



The Presby Press

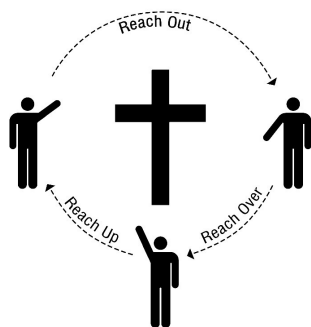
May 2024

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 2024 Renewal Theme



Reach Out, Reach Over, Reach Up

Our 2024 theme comes from the Great Commission that Jesus gave his church:

Jesus said:

Proclamation: *All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me*

Reach Out: *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,*

Reach Over: *baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*

Reach Up: *teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.*

Promise: *And behold, I am with you all ways, to the end of the age.*

Matthew 28:18-20

Body Builder

From him (Christ) the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:16

What a joy it is to be meditating on God's word in Ephesians each week. In the text above, we have a wonderful nugget to inspire our work of Reaching Out, Reaching Over and Reaching Up. Notice that the work of the church does not begin with us but with Christ Jesus. In Jesus, we read, the whole body of Christ is 1) joined together and 2) held together by every supporting ligament. The body being you, the saints of Sebring, are joined together in love for one another and to do the work of the church as a united body. Out of His love, Jesus grows the church and builds it up through love for one another. He does this as the body, being connected with supporting ligaments, does its work of the Great Commission introducing the community of Sebring to Jesus Christ. Love is the ligament that binds and connects God's people.

There are many ways in which we support one another as the body of Christ. First, we keep our eyes on Christ. All that we do we do for the glory of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Lift up Christ in your prayer, giving thanks for the church, asking the Lord to grow and build Sebring First Presbyterian Church. Second, we join in the work. We are not called by Christ to be a consumer but a server.

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Pastor's News and Notes

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We demonstrate our love for one another by serving each other, sharing the load of the work. Third, we show support through encouraging one another. We have awesome individuals who carry great loads for the church doing their work in the background. God calls us to encourage one another. Take time to give thanks for their work to God in your prayers and speak a few kinds words of encouragement to one another when you can.

May Sermons

Ephesians, as one commentator put it, was written by Paul "to expand the horizons of his readers, so that they might understand better the dimensions of God's eternal purpose and grace and come to appreciate the high goals God has for the church." I encourage you to prepare your hearts and minds by reading ahead. Here is the schedule for May:

May 5: Ephesians 3:1-15

May 12: Ephesians 3:14-21

May 19: Ephesians 4: 1-16

May 26: Ephesians 4:17-32

Website

Our website has now gone live! To visit the website go to <https://fpcs.church> or www.fpcs.church. Please check it out. We welcome your comments. This tool will now give us a presence on the internet that we can use in many ways, such as advertising special events. Please share this with your friends and family so that they can get to know us a little better. If you have any comments and suggestions how we might improve or use this website please leave a comment on our webpage or email at FPCSebring319@gmail.com.

Church Directory

Did you know? We have a great phone app directory for our church family. I use it all the time to easily access phone numbers, addresses and emails and I use the app to search for birthdays and anniversaries for the upcoming month. When I was new it was especially helpful to connect faces with names. It is totally private to our church family. The only access is to people within the church family. To gain access, contact our directory administrator, Janine Hart and she will set you up. You can let her know you are interested through our church email address:
FPCSebring319@gmail.com.

Inquirer Class

Please make plans to attend the Inquirer Class being held each Sunday in the month of May. The class is primarily about what we believe about being Redeemed, being Reformed, being Presbyterian, and being Christian, but I am willing to explore any aspect of the Christian faith that comes up or is on your mind. We will meet upstairs in the conference room at 9:30. The goal of the class is to know what we believe and how we carry out those beliefs in the church.

May Benediction

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

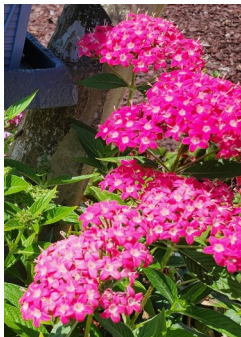
And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:15-17

Pastor Karl

Butterfly Bush Memorial

Everyone is invited to a memorial for Mary Strenth on Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. The Caring Christian Women's group will be planting a butterfly bush in Mary's honor at the New Testament Mission, located at 604 Lemon Ave, Sebring.



Caring Christian Women May Fellowship Dinner

We are planning a Potluck for the May Fellowship Dinner. We are asking that all join us and bring your favorite dish to share. We cannot thank you enough for your participation as it is our opportunity as a congregation to get to know each other better.

God Bless and we will see you there
on May 19th!

The Hymns We Sing

(In memory of Pat Harrison of the Caring Christian Women by Pat Rhodes)

Pat Harrison arranged for the CCW to tour the Weigle House Museum in Sebring (this is the yellow house next to the Sebring Library). During our visit we discovered Charles F. Weigle, was born in Lafayette, IN, in 1871. Following studies at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, he began a career as a full-time evangelist and song-writer, moving his home-base from California to Sebring in 1915 just three years after the town's founding.

He continued to maintain a residence in the community until 1963. Charles's ministry often took him away from home, leaving his wife and daughter alone. One day, Weigle came home to find his wife had decided to leave him. The strain proved too much for their marriage. She no longer wanted to live the life of an evangelist's wife. His wife took their daughter and indulged in a life of worldly pleasure.

After this season of suffering and struggling with a stronger desire to give everything to the Lord, his ministry and music resumed. Overwhelming abundance and joy returned. As he marveled at the blessings of the Lord. It is believed he wrote this hymn at his home in Sebring.

No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus

The words of the title had proven true in the life of Charles Weigle. We also can be confident that "No One Ever Cared for Me Like Jesus" is true for each of us.

At the end of our tour, the docent played the piano and we sang this hymn.

First Stanza:

I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus,
Since I found in Him a friend so strong and true.

I would tell you how He changed my life
completely; He did something no other friend
could do.

Chorus

No one ever cared for me like Jesus;
There's no other friend so kind as He.
No one else could take the sin and darkness from
me; O how much He cared for me.

Date: 1932; Author: Charles Weigle



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Small Group Bible Study 4:00 pm	2 CCW 10:00 am	3	4
5 Sunday School 9:30 am Inquirer Class 9:30 am Worship with Communion 11:00 am	6 Deacon meeting 4:00 pm Elder Meeting 5:00 pm	7	8 Small Group Bible Study 4:00 pm	9 Outreach meeting at 4:00 pm	10	11
12 Sunday School 9:30 am Inquirer Class 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am	13	14	15 Small Group Bible Study 4:00 pm	16 Men's Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am Oscar's Restaurant	17	18
19 Sunday School 9:30 am Inquirer Class 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Church Fellowship Luncheon after worship.	20 Deacon Meeting 4:00 pm Elder Meeting 5:00 pm	21	22 Small Group Bible Study 4:00 pm	23	24	25
26 Sunday School 9:30 am Inquirer Class 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am	27	28	29 Small Group Bible Study 4:00 pm	30	31	