



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

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On Tuesday, February 11, I returned from a very significant event in the life of my granddaughter. She is on a cheer team and I had just returned to work at the church after you kindly allowed me to be gone a Sunday for her competition. It was great to get back to work and relax. Her team won both national's and world's in her division. Of course I am a proud grandfather.

That is not my only source of pride however. After an absence from the pulpit and in my role as a supervisor, as a military supervisory chaplain, I often deemed it a sign of success when I could be gone from the office and then return to find everything under control and some things in even better shape than when I left.

Although I am merely your pastor at First Christian Church, Sebring, I am so proud that when I am gone things are better than when I left. You may think "how is that a good thing?" It is a good thing because of the depth the congregation has and the abilities of folks to carry on the ministry not dependent upon one person but upon a common faith in Jesus the son of God and in Jesus alone.

1 Peter 2:9 says "but you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession." As disciples, we believe in the priesthood of all believers. Do I consider myself the high priest in Sebring? The answer is sort of but more certainly a shepherd. My heart goes out to each of you as you minister and live and suffer and celebrate. But the ministry that we do together; well it is more like a cable rather than a chain. You know a chain is only as strong as its weakest link but a cable is stronger than its strongest strand. We celebrate our ministry together because in that ministry we can be proud of serving our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and knowing that "once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." The wonderful light of Christ has called us out of darkness and we all serve him as royal priests. Thank you Gordon, elders, deacons, choir, greeters, song leader, servants of every task and all of the ministry we have together. Blessings as we look forward to serving our God now and always. Amen



Projected March days in office: 2, 10, 11, 14, 18 24, 25, 31



Deacons & Servers

Preparing

1st Ron & Peggy Davis
 8th Rich Neff & Linda Lussier
 15th Johnny & Helen Kelly
 22nd Ross Fadely & Elaine Milward
 29th Johnny & Helen Kelly

Serving

Ross Fadely & Kathy Whitlock
 Bill & Carolyn Hinline
 Roger Sands &
 Ron & Peggy Davis
 Bill & Carolyn Hinline

Acolyte

Kathy Whitlock
 Bill Hinline
 Johnny Kelly
 Elaine Milward
 Bill Hinline

Elders

Communion

1st Gordon Walkington
 8th Diane Beidler
 15th Linda Ellis
 22nd Rich Campton

Offering

Jane Walkington
 Teresa Williams
 Sandra Laufer
 Wanda Gordon

Greeter

Helen Kelly



BIRTHDAYS

1st Pastor Alan Brown
 3rd Barbara Tiemens
 4th Jaquae Sands
 10th Paul Wiseman

16th Richard Asmussen
 19th Kathy Whitlock
 30th Marion (Red) Johnson

ANNIVERSARIES

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture out into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent - or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more and keep paddling!

--adapted from Carlos Wilton, in *Homiletics*



Thank you for your Week of Compassion offering of \$206.00. It will go to help where there has been a disaster such as a hurricane, a great depression, earthquakes, etc.

The next special offering our denomination sponsors is Easter which is April 12.

I would encourage you to constantly keep in mind the Children's Christmas Shoebox. A list of suggestions has been duplicated and is on the table in our room where we prepare the boxes. Pick one up and keep it with you so you can pick up items now and then to add to our supplies. Better still, pick up a box and start filling it. Indicate on the box whether it is for a boy or a girl and the age range you chose. Have fun doing it!

DISCIPLES WOMEN/Mary Martha group

There will be a meeting on March 6, at 10:00 am. We wish for lots of ladies to come so we can discuss where we want to donate our money this year. There will be a business meeting and a devotional time. Please plan to attend.



Ladies Salad and Tea Luncheon

Come and join us for a time of fellowship and fun on March 21 at 1:00 pm. Bring a salad, finger food, or a dessert to share as well as inviting a friend or two to come with you. Sign up on the bulletin board so we will know how many tables to set. Bring your own teacup if you wish.

DISCIPLES MEN

Eight men feasted on slices of French toast, crisp bacon and scrambled eggs at our February meeting of DOC men. A discussion followed concerning the importance of being a part of a worshipping community. Plans were finalized for our upcoming Haystack dinner and tentative plans for a possible spaghetti supper on the 20th of March. Discussion also ensued about updating the signage.

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Haystack dinner on the 21st. We are happy to announce that we cleared \$900 dollars for our efforts.

Also a big thanks to Gordon Walkington, and his crew who have been working on cleaning, sealing and painting the stone façade. Gordon has also done some updating of our storage in the kitchen pantry.

We will not be having our regular breakfast on March 14 due to the fact that we will be helping the women with the rummage sale. Instead, all of the workers will be invited to a bite of lunch following the sale.

Rich Campton

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE March 14, 2020, 8:00 am til 1:00 pm Come out and see what we have to offer. Volunteers to help are appreciated. Last day to drop off good condition items is March 8.

