

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

JANUARY, 2023

510 POINSETTIA AVE., SEBRING, FL. 33870

(863) 385-0352

WEB SITE: www.FCCSebring.com

E-Mail: fccdoc@outlook.com,

finance@fccsebring.com,

office@fccsebring.com



Greetings on this new year, 2023!

The season of Christmas is a time of reflection. I have been reflecting not only on this time of Christmas and what that New Year will bring, but also on events of the past. It seems to me there is a difference between drama and pageantry. Drama has been defined as the intent to portray life, a character or tell a story. It's also said that drama is a mode of fictional representation through dialogue and performance. It often goes to the extreme to emphasize a point or position.

This past year has been filled with drama. There seems to have been much drama and the telling of the story about British royal family history. Americans are speaking more about the Royals than many topics. Every third or fourth Article on Internet news is about the Harry and Meghan story. We hear the events of the January 6th Commission play out not only on TV but in the news in a very dramatic fashion with responses that seem to accentuate different political positions even to the extremes. It appears when we look at some of the elections, the drama there is evident with the back and forth between opposing candidates and points of view. The truth is both ever-eluding and constantly changing. The shock effect of it all tends to put us on the edge of our seats.

This same phenomenon is demonstrated in our communities. The drama we see in public meetings and personal action was un-imaginable even twenty years ago. We watch the "housewives of" wherever or "Days of our lives" just to unwind and find some calm.

Pageantry on the other hand involves telling a story or giving meaning to an event. As we have just journeyed through the pageantry of Advent, which draws us in to God's plan to visit and be with His creation, our travels lead us on. In the Christmas story we have what that drama in our world lacks. Oh, not that we have never in the history of our country been to this point. Not that we have let sin, through our arrogance and lack of faith, destroy the fabric of our very being and the vision of our country. But the message now is that God can give us what we lack if we would but journey! He can give us faith in something greater than ourselves but also faith in one another. He can give us hope that the dreadfulness of a world filled with war, tension, and division can find peace. But more than anything and most of all, He can and will reconcile us to Himself and to one another through His Spirit of compassion and caring.

We come on our spiritual journey to Bethlehem with loss and conflict and despair and pain and suffering. We leave with hope, love, joy and peace. We are thrust into a New Year oh so different than the one we left. Now, with God searching and finding us and living with us, we are a new creation. We can be forgiven, saved, and made whole because GOD LIVES!

Pastor's projected January office days: 3, 4, 10, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31



BOOK CLUB

In January we will be reading “Along The Rio Grande” by Tracie Peterson. Susanna Jenkins, a widow, has decided to assist her family in their new move to San Marcial, New Mexico so they can run the Grand Hotel owned by her uncle. Her father made bad investments and they are from a privileged, well to do family that has never had to work for a living. This is her parents last chance that her uncle is giving them to turn their lives around. She needs a change in her own life and so is trying to help her family. But this is much different than any of them could ever imagine. Her brother, Gary, is trying to get a job on his own and stay away from his family’s troubles. Is Susanna's compassion doing more harm than good? Should she leave them to figure it out on their own? But that would mean leaving new friendships she's formed. Come read with us and find out what happens!

We meet once a month, on the first Monday at 1:30 pm. Please read the entire book before you come and be prepared to ask questions for all of us to answer. We are all leading the book from now on, and all will participate as much as we can. Please order your book from Amazon, or wherever you buy your books.

Our next meeting is Monday, Jan. 9th at 1:30 pm in the church library.

Here are our next books coming up:

Feb. 6th, “Judah's Wife” by Angela Hunt

Mar. 6th, “And The Shofar Blew” by Francine Rivers

Apr. 3rd, “Egypt's Sister” by Angela Hunt

Submitted by Jaquae L. Sands, 382-3428



CHOIR NEWS

(January 2023)

Happy New Year!!! The choir never stops bring you anthems each Sunday morning. We've got some good old Southern Gospel songs coming up you won't want to miss. We are happy to welcome Dan and Kathy Winters back into our midst!!! See you on Sunday!

Keep in Tune,
Jaquae

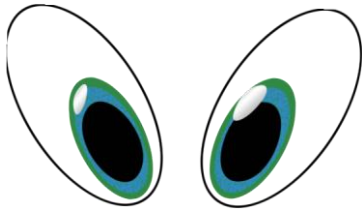


A JOYFUL NOISE

For now, the chimes are on hold. We need more people so if you're thinking about joining us, please give me a call. I'd love to hear from you! They say all good things are worth waiting for!

For Whom the Bell Tolls,
Jaquae





Are you keeping your eyes open for unsung heroes in our church?
Please submit someone's name that should be recognized for the
little things that are done for the church.

January 2023

4th Bob Rhodes
5th Annandra Ramkissoo
9th Mark McClary
16th Heidi McClary
20th Dan Winters
21st Priscilla Andrews
23rd Maria Colon
26th Ron Davis
30th Liz Malady






Worship/Education/Fellowship Committee Report

What a wondrous, uplifting December we had: the Regional Minister, Reverend Sandy Messick graced us with a special message on the 18th; she then joined up for our Fellowship Christmas Dinner. The kitchen angels did a great job decorating and getting the food out. The variety of side dishes to go with ham and turkey were outstanding . . . and the desserts - wow! Thanks to your generosity, the Mission also had a glorious holiday meal or two (or more?). Thanks to everyone for making this event so special.

The Christmas Eve candlelight service was "the best ever" - a quote I heard. Yes, it was cold - Sebring set new records - but the fellowship and warmth of our hearts let us enjoy the "reason for the season." The readings and sharing of our favorite carols added a great deal to the "Good News" message, which was the highlight of the gathering.

We will be back to "regular scheduling" on Sunday, January 1, 2023. (Don't forget the new year when making out your checks.) We will "de-green" the church the following Saturday (Jan. 7th). A light lunch will be served. The decorations will come down in less time than they went up! We always have such a nice fellowship as we sit around the kitchen tables. We can share our New Year's resolutions and see how long they endured. Blessings to all in the New Year.

Ann


Bloomin' 4 Good Program

*Please note: This donation check reflects any funds raised as a **monthly** beneficiary in the Bloomin' 4 Good Program.*

Your July Donations Have Arrived!

Supporters raised **\$21.00** from the purchase of the Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker at your selected Winn-Dixie, Fresco y Mas or Harveys location[s]. Thank you for the important work you do to fight hunger in your community.

We are committed to fighting hunger in our local communities served by supporting as many hunger relief organizations as possible in the coming years.



About the Bloomin' 4 Good Program

This program allows shoppers to combat the hunger crisis with every floral bouquet sold.

Every month, at Winn-Dixie, Fresco y Mas and Harveys locations a different, local hunger organization is selected by Store Leadership to benefit from the sale of the \$12.99 Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet with the red circle sticker. For every Bloomin' 4 Good Bouquet sold, \$1 is donated to a hunger relief organization local to the store in which it was purchased.

[Learn more by seg.bloomin4good.com.](http://seg.bloomin4good.com)

The above donation was received from our local Winn-Dixie. I am not sure how we were chosen for this program but we have received three donations through this Bloomin' 4 Good Program through Winn-Dixie. We are always thankful for any help we receive for our mission of feeding the hungry. Thank you to whomever set this program up for us!

Rich's Corner

First of all I would like to thank you for the Holiday wishes that you sent y. I Hope everyone had a Merry Christmas, and pray that 2023 will be a good everyone.

It's that time again....The men are cooking up plans for a chili supper on Friday, January 13th from 4:30 to 6:00. The menu will be chili, coleslaw, and cornbread. As usual we will depend on church members for the desserts and the cornbread. It's been called to my attention that some feel that it is a misnomer to call these fund-raising experiences the MEN'S supper when the women have been called on to help insure the success of the event. Please keep in mind that these projects are for the good of the WHOLE church and not just for the benefit of the men's group.. For instance the men recently paid a \$1,000 to replace leaky valves in the ladies restroom.

DOC Men: Don't forget our monthly breakfast meeting on Saturday, January 14th at 9:00. I promise we won't be eating left over chili 😊 We will reveal who our prayer partners have been for 2022 and draw names for 2023.

