



**THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
OCTOBER, 2020**

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In Chapter 3, the writer of Ecclesiastes says “there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.”

Seasons of our life change us and they change the way we see things. I recall that in the plains of the US we would note the changes of the season by the migration of the geese. Occasionally there would be a hummingbird migration, but the migration of the geese going south always indicated, when we lived in Kansas and Oregon, which both the time and the change of season were here,

winter would follow fall. Yet through those dark days of winter we always anticipated hearing the geese as they began migrating north again, knowing that summer was only a short time away.

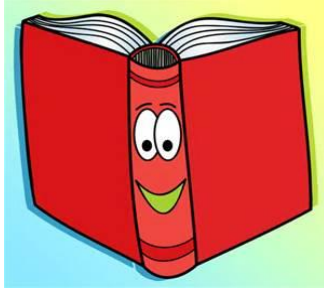
It's sort of the opposite here in Florida. We look forward to winter when everyone seems to come south. I wonder if Florida is where the geese end up at the end of their migration? When we as humans begin to migrate, whether back to our home or to another adventure, there will be joy mixed with sorrow as we know that some will be unable to return. At some level we will all feel a sense of loss and grief which will be mixed with a lot of prayer and concern that we have for friends like the Connaway's who can't make the trip this year. There may be others we will miss like the Kincaid's, depending upon their daughter. Our hearts go out to all those that we will not be migrating south this year. Likewise, we occasionally have a member that decides to return to their roots, such as Linda Ellis who will be leaving her Florida home to go and be with her family in Michigan. This time of grieving and sadness is also a time for rejoicing. This is such a time and season that the writer of Ecclesiastes was talking about as it is a reminder that though we are strained with our losses we can also be elated for those that are returning to be a part of our winter flock of geese.

Sometimes it may seem that the only constant in our lives is change, but that is not true. God is our constant, surrounding us with such a great cloud of witnesses. Those witnesses are you and me. I don't know what people who lack faith do, especially in this time of a pandemic an elections and protests and flu and economic turmoil and travel restrictions and all that we face today. We hate to think that there could be any more change or pain in our lives. Here is the hope, “this too shall pass.” After all, isn't that the very teaching of Ecclesiastes?

Yes, Ecclesiastes can speak to us today, if we let it. As it is written “He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart...” In the times of trial, we have concerns that we take upon ourselves or others thrust upon us, but God still desires for us to be whole. “I know that there is nothing better for people than to be happy and to do good while

they live.” The seasons bring many things. Sometimes during those seasons we have more to deal with than others. Sometimes we bring on our own burdens, and other times they are imposed upon us by others. That is why, as the people of God, we come to Him to be happy and to do good and to claim all of the gifts that God has given to us as His children in all the seasons of our lives.

Pastor’s November office days: 3,4, 10, 11, 18, 20, 21. Vacation Nov 23 – Dec 4.



We are reading “Tearoom For Two”. It’s part of the Tearoom Mystery series from Guideposts.

We have 2 cousins, Elaine and Jan who are ready for the next part of their lives to begin. They decide to buy a Queen Anne style house in Maine and convert part of it into a tearoom. They expect life to be quiet and uneventful but find they are drawn into some baffling mysteries. They buy an unusual teapot at a flea market and the dealer then tries to buy it back for a lot of money. Then they have a woman snooping around their house. And finally one of them is threatened by a midnight burglar. They must use their wisdom, deductive skills, and prayer to get to the truth. They find out they are as good as figuring out the truth as they are at serving tea.

Nov. 3 – Read Chapters 9-15, p. 100-185

Nov. 17 – Read Chapters 16-the end, p. 186-275.

Please join us!! There will be a copy in the library for you to read. We meet at 4:00 p.m. in the church library the first and third Tuesdays of the month when we are able to return.

Submitted by Jaquae L. Sands, 382-3428

OUTREACH

When we go into the stores today we are reminded that Christmas is coming soon—ready or not.

We at First Christian Church have chosen to participate in the Children’s’ Shoe Box. This is last call for this year. The boxes have to be to the drop-off center the second week in November. You have recently received an email with the list of what can and cannot be included.

So if you haven’t gotten a box, please do so immediately. You can get it when the church is open, Monday through Wednesday from 9 am til 12 pm.

Don’t forget to pray for the child. I’m sure they would love getting a personal note and picture too. Reach Out!

Our Disciple of Christ organization will be accepting a Thanksgiving offering the Sunday before and the Sunday after Thanksgiving. These offerings will go toward colleges and universities and church related institutes. Please support this program to bring more educated leaders into the Church.

Wanda Gordon, Outreach Chair.

MUSICAL FUNNIES

At a church in Mississippi, the pastor announced that their prison choir would be singing the following evening.

I wasn't aware there was a prison in the vicinity, so I looked forward to hearing them.

The next evening, I was puzzled when members of the church approached the stage. Then the pastor introduced them.

"This is our prison choir," he said, "they're behind a few bars and always looking for the key."

* * * * *

There once was a choir which entirely consisted of people named Dan

Every year on Christmas Eve the choir goes to church where they have the tradition to go outside when it's dark to sing songs under the night sky.

It is such a big event that many people who are also named Dan come to town just to join the choir and they would also bring their families to watch and listen.

It's Christmas Eve and the sky is very clear. The stars shine bright and the full moon illuminates the nearby park where all the Dans are now gathered to sing for their families.

Everybody's feeling warm and right, it's such a fine and natural sight.

Everybody's Dans sing in the moonlight.

* * * * *

How many choir directors does it take to change a light bulb?

No one knows. No one ever watches the choir director.

The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest."

—William Blake

Always thankful

Martin Rinkart, a German Lutheran minister, wrote the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God" in 1636. At the time, the Thirty Years' War was ravaging central Europe, claiming millions of lives. Rinkart served as pastor in Eilenburg, a walled town that became a crowded refuge for starving fugitives. Although Rinkart was struggling to provide for his own family, he opened his own home to people in need.

After the plague entered Eilenburg, Rinkart conducted up to 50 funerals a day — including services for his wife and the only other two pastors in town. Amid the despair, he wrote many hymns, including "Now Thank We All Our God." Originally intended as a table prayer, it's now sung at Thanksgiving to remember God's "countless gifts of love" — even during hardships.

"Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for."
—Epicurus

"Greed says the more you get, the more you have. Christ says the more you give away in love, the more you are."
—Frederick Buechner

"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love."
—St. Therese of Lisieux

"God gave us five senses; it is sheer ingratitude to worship him with any less."
—Martin Luther

"Thanksgiving, after all, is a word of action."
—W.J. Cameron



BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 2 Janet Johns	Nov. 19 Marilyn Conneway
2 Elaine Milward	23 Leslie Behm
3 Gary Kinkaid	25 Diane Beidler
7 Janet McCord	25 Ronald Conneway
9 Robin Martin	29 Fred Collins
18 Linda Ellis	30 Elissa Crothers

ANNIVERSARIES

Nov. 23 Paul & Sharon Wiseman	Nov. 25 Larry & Prilli Andrews
29 Marion (Red) & Linda Johnson	

Special dates

- Nov. 1 All Saints Day
- Nov. 1 Eastern Standard Time begins FALL BACK one hour
- Nov. 9 Shoeboxes sent
- Nov. 10 Board Meeting 2:00**
- Nov. 28 Greening of the Church
- Election Day, *November 3, 2020*
- Veterans Day, *November 11, 2020*
- Thanksgiving Day, *November 26, 2020*
- First Sunday of Advent, *November 29, 2020*

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A Veterans Day prayer

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country ...

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

—Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillips

DISCIPLE WOMEN

I must confess I do not know what to say about the Disciple Women. I pointed out in the last newsletter that time was getting short and please reply yea or nay to having a cookie walk. Since I received zero response, I assume no answer at all means nay. So does this mean you do not want to continue with our monthly get together? We were to meet the 1st Friday of the month which would be Nov. 6. Again, in the last letter, I suggested we meet instead on Sat. Nov. 14 for the Regional Disciple Woman assembly via Zoom. It meets from 10-12. My thought was that we would have a sack lunch afterwards and discuss how to continue. However, if you do not want to do that, we could participate via zoom from our homes and possibly have a discussion afterwards.

The regional has some interesting projects for the coming year that I'd like us to consider. Learn more at the retreat.

There are registration forms at the church. I believe there is no cost if meeting by zoom. Or IF you would let me know that you are interested, I can register for you. BUT I must have a reply.

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