



# THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN

510 Poinsettia Ave.

Sebring, FL 33870

863-385-0352

[fccdoc@outlook.com](mailto:fccdoc@outlook.com)

[www.fccsebring.com](http://www.fccsebring.com)

## From The Pastor



This year has sped by and we see the season of giving rapidly approaching. We will celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas soon. But we are celebrating our fellowship and much, much more.

The outreach of this congregation has made an impression as this month we will ship several boxes for the Shoebox Ministry. We have spent about six months putting together items. You can see the beauty of these gifts and, as Wanda has reminded us, with these the gospel will touch an average of seven people per shoebox. Even though it seems simple to us, it's an extravagant gift for the children and even their parents that receive them.

Locally, the Mary and Martha Group has given to the Fred Wild Elementary School grade 5 clothes and school supplies so that children who have little will have less to worry about during their school year and during winter. We have, what I consider, a very good balance between reaching out locally and reaching out across the state and the world.

We ask your help to replenish the pastor's discretionary fund with an offering. The fund began with \$500 to help non-members with some needed utility bills, gas, transportation, and other family and personal expenses. We would ask that the first Sunday of every month you would support the fund with just a few dollars. An opportunity to help will be by donations that will be received at the back of the sanctuary. This is how we make a difference in the community and how we make a difference as a congregation.

I would entreat to give thanks during the month of November for the heritage we have as a people of this land and even more so in Thanksgiving that we have as we gather as a congregation around the table of our Lord. We, as disciples, are people of the table, the table fellowship, the church of the full plate. Let the full plates we have spill over and let others be benefited by our many blessings to us in November and throughout the year. Blessings during this season of giving and this time of giving thanks.

Pastor's November projected mornings in the office: 6, 9, 12, 13, 20

Pastor will be on vacation November 25 – Dec. 5

**\*\* Corrections to the Church Directory**

C.J. Wiggin, 3820 Thunderbird Hill Circle, Sebring, FL 33872

Sandra Laufer, 5511 Granada Blvd., Sebring, FL 33872 Ph: 863-471-1798

## CHOIR NEWS



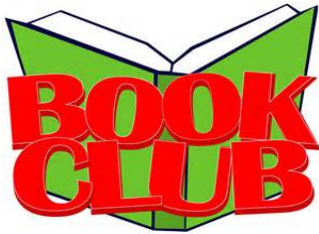
It's the season to be thankful, and I am thankful for my volunteer choir members who give up their time each week to practice our music and sing for the glory of God. They are a special family and I treasure each and every one of them. We are working on some challenging and beautiful anthems right now, so come join us!!!

**Keep in Tune,  
Jaquae**

## A JOYFUL NOISE

We are going to try some 2 octave music in the chime choir. This should hopefully make it easier to ring with fewer members. Stay tuned, cause we're in the process of learning new things. See you in church!

**For Whom The Bell Tolls,  
Jaquae**



Our next book is entitled "Family Secrets" (Secrets of Wayfarers Inn) by Becky Melby. This book is set in Marietta, Ohio where 3 friends want to buy an historic hotel and turn into a B&B and soup café. They quickly learn it was once a stop on the Underground railroad and that someone or something is trying to stop them from making this happen. Strange things occur, howling noises, words scrawled on a dusty mirror, yet in their quest for answers, they stumble on an old journal written by Prudence Willard, a Melungeon former slave who made trips across the river to pick up human "parcels" and give them refuge as they traversed the Underground Railroad. Can her insights from the 1800's teach the new owners of the Inn anything and shed light on the present-day mysteries? Come to Book Club and find out about the Secrets of the Wayfarers Inn!!

Please read as follows:

Nov. 5: Chap. 1-7, pg. 1-92

Nov. 19: Chap. 8-15, pg. 93-190

Dec. 3: Chap. 16-23 pg. 191-276

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

Jaquae L. Sands 382-3428

## DISCIPLES WOMEN

Disciple Women are scheduled to meet Nov. 1 at 10:00 am in the library. There are many things to be discussed and decided. From the past showing of attendees, there will be no Cookie Walk or Christmas Luncheon in December. If you are interested in these events to continue (the Cookie Walk being our money maker), please plan to attend this meeting to let someone know of your desires.



Disciple Women is an organization that tries to represent the church by reaching out in Missionary ways. It is also a time for a woman to meet and delve into God's Word that we may be stronger and more informed Christians. One to one and a half hours a month is set aside for this.

## DISCIPLES MEN

Five men met for a delicious breakfast of fluffy pancakes, scrambled eggs, and crisp bacon. A devotional moment centered around the Scripture from Isaiah 40:31; "They shall wait on the Lord, they shall renew their strength."

It was decided that the men's group would cover the cost of new blinds for the kitchen. Possible money-making projects were discussed. We are looking forward to all of our "snowbirds" return. Remember, we meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:00 am. The next meeting will be **Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>**. Hope to see **you** there!



Thank you to those who have packed your own and/or contributed items to go into the Shoeboxes. Carol Graves, a former member, and several others met on Oct. 21 to get the boxes ready for shipment. We have 24 completed. The deadline is November 15 so if you want to contribute a box or items, do so very soon.

If you haven't done so already, please prepare a letter or Christmas card to be included in each box. Let these children know that they are not just a money project but that we really care about them and are now and will continue to pray for them. Remember, each child receiving a box will have the opportunity to hear about Christ's love and to share it with family and friends through the learning of just how to share the Good News.

Also please pray for each child that will receive a shoebox. Not just a general prayer which is good, but take time to visualize a child opening this box. To make the connection of some mysterious person sending the box to a child by including a letter and /or a picture so the child will know a real person sent it.

If you haven't the time to collect items for a Shoebox, you may purchase one for \$25.00. Go to [Samaritanspurse.org/Shoebox/options](http://Samaritanspurse.org/Shoebox/options)

As was mentioned in church, The New Testament Church has requested some special items. Dawn Dish Soap, twin sheets (may be used), canned goods. There is a monthly drive to collect for this worthy cause. How many of you put it on your shopping list and bring something?

Special thanks to Joan McWilliams for finishing a plastic bag mat to go to a homeless person. Also a report that over 525 jackets, sweaters, hats, mittens, etc. were washed and delivered to the Cracker Trail School to be distributed to children who have none. That was one school! Think what we could do if we reached out to other elementary schools. Sorting into sizes and washing them is a way you can help.



### *Birthdays*

2<sup>nd</sup> - Janet Johns  
 2<sup>nd</sup> - Elaine Milward  
 7<sup>th</sup> - Janet McCord  
 9<sup>th</sup> - Robin Martin  
 18<sup>th</sup> - Linda Ellis  
 19<sup>th</sup> - Marilyn Conneway

23<sup>rd</sup> - Leslie Behm  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Diane Beidler  
 25<sup>th</sup> - Ronald Conneway  
 29<sup>th</sup> - Fred Collins  
 30<sup>th</sup> - Elissa Crothers  
 30<sup>th</sup> - Joyce Gardner

### *Anniversaries*

12<sup>th</sup> - Buddy & Kathy Whitlock  
 23<sup>rd</sup> - Paul & Sharon Wiseman  
 29<sup>th</sup> - Red & Linda Johnson



### Elders

	<b>Communion</b>	<b>Offering</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ron Colwell	Rich Campton

10 <sup>th</sup>	Marla Null	Ron Colwell
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17 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Ellis	Sandra Laufer
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24 <sup>th</sup>	Diane Beidler	Wanda Gordon
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### Deacons

<b>Preparers</b>	<b>Servers</b>
Roger Sands	Johnny Kelly
Sue Colwell	Helen Kelly

Rich Neff	Kathy Whitlock
Elaine Milward	C.J. Wiggin

Bill Hine	Johnny Kelly
Carolyn Hine	Helen Kelly

Roger Sands	Rich Neff
Elaine Milward	Sue Colwell

### **Greeters**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sue Colwell  
 10<sup>th</sup> Diane Beidler  
 17<sup>th</sup> Bill & Carolyn Hine  
 24<sup>th</sup> Frank Reilly

### **Acolyte**

Sue Colwell  
 Kathy Whitlock  
 Helen Kelly  
 Roger Sands



## NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Martha Group meets @ 10:00 am in the library
- 5<sup>th</sup> Book Club meets @ 4:30 pm in the library
- 9<sup>th</sup> Disciples Men meet @ 8:00 am for breakfast and devotions
- 11<sup>th</sup> VETERANS DAY
- 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting @ 1:00 pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Meal after services
- 19<sup>th</sup> Book Club meets @ 4:30 pm in the library
- 28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Dinner @ 2:00 pm at the church
- 30<sup>th</sup> Greening of the Church @ 10:00 am with luncheon

## Food For Thought

### Present Tense

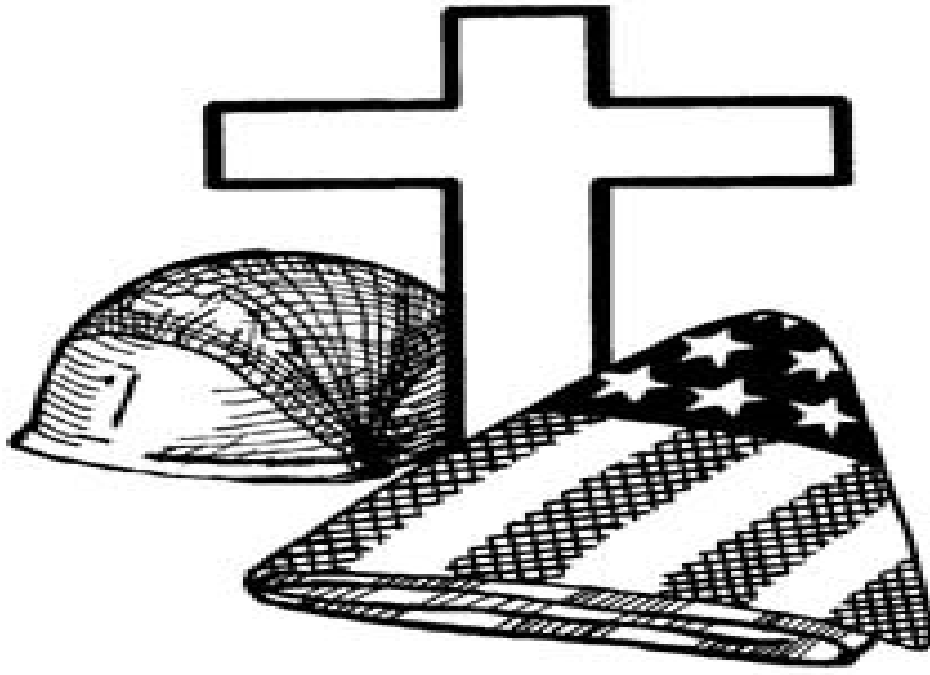
After “turkey day” came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not “How *was* your Thanksgiving?”, but “How *is* your Thanksgiving?”. After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.

That doesn’t always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of Thanks A Thousand, once asked a philosophy professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? “Sometimes I’m just grateful I have arms.” That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being “thankful for things so omnipresent that they escape notice.”

So....how *is* your Thanksgiving?

Kansas pastor Jack Wellman has been credited with the insight that “there is a certain genius in generosity.” He explains that when we open our hands – figuratively speaking - to allow something to pass through our fingers, rather than holding it tightly clenched in our fists, God can give us new blessings.

“God cannot pour more into our hands that are already clinging tightly to what they hold,” says Wellman. Whether material goods or time, ideas or talents, money or energy, the gifts God has given us so generously are to be shared just as freely with others. With our hands continually open to receive, give and receive again, Gods’ genius cycle of generosity goes on and on.



### “GOD IS NIGH”

The earliest official reference to using “Taps” at a military funeral is described in an 1891 manual. During the Civil War, a Union soldier “was buried at a time when the battery occupied an advanced position concealed in the woods.” Because it wasn’t safe to fire the customary three volleys over the grave, Captain John Tidball decided the sounding of “Taps” would be an appropriate substitute ceremony.

Previously, “Taps” signaled the end of a soldiers’ workday, but it has since come to honor the end of his or her earthly life. Horace Trims’ lyrics remind us of Gods’ constant presence.

Day is done, gone the sun,  
From the lakes, from the hills, from the sky.  
All is well, safely rest,  
God is nigh.  
Thanks and praise for our days  
‘Neath the sun, ‘neath the stars, ‘neath the sky.  
As we go, this we know,  
God is nigh.