matter. Together, we can continue shaping a vibrant, faithful community that reflects Christ's love and serves His mission in our city.

Member Anniversary



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

Janine Hart 42 years

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



<u>Date</u>	<u>Sermon</u>
• March	29 Matthew 21:1-33 (Palm Sunday)
• April 2	Luke 22:14-26 (Maundy Thursday)
	Communion
• April 3	John 19 (Good Friday)
• April 5	Matthew 28:1-10 (Easter)
• April 12	Genesis 16
• April 19	Genesis 17
	Fellowship
• April 26	Genesis 18
	Mission Moment

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Benediction+

The God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might bthat he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 1:17-20

Pastor Karl



Thank you to all who helped us with Operation Shopping List. It was wonderful to see all the items donated. It was greatly appreciated and the New Testament Mission was so very happy with the outpouring of items from their shopping list.

We had 15 residents at the Palms on March 3rd for their Tea Party. We will be going on April 7th at 9:15 am for their next Tea Party.

If you know of any assisted living home that would benefit from the CCW visits, please let us know. We are always looking for ways to continue our outreach program.



Our Fellowship Lunch in April will be a Taco Bar. We will have all the trimmings to make your own taco and of course some goodies for dessert. It is on Sunday, April 19th.

Thank You Debbie Donahue

Several months ago, Debbie Donahue took on the task of updating the bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs that lead to the fellowship hall. Her talent and creativity have given us beautiful decorations that are the first thing people see as they come into the fellowship hall, creating a welcoming first impression.

Thank you, Debbie for using your time and talents to bless our church.





Caffeine & Calvin

Grounded in Grace. Lived in Christ.

Eph. 3:17

Monthly Devotional — M. Allen Ridgdill

Who Has Enough?

Easter invites us to look again at the cross — not only to remember what Christ has done, but to reconsider what we believe about God’s sufficiency.

Because if we are honest, many of our daily anxieties sound less like faith and more like quiet questions:

Will there be enough strength?
 Enough provision?
 Enough grace?
 Enough time?
 Enough hope?
 Enough money?

Scripture repeatedly meets this fear with a simple but life-changing truth: God does not merely give enough — He *is* enough.

We see this long before the cross. In 1 Kings 17, Elijah meets a widow gathering sticks to prepare what she believes will be her final meal. Her pantry holds almost nothing, a handful of flour and a little oil. Yet through God’s promise, the jar of flour is not spent, and the jug of oil does not run dry.

The provision is not abundance in appearance. It is sufficiency in reality. Each day there is enough.

Not excess.
 Not security stored away.
 But enough — because God Himself stands behind it.

This same question echoes at the cross. As Jesus hangs in suffering, the religious leaders jeer:

“He saved others; he cannot save himself... Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross...” (Mark 15:31–32)

Their logic is clear: If He is truly powerful, He should preserve Himself. If He is truly sufficient, He should escape. In their minds, sufficiency meant avoiding suffering.

But Jesus does not come down. Not because He lacks power, but because He possesses a greater purpose. And then, in John 19:30, we hear the words that settle forever the question of whether there is enough: “It is finished.”

Not almost enough.

Not partly sufficient.
 Not awaiting our contribution.

Finished.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism reminds us that Christ offered Himself “to satisfy divine justice and reconcile us to God” (WSC 25). At the cross, Jesus did not secure *partial* salvation requiring our supplementation. He secured complete redemption.

The widow feared the jar would run dry. The Pharisees assumed Christ’s strength would fail.

We often live somewhere between the two — wondering if our faith, our endurance, or our resources will prove insufficient.

But Easter answers our quiet fears.

Because the resurrection declares that the One who finished the work at the cross now lives to sustain His people. Our sufficiency is not found in stored-up strength or guaranteed outcomes.

It is found in a risen Savior.

Paul later writes: “My grace is sufficient for you.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Not abundant in appearance.
 Not always comfortable.
 But sufficient — because Christ Himself stands behind it. Like the widow’s jar, grace does not run out. Like the cross, salvation does not need improving. And like the empty tomb, hope does not stay buried.

Easter reminds us that we do not face life asking, “Will I have enough?” Instead, we live by a better question:

“Who has enough?”

And the answer of Scripture, the cross, and the empty tomb are the same:

He is risen.

Submitted by:
 M. Allen Ridgdill
 Ministry Intern

Thank You for Help with an Eagle Project.



Back in the fall, our church received from Save A Lot a very generous donation of food. We wanted to get it out to people in need and since very few people stop by our church looking for food, we began to look for other ways to donate it. Nancy Davis knew of a Boy Scout who was collecting food to donate to the Veterans Service Organization for his Eagle Scout project. We contacted him and he came by twice to fill his vehicle full with food. The note below is from him in acknowledgement of this donation.

Terry Simms
 Boy Scout Troop 156
 202 Robert Britt Street
 Avon Park, Florida 33825

February 19, 2026

I just want to send a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of you who helped collect, sort, and organize items for my Eagle Scout project benefitting Highlands County Veterans.

This project would not have been possible without your time, generosity, and willingness to jump in and help wherever it was needed. Whether you donated items, helped gather supplies, spent hours sorting and organizing, or helped share the word to encourage others to get involved, your support made a real difference.

Because of you, we were able to provide meaningful support to our hometown heroes who have given so much in service to our country. Seeing the project come together was incredible and it reminded me of how strong our community is when we work together toward a common goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Simms". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Terry Simms
 Eagle Scout Candidate
 Boy Scout
 Troop 156



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 NO Bible Study	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship 4:00	3 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE Worship 4:00	4
5 Happy Easter Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	6	7 Palms Tea Party 9:15 (CCW)	8 CCW 11:00 Bible Study 4:00	9 Hope Explored @ Sebring Village 10:30	10	11
12	13	14 Joint Meeting Deacons and Session 1:00 Session 2:00	15 Bible Study 4:00	16 8:30 Men's Fellowship Breakfast Hope Explored @ Sebring Village 10:30	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00 Fellowship Lunch Join Us for Lunch	20	21	22 Bible Study 4:00	23 Hope Explored @ Sebring Village 10:30	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 11:00	27	28	29 Bible Study 4:00	30		



APRIL

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

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

Anniversaries

- 29 Nelson & Fay Wood



MAY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Cecil Hess
- 7 Nancy Ratzlaff
- 11 Barney Hart

Anniversaries

- 14 Jim & Diane Graves
- 15 Roger & Cindy Warrick
- 15 Bob & JoAnn Harderwijk

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

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.

First Presbyterian Church

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The Mission of our Newsletter is . . .

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

