

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

October 2021

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We are approaching another point of renewal that we call "back to school" time as well as many say, "back to church". This month I wish to thank and highlight one group that is very significant in the life and style of our worship service. The First Christian Church of Sebring, FL has always been one noted for its music program. I gave my appreciation to Jaquae and Roger Sands a couple of months ago, but now I want to also commend Jaquae as well for her dedication to the choir. It is the choir that consistently and routinely not only leads the music for our congregational singing but also shares most every week in special music.

Different people are emotionally moved to conviction by different things, for some it may be the simplicity of the Lord's supper as well as the thanksgiving we give. For others it may be the sermon or one of the messages throughout the worship service. But many find music as a gateway to the soul and are moved by both the tune and the words. The choir has begun meeting once again every Wednesday evening as well as Sunday morning. It takes a lot of devotion to put in the time and the planning that brings us the quality of music we enjoy every week.

During this time of COVID it has been very challenging for the choir, but they have adapted and are once again bringing very meaningful music to worship. Of course, most of the coordination is done by Jaquae along with the worship committee, however there are so many folks to thank in the choir. I am indeed grateful for Sandi Lauffer and Mark McClary for leading the worship service with hymns for congregational singing. Along with Mark, Ron Colwell and Don Tiemens make up the men's section. If I was a musician, I could tell you the other parts that people play but I will merely say they play an important part. We miss Linda Ellis who used to be a part of the choir. Other members include Priscilla Andrews, Carol Breckenridge, Barbara Tiemens, Ann Hawley, Heidi McClary, Marla Null, and C. J. Wiggins. We are pleased to add the newest member, Pat Rhodes. Pat is not only the most recent member of the choir but also the newest member of the office staff.

It takes many people coming together with the spirit of serving every Sunday morning so that all of us might be enriched by a meaningful worship service. Indeed, not the least, is the choir as they give up their time and talents as well as their offerings to our congregation and to all those that would come seeking to be both faithful and obedient to the will of God. Thank you very much choir for all you have done, all you are doing, and all you will do in the time of a famine or feast, a pandemic, or some type of normality.

Pastor's projected October office days: 5, 6, 12, 13, 20, 26, 27.

OUTREACH



This church has been faithful in contributing to filling shoeboxes for children overseas. Let's be generous again this year and fill many boxes. A list of some items to be put in the boxes are:

Stuffed animals, jump ropes, yo-yos, flashlights with batteries, socks, hair clips, jewelry, toothbrushes, bar soap, wash clothes, combs, pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, coloring books and picture books, hair bows, finger puppets, to name a few. If you buy pencils, please make sure they are made in the U.S.A. as they sharpen much better than imported ones. I can order stuffed animals and sharpeners if you would like to donate money. Our dear friend Wanda Gordon got mini flashlights at Harbor Freight. Don't forget batteries. Early November will be the deadline for getting these items ready. When we have collected the items, they need to be packed in the boxes and that means helping hands. The collection room is now in the nursery. Please start buying and planning on helping but the boxes together.

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

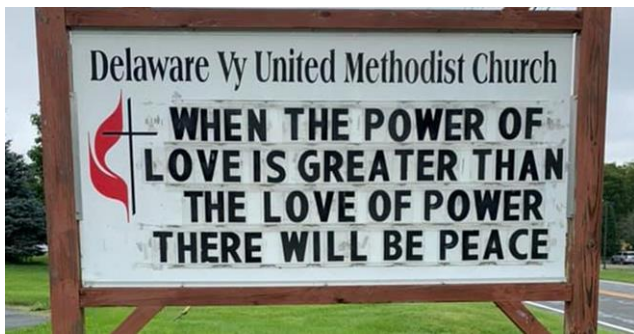
Property notes: The official board at its recent meeting agreed to accept bids on the repair of the water damage in the vestibule caused by a leaking roof. As soon as bids are in there will be a called meeting of the board to accept a bid and move forward with the repairs.

MANY THANKS: to Doug Cauble, Rich Campton's yard helper who has been working with him to repair broken water lines and irrigation heads in our yard.

CALLING ALL DOC MEN: Due to over whelming requests to restart our monthly breakfast meetings we will get underway next month, Saturday October 23, at 8:A.M. Hopefully some of our snowbirds will be back by then.

Have you been in contact with your Secret Prayer Pal during the summer? I'm sure that knowing that someone is holding us up in prayer has been important during these trying Pandemic times.

Rich





CHOIR NEWS

(October 2021)

Isn't it wonderful to have our choir in the loft every Sunday morning? They are such dedicated Christians and I'm honored to work with them all. We temporarily changed choir time to 6:00 p.m. because of it getting darker much earlier. However, we will change that time back to accommodate those who work during the day when they return. For now, we are trying to make it easier on the ones that come each week. See you on Sunday and wear a mask PLEASE!

Keep in Tune,
Jaquae

A JOYFUL NOISE



Until this pandemic gets under control, it's just too hard to start the chimes back. We have no choice but to stand near each other and touch the same chimes. It's impossible to sanitize the chime pads, chimes, etc. So, for now we can't start back up just yet. Keep praying for things to get better!!!!

For Whom The Bell Tolls,
Jaquae

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- Psalm 118 is the middle chapter of the entire Bible?
- Psalm 117, before Psalm 118 is the shortest chapter in the Bible?
- Psalm 119, after Psalm 118 is the longest chapter in the Bible?
- The Bible has 594 chapters before Psalm 118 and 594 chapters after Psalm 118?
- If you add up all the chapters except Psalm 118, you get a total of 1188 chapters.
- 1188 or Psalm 118 verse 8 is the middle verse of the entire Bible?
- Should the central verse not have an important message? *"It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man."* Psalm 118:8.

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October	3	Terry Ducar	27	Barbara Walker
	7	Toni Badovinac	28	Howard Lewis
	18	Richard Neff	28	Kathy Brown
	23	Gordon Walkington	28	Mark Wilson
	25	Carolyn Hinline		



Worship/Education/Fellowship Committee Report

Sundays are always special; but October has two "extra-special" Sundays - World Communion Sunday and Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We celebrated World Communion this Sunday, October 3rd. Jesus himself established the celebration of the partaking of bread (as body) and wine (as blood) at what is often referred to as The Last Supper.

As Christianity spread so did this ritual, but it wasn't until 1933 that the concept of a World-wide Celebration for all Christians was introduced by Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr in Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA. He wanted to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian Churches and thought communion would symbolize this unity.

See if you can match the country with the bread in the following puzzle.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| ___ 1. Germany | A. bollillo |
| ___ 2. Ireland | B. kartofel khleb |
| ___ 3. Italy | C. ciabatta |
| ___ 4. China | D. pan de queijo |
| ___ 5. Mexico | E. aish baladi |
| ___ 6. India | F. soda bread |
| ___ 7. Sweden | G. mantou |
| ___ 8. Russia | H. pan de leche |
| ___ 9. Spain | I. limpu |
| ___ 10. France | J. rye |
| ___ 11. Native America | K. shokupan |
| ___ 12. Brazil | L. pita |
| ___ 13. Greece | M. fry bread |
| ___ 14. Egypt | N. baguette |
| ___ 15. Japan | O. naan |

Reconciliation Ministry

Our congregation will receive the Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering October 3rd and 10th. Our theme is "Revealing God's Justice: The Time is Always Ripe to Do What is Right." Now, in the aftermath of the death of our brothers and sisters of color, violence against Asian and Pacific Islanders, and the deadly inequities of the Coronavirus Pandemic, is the time for our Church to strengthen its commitment to actively seek God's justice. Reconciliation Ministry is the church wide mission fund which supports programs and program partners that enable full human flourishing for everyone in every community. As followers of Christ, we believe every life is precious and valued in God's beloved community. Your generosity makes it possible to impact the quality of life and the issues many of our brothers and sisters in Christ face each and every day.



Pastor Appreciation Day will initiate the 3rd Sunday after-service luncheon on **October 17**. This will be the usual potluck with two exceptions: a pork entree (Thank you, Linda) will be provided and dessert in the form of a celebratory cake. A sign-up sheet will be posted; you may also email or call the office to get your name on the list. What is your go-to Bible verse?

Pastor Alan and Kathy have been serving our church for 4 years. We see many things they have done for our congregation. On this day, which we are calling Blessing Day, you will have an opportunity to share your blessings. Please come prepared to share a Scripture that has been a blessing to you.

Please participate: You have over two weeks to come up with something to share. This is NOT a test.



On a more personal note, we are asking that each one write a note to Pastor and Kathy, letting them know how grateful we are and how much we do indeed appreciate their faithfulness to our congregation. These will not be shared publicly. but will be collected at the luncheon.

I don't mind sharing one of my personal thanks to Pastor and Kathy; they brought us kicking and screaming into the frightening arena of the technical world. Thanks to the vehicles of Zoom and Facebook live, our church continues to thrive. This is certainly a blessing.

Blessings to all of you,
Ann Holly



DATES TO REMEMBER

October 3,10,17,24,31 Get to go to Church Days

- 1 National Homemade Cookie Day
- 3 World Day of Communion Come and share with Christians around the world
- 5 Do Something Nice Day
- 11 Columbus Day
- 14 National Dessert Day—take an extra helping or two
- 17 PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY Potluck after church
- 23 Make a difference day
- 31 Halloween

