

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

SEPTEMBER, 2022

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The other day in Bible Study we had two people come that had attended a few other times. The last time was maybe four months ago. The very knowledgeable lady felt she had a message to tell us, especially me. I was both curious and a little leery as class ended. After the lesson, at first, she did not seem to have that message for me, but as I went to go to the restroom, she asked if I was going to return. I stated I would. Well, after a couple of tasks I had to do, she discussed with me about the need to keep the law, especially the ten commandments. One point was that we should not ignore seventy-five percent of the Bible (the Old Testament) and only considering the other twenty-five percent or so. I may not have emphasized that we did not ignore the Old Testament but clearly stated that we are a New Testament church. Discussion turned to the topic of Christ and what did He actually do when He came? What did it mean to “fulfill the law” and even what did “fulfill” mean.

The thickness of the air seemed to change when I stated John 3:16, that God sent His Son and that we must believe in Him! That belief and response is what God is calling us to do and it is not by the law but by grace we are saved. Well, we never got to that point. The turning point seemed to be that once the discussion began to get away from fulfilling the ten commandments the defenses went up. When she guided the discussion back to the Ten Commandments as that which must first be kept, I stated as before that we are a New Testament Church. Perhaps I should not have said what ended to be the statement I now reflect upon. I stated “Maybe our congregation is not for you! We would be very happy to help you find a congregation that is right for you!” That did not go over well. Maybe it was not the right thing to say even though I still think it is true. If the purpose is to find a church that reflects your views, well our congregation does not!

As I reflected on our conversation and talked with others, I was wrong! She would very likely not be happy in our congregation but FCC Sebring is EXACTLY what she needs! With the personal issues from her past and the struggles she continues to experience, she needs so very much to be accepted, loved, and find wholeness in a congregation and in Jesus Christ as her personal savior. It is a reminder that Jesus came not to bind us to the law but to free us from the law. It is a reminder that it is not the law that will save us from our past but the love of Christ that will set us free. It is a reminder that the law is a millstone to incompleteness but the cross is a path to wholeness! As the word in John’s Gospel states “everyone who believes in Him may have eternal life.”

Projected November Pastors Days: 1, 5, 8, 12, 15, 16

Pastor on vacation November 21 – 30



BOOK CLUB

In November we will be reading “Castle of Whispers” by Elizabeth Penney. Sofia Parker has been trusted as the next guardian of her late grandmothers very old trunk with a precious quilt and diary hidden inside. The trunk had always been protected by the women in her family, who are all skilled in the art of needlework. However, Sofia is not! Yet Sofia's grandmother chose her for a reason. Sofia feels her Nonna wanted her to discover something about the trunk, quilt and diary so she sets out to learn the truth. Along the way there are attempts to steal the items. Now Sofia is not sure just who she can trust. This takes place in the town of Cabot Falls, Vermont. Sofia discovers that the answers to today's struggles can be found by solving the mysteries of the past. Join us for this amazing book.

We meet once a month, on the first Monday at 3:00 pm. Please read the entire book before you come and be prepared to ask questions for all of us to answer. We are all reading 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, Nov. 7th at 3:00 pm in the church library.

In December we will be reading the second book in this series called: “Decadent Deceit” by DeAnna Julie Dodson

Submitted by Jaquae L. Sands, 382-3428

BECOME A BOOKWORM AND JOIN US IN BOOK CLUB. WE MEET FOR AN HOUR OR 1 ½ HOURS TO DISCUSS THE BOOK. ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US.

How to Care for a Bookworm

1. Respect their reading time. Do not interrupt them for frivolous conversation and demands.
2. If you do interrupt their precious reading time, understand if they throw the closest available object at your head.
3. Do not attempt to buy them jewelry and clothes for their birthday or Christmas. Give them a gift card to the bookstore. You can't read a bracelet or necktie.
4. Do not expect them to go out on Friday and Saturday nights. They are much happier in their own habitat at home with a book.
5. If you are successful in dragging them to happy hour or a party, understand they will bring a book and they will break it out and read it.
6. If you see one coming down the sidewalk with their nose in a book. Just get out of their way.
7. Don't expect the house to be clean or dinner to be cooked if a new book in their favorite series has just been released.
8. Understand they will always brake for bookstores. Even if you are late for wherever you are headed.
9. Also understand their need to finish just one more chapter.

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CHOIR NEWS November 2022

Hard to believe the choir is already working on Christmas anthems. It will be here before you know it. But we have a special anthem planned for Thanksgiving Sunday. And many other this month you will not want to miss. See you on Sunday!

Keep in Tune,
Jaquae



A JOYFUL NOISE November 2022



For now, the chimes are on hold. We need more people so if you are thinking about joining us, please give me a call. I would love to hear from you! They say all good things are worth waiting for!

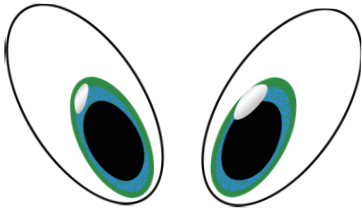
For Whom the Bell Tolls,
Jaquae

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

- (1). Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
- (2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
- (3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
- (4). We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
- (5). We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
- (6). On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

A hug a day keeps your troubles at bay. A hug at night makes everything right. So I'm sending you this hug to help you cope, give you some love and send you some hope.



Are you keeping your eyes open for unsung heroes in our church? Please submit someone's name that should be recognized for the little things that are done for the church.



Again, thanks to all who have gotten the rummage sale organized. Now it is time to all pitch in and help at the sale on Nov. 5. Hours are from 7-12. 2 shifts would make it easier on everyone. Please come and help.

Welcome to our friends from the north who have joined us again. We've missed you and look forward to fellowshiping with you. More will be coming. Come to church and welcome our old friends.





Worship/Education/Fellowship Committee Report

A big **"Thank you"** to everyone who brought in pictures of servicemen/women to make our observance of "Veterans' Day more meaningful. A special thank you to **Dick Asmussen** who personally delivered his own pictures to the office. It's not too late, but the pictures should be in the office by this Sunday.

What a wonderful treat we had on our 3rd Sunday **"taco bar."** Food was delicious; the added bonus was that fifty (50) shoeboxes were filled in a very short period of time. Actually, it was easy to do because **Rick and Liz** had everything so beautifully organized; the hard part was already done. More shoeboxes will be filled as we receive more items until our deadline. This congregation is a very giving and thoughtful family. Thanks to all who have donated time, money, and items for this very worthwhile outreach.

November 5th is our **Rummage Sale**. Many people have helped, but a special thanks to **Linda, Peggy, Teresa and Pat** for all the hours they have put in to make this sale successful. Take a look in the Fellowship Hall; you may find some **Christmas** items that you'll not be able to resist. Avoid the rush and the crowds - do your holiday shopping at the **First Christian Church, DOC!** You will find beautiful items at unbelievable prices - it's definitely a win-win situation. **Happy holidays!**

Pastor Appreciation Day is scheduled for November 20th. What better time to say "Thank You" with the upcoming Thanksgiving Day. We will celebrate with pot luck; depending on the luck we have, turkey will be the main entree. If we can't find a turkey - we'll have ham - in fact, maybe we'll have both which makes for dandy leftovers.

Blessings to all and traveling mercies to our snowbird families.

Ann

Rich's Corner

Our Saturday Men's breakfast is here again. The next one will be November 12th at 9:00 a.m. There will be a "guest chef". Don't miss out on this wonderful time of fellowship and food!

Blessings, Rich



November 2022

Birthday Blessings

<i>11/2</i>	<i>Janet Johns</i>
<i>11/3</i>	<i>Gary Kincaid</i>
<i>11/9</i>	<i>Robin Martin</i>
<i>11/18</i>	<i>Linda ellis</i>
<i>11/19</i>	<i>Marilyn Conneway</i>
<i>11/21</i>	<i>Liz Broadway</i>
<i>11/23</i>	<i>Leslie Behm</i>
<i>11/23</i>	<i>Bill Brueckner</i>
<i>11/23</i>	<i>Bob Green</i>
<i>11/25</i>	<i>Diane Beidler</i>
<i>11/26</i>	<i>Richard Haiflich</i>

*Happy
anniversary*

*Larry and Prilli Andrews
November 25,th*