

# THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

January 2020

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Joel 2:28 reads "And afterward, I will pour out my spirit on all the people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions."

We have now celebrated Christmas day, are in the season of Christmas fast approaching Epiphany and into a New Year. Much has been humorously said about this year. We shall be able to see clearly because we have 2020 vision! I find that very cute, but it may be realistic for us as well.

This year (2020) we will be attempting to refine and accept a new set of bylaws and with that may well be the establishment of some visioning and dreaming for our congregation. We plan on looking at the functions we have as the expression of the body of Christ here in Sebring, Florida as well as doing planning, some of which may even be strategic, for the ministry we plan now and in the future. It may be a great time to see where we go from here.

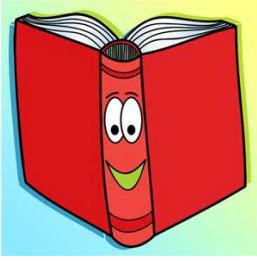
This is important because it reminds me of a line in Alice and Wonderland. If I recall correctly, Alice comes across a fork in the road and is perplexed as to which way to go. As the dialogue proceeds and Alice debates with herself and the Cheshire cat, the cat says, "if you don't know where you're going, any road will get you there." Where do we wish to go? What do we wish to do? What is our identity as a congregation? What will the next few years bring to us? How do we focus our mission?

Perhaps it is because of some of our ages we think planning is not important. I could say that I don't think my planning with the congregation is important because I will likely not be here for many more years. Yet if we don't focus our mission and do this task of planning and perhaps establish some steppingstones to the future, we can be assured the First Christian Church will not have a viable ministry in the community.

We are all important and we may be the ones, or indeed you may be the one, to have the insight that sets the tone and establishes the direction for this congregation in the near and distant future.

Share your dreams and show your visions. May God bless us in the year 2020! Lend all that experience you might have and the answers you possess.

Pastor's January projected days in office: 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 22, 28, 29



## Book Club

We are beginning to read “Wings Of the Wind” by Connilyn Cossette. We begin the story with Alanah, a Canaanite who was raised alongside her brothers. Her mother left when she was 3 years old. Her father taught her how to shoot a bow and she knew the basics of fighting. When her father and brothers are all killed in a battle with the Hebrews, she disguises herself as a man and sneaks onto the battlefield to avenge her family, never expecting to survive.

Tobiah, a Hebrew warrior, finds an unconscious woman on the battlefield among the casualties. What was a woman doing in the battle? He felt compelled to bring her back to his Hebrew camp and get a healer to help her. But he is unprepared for the consequences of what he thought was an act of compassion. Both of their lives change in an instant as they both fight to survive. Can vengeance give way to forgiveness?

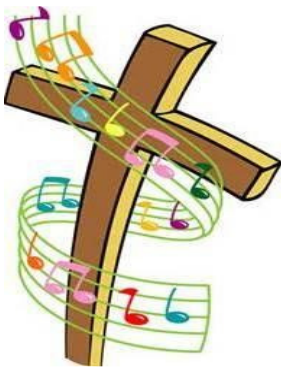
Please read as follows:

Jan. 7: Chap. 1 through 15, p. 7 to p. 115

Jan. 14: Chap. 16 through 30, p. 116 to p. 227

Feb. 4: Chap. 31 through 46, p. 228 to p. 339

Please join us!! There will be a copy in the library for you to read. We meet at 4:30 p.m. in the church library the first and third Tuesdays of the month.



A New Year and a new time to bring back some old favorites of the choir. We hope you'll enjoy “10,000 Reasons”, “In Christ Alone”, “Seek Ye First” and “Surely The Presence Of The Lord Is In This Place”. And let's make this the year to say something positive to everyone you meet whether you know them or not. Make an impact!!! See you in church!

Keep in Tune,

Jaquae

## JOYFUL NOISE

The chime choir is back in business trying to bring you something wonderful each month. We could use more chimers!!! We'll teach you! So don't be shy about trying them out. And if you try them and feel it's not for you, that's okay. At least you know you tried something new. Come join us!

For Whom The Bell Tolls,  
Jaquae

\*\* On January 20, at 7:00 pm, there will be a concert featuring the Miami University (Ohio) Men's Glee Club at the Genesis center in Lake Placid. This is a free concert as part of the Winter Tour for the Glee Club. For more information contact Lee or Rosemary Fisher @ 863-659-1005.

## WE ARE DISCIPLES

**Mary/Martha Group** —Meet in the library at 10:00. Discussion of distribution of our monies to be discussed. We were very fortunate in money taken in on the Cookie Walk. Now help us select the best place(s) to put that money. At our last meeting, we talked of being Marthas. We will begin working on projects that can be dispersed to people of need. Examples: making a quilt, making prayer shawls, making bibs for nursing homes. These are just a few suggestions. Come and work in fellowship on a project. If you don't feel you are gifted in handwork, come anyway and help another with their project. Every person has the ability to help in some way. In keeping with Martha's sister Mary, we will have a short devotion to draw us closer to Christ.



**MEN'S GROUP**—We meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month in the kitchen for a delicious breakfast, devotions, fellowship, and planning upcoming events. 8:00 a.m.

A **Chili supper** is in the planning for January 17. Tickets are available from Rich Campton and are \$8.00 each.



**OUTREACH:** Operation Shoe Box was a great success for our first year. Take advantage of sales after the holidays to buy items for next year. Can we double our number of boxes next year? Continue to pray for the recipients of the boxes.



### Birthdays

4<sup>th</sup> Bob Rhodes  
5<sup>th</sup> Annandra Ramkissoo  
9<sup>th</sup> Mark McClary  
16<sup>th</sup> Heidi McClary  
23<sup>rd</sup> Marly Colon  
30<sup>th</sup> Liz Malady

### Anniversaries

9<sup>th</sup> Ron & Marilyn Connaway



## Deacons & Servers

### Preparing

5<sup>th</sup> Johnny & Helen Kelly  
12<sup>th</sup> Ross Fadely & Janice Richburg  
19<sup>th</sup> Johnny Kelly & Helen Kelly  
26<sup>th</sup> Rich Neff & Kathy Whitlock

### Serving

Roger Sands & Sue Colwell  
Rich Neff & Elaine Milward  
C.J. Wiggins & Sue Colwell  
Ross Fadely & Elaine Milward

### Acolyte

Helen Kelly  
Elaine Milward  
Sue Colwell  
Rich Neff

## Elders

### Communion

5<sup>th</sup> Gordon Walkington  
12<sup>th</sup> Rich Campton  
19<sup>th</sup> Teresa Williams  
26<sup>th</sup> Howard Lewis

### Offering

Jane Walkington  
Sandra Laufer  
Wanda Gordon  
Marla Null

### Greeter

Frank Reilly  
Larry Andrews  
Teresa Williams  
Janice Richburg

Did you read the Scripture for Dec. 29? I think it is appropriate for the New Year. Psalm 119: 133-135 says, "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me. Redeem me from human oppression that I may obey your precepts." What a wonderful New Year's resolution to make. The devotion says: "...By following God's instructions, we can remain pure, overcome scorn, and escape greed. He will enable us to resist in sin, find godly friends, and live in joy." What more could we ask for 2020?

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."  
—Martin Luther King Jr.

\* \* \*

"Kindness is like snow — it beautifies everything it covers."  
—Kahlil Gibran

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"The greatest act of mercy that God performs is giving the gift of faith."  
—R.C. Sproul

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"A smile is a curve that sets everything straight."  
—Phyllis Diller

\* \* \*

"Ye know not what the Lord is working out of this, but ye shall know it hereafter."  
—Samuel Rutherford

## Come back to Christmas

When January comes along, we can continue that sense of comfort and warmth that comes at Christmas by returning to the Christmas story, which gives us two great promises: God understands you, and God can redeem you.

I encourage people to make it a point to reread the Christmas story every month, and allow Christmas to be Christmas every month. We need to keep coming back to it.

Max Lucado

