

**THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN  
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)  
DECEMBER 2020**

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Greetings on this first day of December 2020. We have now celebrated Thanksgiving and the First Sunday of Advent. I trust you enjoyed a change of pace with another preacher for that first Sunday. Kathy and I are literally on a journey, soon to return from Louisiana to celebrate the rest of Advent and December with you. This is exciting to us because you are all close to our hearts.

I have always appreciated the worship committee under the leadership of Linda Ellis, who always anticipated each of our church year occasions, planning for them in very meaningful ways.

I am now thankful that Ann Holly is stepping forward, volunteering as our new worship committee chairman, to continue to make our worship one of praise and celebration. I feel very blessed to share Ann's excitement and jubilation as she has prepared the church for Advent.

As I said in a special letter to you before Thanksgiving, we are on a journey, a journey to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, God among us, Savior of the world. Being on a journey means that someone is going somewhere. The very definition of Advent means the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event. We could view our journey as the same old trip to grandma's where the road seems long, and the scenery never changes from year-to-year. But we could also see it as exciting, like seeing through new eyes; eyes which may have had surgery or eyes seeing through new glasses. At times we may see our journey through blurred vision; seeing things that were not there or seeing things that are there now that you have not seen before. But your journey can also be, in all seriousness, a new way of looking at how we, as the people of God, respond to his presence.

The four Sundays of Advent mean different things in different traditions. In most of our ecclesiastical history, the four Sundays of Advent are themes of hope, love, joy, and peace. Periodically love is replaced with faith and sometimes incorporated with it. When I meditate on the country right now, I cannot come up with four better traits. We are in a hole of love, joy, and peace depression. Those are our deficits. We lack some, if not all, of those attributes in our lives and frankly that is causing us physical, emotional, and spiritual anemia. A steady diet of these four attributes is exactly what Advent brings.

Once we reach the destination point in our journey, then we can celebrate. We can celebrate the wholeness and holiness we find on Christmas day. We will celebrate with anticipation Christmas Eve in our homes on Zoom with a candlelight service. We will have a sense of community that does not tear us apart but brings us together around the manger. That manger shows us we can walk with faith in our Fathers world. And it comes to us as we hear Luke's words "for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Beloved, Luke told us all that what we wish for and need, God is sending. We have traveled, and now we will arrive. We have found what we need. We have found that someone for our sake and our salvation will bring us the things we saw on our journey, hope, love, joy, and peace. AMEN

Pastor's projected office days in December's: 9, 10, 15, 16, 22, 29, 30



## CHOIR NEWS

(December 2020)

We still can't have the choir meeting at this time, but we can have solos and maybe a duet or two. So starting the first Sunday in Advent, the anthem will be back in place!!! You never know what you'll get so please come to church and find out! For November 29<sup>th</sup>, Sandi Laufer is singing "Like A Child". I know you won't want to miss that! Barb Tiemans will be singing a solo in December too and we're getting a chime trio together to see what can be done. I am working on the rest of the Sundays so if you know of a special talent please call me!!! We will do this one Sunday at a time! Wear your mask please, and keep yourself and everyone around you safe!!! We are in this together.

Keep in Tune, Jaquae

## JOYFUL NOISE

For now we can't even think about the chime choir. But don't worry cause we will be back before you know it. Just be patient and remember "all things work for good to those who love the Lord". I miss you all!!!

For Whom The Bell Tolls,

Jaquae

## Christmas Carol Riddles

Match the actual carol to the cryptic answer!

### CAROLS

- A. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen
- B. Away In the Manger
- C. Hark The Herald Angels Sing
- D. In the Bleak Midwinter
- E. Silent Night
- F. The Holly & the Ivy
- G. While Shepherds Watched
- H. Ding Dong Merrily on High
- I. O Come All Ye Faithful
- J. Deck the Halls

### CRYPTIC ANSWERS

- 1. No noise when it's dark
- 2. Floor of the ship when the buildings used for events.
- 3. Not at home in a trough.
- 4. 15<sup>th</sup> letter to move towards everything archaic you devoted
- 5. Listen, the harbingers spiritual beings make musical sounds with the voice
- 6. At the same time as guardians viewed their groups of sheep.
- 7. Deity cease work, your archaic happy & honorable males.
- 8. Enclosed by the dreary middle part of the coldest season.
- 9. Chime of bell happily not off, a long way above ground.
- 10. The evergreen shrub & the evergreen climbing plant.

Wise men saw the light of a star and found their Wisdom. —Fulton J. Sheen

“Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus.” —Neal A. Maxwell

Amid the secular trappings of the holidays, we can lose sight of the true meaning of Christmas, until we lament with Charlie Brown, “Isn’t there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?” These reminders call us back to where it all began — in the heart of God: “

Small packages, great things The motto for Hershey’s Kisses used to be “Big things come in small packages!” That also could be a motto for Bethlehem, for Baby Jesus and, indeed, for us. It’s an important message to remember when we fear we’re too weak to fix the world’s problems, too small to fight the gigantic terror that threatens a loved one or too lacking in abilities we see in others. “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah,” God declares through the prophet Micah (5:2, NRSV), “from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel.” Bethlehem was a mere village. God’s ruler for Israel started as an infant. His birthplace was a small stable, not a palace or temple. But size isn’t everything. Big — that is, great — things can come in small packages. And thanks to the tiny baby who grew up to share immeasurably huge love with the world, God can do great things through you, too!

### **WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

Turkey leftovers are probably just a memory by the time you read this; however, I'm still waiting for the bird to thaw. The committee has met only through email, but we are indeed active. The church is decorated through the efforts of Sue and Ron, Jaquae, Teresa, Linda Belle and her brother Billy, Prilli and Larry, Helen and Johnny, Ross, Rich, friend Clayton, Cathy, Cale, and ..... Because this hasn't happened yet, I don't know who was actually there. Kudos to all who helped. I hope you enjoyed lunch - eat in or take out. (If I included your name and you were not in attendance, the next time you participate, I'll omit your name. Okay?)

We are hoping to have special music throughout the Advent/Christmas season. A special thanks to Sandi for starting us off by her lovely rendition of “Like A Child” . The First Sunday of Advent was introduced by Ron and Sue and yours truly. Upcoming will be Bill and Carolyn and others who have yet to be volunteered.

If you would like to participate (read, sing, play chimes et al), please let it be known. Have a friend who sings or rings? Invitation is open. Members include Jaquae, Teresa, Sue, Sandi, Marla, Wanda and Don & Barb Tiemens. Contact me with suggestions.

Blessings to all, Ann



## OUTREACH

First of all “Thank you,” Thank you”, “Thank you” to every one who filled a Children’s Christmas Shoe Box, bought individual items for the boxes, helped fill boxes together from donated items, to Johnny & Helen Kelly for dropping the boxes off at the drop-off center.

We sent off 41 boxes which is GREAT! The postage was \$9.00 for each box. Some paid for their own boxes and Outreach had money in the budget so the rest of the postage came from that budget.

Pray for the children that will be receiving the boxes. They will be invited to attend classes entitled “The Greatest Journey” where they learn about Jesus. Then hopefully they share with their families and friends what they have learned about Jesus.

People have asked why all the boxes go overseas when there are so many needy children right here in the U.S. Hopefully these needy children will be taken care of locally and they have the opportunity to learn about Jesus because there are many churches.

Please don’t stop now. Pick up another box or two to start filling. After Christmas when things go on sale is a good time to stock up on items. Also when the fall school items are on sale.

The room for storing purchased items will be available again in the spring.

Wanda Gordon

## DISCIPLES MEN

It was great to see the Walkingtons in church last Sunday! Welcome “Home”! just about everybody is back in one way or another now, but it appears that due to the ongoing threat of Covid, our being together as a group isn’t going to be happening anytime soon.

Last year we drew names for our secret prayer pals and as we approach the Christmas season this might be a good time to reveal who you have been praying for these past few months (and for sure we all needed prayers on steroids).

So, it would be nice if you slipped a Christmas card in the mail or in their box at church to finally end the suspense. After the first of the year we will have another drawing for 2021.

Rich Campton



**4 Teresa Williams**

**4 Sue Colwell**

**6 Iverne Turnbull**

**7 Effie Simmonds**

**11 Helen Kelly**

**11 Carol Lahr**

**12 Peggy Cousins**

**26 Mearlyn Hill**

### THE CHRISTMAS CHILD COMES!

Holidays -- Holy Days -- Hollydaze  
Rush -- Rush -- Rush -- Rush  
Christmas is coming so why all the fuss?  
There's just all the usual stuff plus  
Christmas trees and Santa Claus  
Buying gifts without a pause  
Christmas parties and Christmas plays  
Sure could use more shopping days  
Family visits and special meals  
Careful shopping to find good deals  
Christmas card and a telephone call  
To remember everyone great and small  
Advent wreaths nad nativity scenes  
The Christ Child Comes --  
What does THAT mean?  
What does that MEAN?

What DOES that mean?  
What does THAT mean?  
What does that MEAN?

Holidays -- Holy Days -- Hollydaze  
Rush -- Rush -- Rush

*The Rev. Juanita Roberts, Deceased member of FCC.*

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; And the government shall be upon his shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”      Isaiah 9:6