

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

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Most of you remember the emergency broadcast system weekly or periodic testing initiated in 1963 by the Kennedy administration for emergencies. Those infamous words were "this is a test, this is only a test." It appears that those words are now what is actual happening every day.

The test during this time seems so real. We see so many sinking sand. Once stable businesses are vanishing from the corporate world. Families that appeared to be wholesome and healthy dissipating because of the strain of the current culture and schedule pressure. Schools and educational institutions that put much of their eggs in the sports basket struggling to survive. We even see churches who seemed like they were on firm ground now seldom meeting and quickly deteriorating in their mission and ministry. However, we come together as a congregation through electronic services that we would not have dreamed possible two or three years ago or even two months ago.

The First Christian Church of Sebring is now entering the fall. With that will be board and committee meetings, outreach projects, fellowships, and special programs. I have no way of knowing how we will gather and connect but I do know we will. Our mission to community is more crucial than ever and our ministry to the world is essential for the Body of Christ.

I am not sure what challenges God will give to us in the future, but I am very confident that we will meet them. We will meet them because of the faith we have, the fellowship that we share, and the fervor we have received to because of God's love to us. May God continue to bless us as we journey on this new way, indeed it is not a new heaven, it shall be a new earth.

Pastor Alan

Office Hours: Mon and Tues 9-12

**** Board meeting, Sept. 22 at 2:00 p.m.**

OUTREACH

How time flies! Here it is Sept already. This has been a strange and hot summer. The virus pandemic has really been an issue & continues even now. I hope and pray we can that under control soon. As one outreach project may we all be very urgent about—wearing a mask.

The Samaritans' Purse is the organization that sponsors the Children Christmas Shoebox that we participate in at Christmas time. That is fast approaching. Our goal this year is 72 boxes. We actually have to have them ready in mid-November.

Our room is ready so please stop by and pick up a box or 2 or 3 and start filling it. The church hours are Mon & Tues from 9-12. You may also pick up a list of items requested. Now is a good time to get school supplies at a good price to put in your boxes. You can also bring quantity of an item and put on the tables. Later we will fill boxes from those items.

Samaritans' Purse also trains leaders who to teach "The Greatest Journey" to the boys and girls who receive a box. In turn these boys and girls tell others the Good News.

Samaritans' Purse does many good things besides the Shoeboxes. But realize that it does cost money so if you would like to contribute to this worthy organization, let me know or mark your donation as you give to the church. Always continue praying for the Word of God to be spread.

Wanda Gordon

When Beethoven passed away, he was buried in a churchyard. A couple days later,

A drunk man was walking through the cemetery and heard some strange noise coming from the area where Beethoven was buried. Terrified, the drunk man ran and got the priest to come and listen to it. The priest bent close to the grave and heard some faint, unrecognizable music coming from the grave. Frightened, the priest ran and got the town magistrate.

When the magistrate arrived, he bent his ear to the grave, listened for a moment, and said, "Ah, yes, that's Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, being played backwards." He listened a while longer, and said, "There's the Eighth Symphony, and it's backwards, too. Most puzzling." So the magistrate kept listening; "There's the Seventh... the Sixth... the Fifth.." Suddenly the realization of what was happening dawned on the magistrate; he stood up and announced to the crowd that had gathered in the cemetery, "My fellow citizens, there's nothing to worry about. It's just Beethoven decomposing." From Jaquae Sands



Hymn Quiz Fun from the Music Dept.

(Match the numbered verse on the left to the correct lettered hymn below)

1. "Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!"
2. "Let angels prostrate fall. Bring forth the royal diadem."
3. "Our helper, He, amidst the flood. All moral ills prevailing."
4. "How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me."
5. "All our sins and griefs to bear. What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer."
6. "And He walks with me and He talks with me. And He tells me I am his own."
7. "Thou my great Father, I thy true son; Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one."
8. "But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry."
9. "Merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed trinity!"
10. "Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not."
11. "Oh my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!"
12. "Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!"

- a. Love Lifted Me
- b. A Mighty Fortress
- c. Praise To The Lord The Almighty
- d. What A Friend We Have In Jesus
- e. Christ The Lord Is Risen Today
- f. Holy, Holy, Holy!
- g. Blessed Assurance
- h. In The Garden
- I. Amazing Grace
- j. Great is Thy Faithfulness
- k. All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name
- l. Be Thou My Vision

Send your answers to Jaquae 458-0286 or jrsand@bargmail.com

JOKES FROM FACEBOOK

DEATH While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cottonwood, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he gooos.' (I want this line used at my funeral!)

BIBLE A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out.

'What have you got there, dear?'

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'

ELDERLY While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 4-year-old daughter on my afternoon rounds. She was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found her staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, she merely turned and whispered, 'The tooth fairy will never believe this!'

DISCIPLE WOMEN

Alas, we have not been able to meet face to face. But we can continue our ministry by collecting items for the Fred Wild 5th grade. Items are on sale now. We usually collect them in the fall and give them to the school in January when the students need more supplies. Their list includes #2 pencils (made in USA. The other makes do not sharpen very well) colored pencils, large (not individual packs) of tissues, glue sticks, hand sanitizer (6 oz. or larger), 3x3 or larger post it notes, Clorox wipes.

We may be housebound but we needn't be giving bound.

Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 7, 2020*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2020*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 13, 2020*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15-Oct. 15, 2020*
- First day of autumn, *September 22, 2020*

“When we long for life without difficulties, remind us that oaks grow strong in contrary winds and diamonds are made under pressure.”

—Peter Marshall

God of (all) the ages

It’s tempting to breeze through biblical genealogies, but those name lists serve important purposes. They reveal the fulfillment of prophecy, tie together time periods and Bible books, and reveal how God works in every age — and through people of all ages.

Consider the Old Testament’s many references to “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.” That lineage-linked name reminds us that God is the Lord of every succeeding generation and the friend of all. Although people’s needs differ as they journey from youth to middle age to their later years, God remains constant and ageless, fulfilling his promises to all who seek him.

When God crosses our paths

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.” Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God “sending us people with claims and petitions.” Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, “thinking of you” cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus’ name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God “crosses our paths” in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or 6 feet apart!).

Alpha & Omega

God created this world,
everything that it holds.
And God still is creating
as each day unfolds.
What we once called the future,
we now call the past.
While the present is fleeting,
God stays — first and last!
—Peggy Ferrell

7th Joan McWilliams
8th Rachel Wright
10th Linda Johnson
12th Desmond Walker



17th Frances Goff
20th Peggy Davis
20th Johnny Kelly
30th Trevor Warman



4th Howard and Shirley Lewis

4th Jerry and Kay Duball

16th Fred and Liz Collins