

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

November 2021

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My articles for the past several months have been on those that I, as a pastor, and we, as a congregation, appreciate because of their gifts and dedication to the work of Jesus Christ here at the First Christian Church in Sebring. I will certainly remain in that theme for an article about Thanksgiving in November.

With a thankful heart I write this to all that you did as individuals and as a congregation for Pastor Appreciation Sunday. As Philippians 1: 3 says “I thank my God every time I remember you” for your tremendous generosity. I appreciated sitting in the pew and experiencing worship from that perspective. It helps me to get a better feel of the worship service.

Both Kathy and I are deeply touched by the cards, gifts, thoughts, and prayers you gave to us that day and each and every day. She was sorry that she was still not able to attend because she felt ill but certainly did want to share that with the congregation. She was there in spirit. The fellowship luncheon was phenomenal as usual with so many great dishes. It is always like we need to take home 12 baskets full of leftovers. The love poured into the luncheon with all the preparations made. Each and every meal gives us something to be thankful for.

I want to share with you giving opportunities coming up. I share these so that you might know and prioritize the special offerings we have during the holidays. We have two regular denominational offerings. The next one which supports our institutions of learning and higher education including seminaries and colleges will be November 21st. Our Christmas offering supporting camps, conferences, and regional ministries will be December 12th and 19th.

We also remember local needs. We will have our canned and other food offerings for our food pantry and the local mission the last Sunday of each of the months in November and December. The first Sundays are an opportunity to give to the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. At the Christmas Eve Service, the offering is designated for the Deacons and Elders Fund.

May you be blessed as you bless others in our outreach of THANKSGIVING!

Pastor Alan

Pastor’s November projected days in office; 2, 3, 9, 13, 17, 23, 30.



NOVEMBER



2nd Janet Johns
3rd Gary Kincaid
7th Janet McCord
9th Robin Martin
18th Linda Ellis
19th Marilyn Conneway

23rd Leslie Behm
23rd Billy Brueckner
25th Diane Beidler
26th Richard Haiflich
30th Ellisa Crothers

25th Larry and Prilli Andrews

6 IMPORTANT GUIDELINES IN LIFE

1. When you are alone, Mind your thoughts.
2. When you are with friends, Mind your tongue.
3. When you are angry, Mind your temper.
4. When you are a group, Mind your behavior.
5. When you are troubled, Mind your emotion.
6. When God starts blessing you, Mind your ego.

Rachel Wright via Facebook

GOD' BLESSINGS

Don't you ever feel?
God's blessing in the air?
Don't you ever smell?
God's blessing in our meal?
Don't you ever touch?
God's blessing in us much?
Don't you ever see?
God's blessing in the sea?
Don't' you ever hear?
God's blessing for us so near.

Rejoice! Count them all!
We are not impoverished,
To get envy with the rich,
We have lots to reach,
God is just waiting for our speech.

Susan T. Aparejo



Maybe not exactly an outreach, but a reminder that a love offering is being taken for our retiring Regional Minister, Betsy. A collection will be taken Nov. 7 & 14. If you write a check, please make it the 1st Christian Church indicating it is for Betsy. Also, any cash donations are to be thus indicated. The church will write one check to be given to Betsy.

Also, a reminder that the 1st Sunday of the month is your opportunity to give to the Discretionary Fund that allows the Pastor help individuals needing help.

We have enough items for the shoe box ministry that we can start filling boxes. More items donated are appreciated. If you would like to help fill boxes, come to the church Tues. Nov. 2nd and 9th at 10: am. and Wed. Nov. 3 & 10 afternoons from 1 to 3. If you can work when church is usually open, you are welcomed to do so. Many hands make light work. The deadline is Nov. 15. The number of boxes sent by Samaritan's Touch last year was 9000. This year the goal is 9500.

Nov. 21 is our opportunity to support the Disciples of Christ higher education facilities.

Remember the last Sunday of the month, November 28, is Food Pantry collection for our mission, New Testament Church.

A ship spied smoke coming from three huts on an island. Coming ashore, the captain saw a lady that was so glad to see him. She had been on the island by herself 5 years.

The captain asked about the other huts if she was alone. She pointed to one and said that was where she went to church. "And the other?"

"That's where I use to go to church."

Everyone you see is someone Jesus thought enough of to die for. Remember that in how you treat others.

November Dates

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 All Saints Day | 11 Veterans Day |
| 2 Deviled Egg Day | 13 Men's Breakfast 8:00 am |
| 3 Sandwich Day | 17 World Peace Day |
| 4 Check Blood Pressure Day | 21 Potluck after church |
| 7 Daylight Savings time ends | 25 Greening of the Sanctuary |
| 9 Board Meeting 6:00 pm | 28 Advent Begins |

Tuesdays 11:00 am - Bible Study – Library

Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 - COME LET US WORSHIP TOGETHER

Nov. 7, 14, offering for Betsy Goering, Reg. Minister retirement

CHOIR NEWS (November 2021)



It is hard to believe November is here already. With it comes the time to change your clocks back, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and even the first Sunday in November and the choir will be just as busy as ever. The choir will reflect all those changes including an Advent number. So, bring a friend to church and come hear God's message through the word and song. See you on Sunday and wear a mask PLEASE!

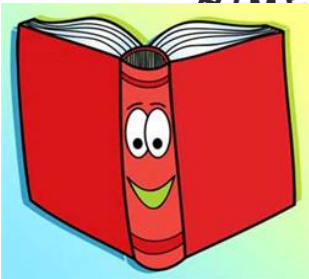
Keep in Tune,
Jaquae



A JOYFUL NOISE

Day by day, we keep hoping to start up the chimes but still we wait. We need more people so if you are thinking about joining us, please give me a call. I would love to hear from you!

For Whom the Bell Tolls,
Jaquae



Our next book will be "The Debt" by Angela Hunt. This story reminds us not to follow in the footsteps of man, but to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Emma Rose Howard has had a difficult past, but finally settles into the role of a pastor's wife. She and her husband, Abel, parent a mega-church and influence thousands of lives through their varied ministries.

When Emma gets a call from someone in her past, her entire way of life is threatened including her calling, her marriage, and her relationship with God. This book helps readers embrace the heartache and joy that comes

with a soul's redemption, but also challenges us to follow Christ into new and unexpected places.

We are changing the way we do Book Club. From now on we meet once a month, on the first Monday at 3:00 p.m. Please read the entire book before you 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, Dec. 6, at 3:00 pm in the church library.



What a wonderful turnout we had for Pastor Appreciation Day! Thanks to all who came - 24 dined in Fellowship Hall, maintaining proper distances. Thanks to everyone who brought food, especially to Linda Belle and Rich who brought the entree and dessert. We are fortunate in having so many good and generous cooks in our midst.

Plans are underway for the next dinner - Turkey dinner with all the trimmings (turkey to be provided) on November 21 (yes, it is the 3rd Sunday of the month). A sign-up sheet will be posted. We need help after lunch in putting the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary. In keeping with tradition, the greening of the church will be on the following Saturday; lunch will be provided. (Any guesses regarding the menu?)

COVID numbers are down (thankfully), so we plan on "passing the plate" starting October 31st. Please keep Reverend Betsy in mind; she is retiring soon. We want to thank her for all the help she gave us in bringing Pastor Alan to our rescue.

I am sure you have been reminded via numerous communications that Christmas is on its way. We are looking forward to the first Sunday of Advent, the 28th of November. Please be gracious when you are asked to participate.

Blessings to all, Ann