

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

**SEPTEMBER, 2022**

510 POINSETTIA AVE., SEBRING, FL. 33870

(863) 385-0352

WEB SITE: [www.FCCSebring.com](http://www.FCCSebring.com)

E-Mail: [fccdoc@outlook.com](mailto:fccdoc@outlook.com),

[finance@fccsebring.com](mailto:finance@fccsebring.com),

[office@fccsebring.com](mailto:office@fccsebring.com)



Once again, fall is upon us and the migration of you snowbirds will soon be evident. Activities begin to pick up with board meetings, book clubs, fellowship dinners, all of the activities that once again demonstrate the dynamic fellowship of First Christian Church Sebring, Florida. They say time flies when your having fun. It seems to go slow in misery. It seems to stand still as we look toward anticipated events.

I was visiting Howard Lewis and just a few minutes into our conversation he asked “what day is it?” I had to think a bit but did come up with the right answer only to say “We’re retired, does it really make a difference?” It seems the only way I keep track of time is to remember that my dentist appointment is next Tuesday. Physical therapy is Monday and Thursday. Wednesday is a doctor visit. I suppose it has always been that way. I received a little note from our new Regional Minister congratulating me on my 48th year of Ordination. What? Thank you for telling me. I failed to put that on my Facebook page so I would remember. As I briefly reflected on those years, it does not take much thought to recall those times I think I have been a good pastor mixed with those stages I have been, well, maybe bad. I have pastored some exceptional congregations, both long-term and short-term, but there have been a few that you might not recognize as a congregation having little spirit and no religion.

I must trust and have some faith in the words of Proverbs 16:9 where “the heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” Someone said to me that I had been doing a particular job a long time but then restated it to say that I had gained a lot of experience. Good recovery. In fact, I believe that over those years of living God has given me experiences and helped me grow so that I am able to keep out of trouble most of the time. Even more than that, those life events have allowed me to serve both God and you as the congregation of First Christian Church, Sebring more effectively!

And as long as we are on the subject, Ephesians 5:16 says that we should be “making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.” You may be like I am, being pulled by the profane of this world to not act or wrongly act. Yet, no matter what our age, no matter what day it is, we seek what the Psalmist in 90:12 said when he asked God “teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom”. Truly then, day by day, may we walk with God!

Pastor projected September Office Days: 6, 7, 13, 14, 21, 27, 28.



## BOOK CLUB

In October we will be reading “Jezebel” by K. Larsen. Annabelle Fortin got herself in a lot of trouble. Forced to do community service at an assisted living facility for early onset dementia she meets Jezebel, one of the residents. This is the story that unfolds over the course of Annabelle's court ordered six-month sentence. Nothing is what it seems! Come join us for this book.

We are choosing other books so we can decide what to read for November. It may be “Castle of Whispers” so stay tuned!!! Everyone has some input but this book was brought to my attention.

We will take July, August and September off for the summer.

We are changing the way we do Book Club. From now on 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 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, Oct. 3rd at 3:00 pm in the church library.



## CHOIR NEWS September 2022

The music department hopes you all enjoyed being choir members last month. We appreciated your help in singing the anthems. I've gone way back in our files and found some things we haven't done in ages, so we'll be bringing them to you in the coming weeks. Remember to bring a friend to church and wear a mask if you can! See you on Sunday!

Keep in Tune,  
Jaquae





## A JOYFUL NOISE

September 2022

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

For Whom The Bell Tolls,  
Jaquae

**LORD, PLEASE,  
CORRECT ME WHEN I'M WRONG.**

**GUIDE ME WHEN I'M LOST.**

**STRENGTHEN ME WHEN I'M WEAK.  
AND GIVE ME A PUSH  
WHEN I START TO GIVE UP.**

**JESUS, I NEED YOU EVERY MOMENT OF EVERY DAY.**

THE PRAYER CHAIN

# Hymns for Professionals



## **DENTIST:**

**Crown Him with many crowns**

## **CONTRACTORS:**

**The church's one foundation**

## **OBSTETRICIANS:**

**Come, labor on**

## **GOLFERS:**

**There is a green hill far away**

## **POLITICIANS:**

**Standing on the promises**

## **LIBRARIANS:**

**Let all mortal flesh keep silence**

## **LAWYERS:**

**In the hour of trial**

## **DRY CLEANERS:**

**O for a faith that will not shrink**

## **CREDIT CARD USERS:**

**A charge to keep have I**

## **CENSUS TAKERS:**

**All people that on earth do dwell**

## **TAXATION OFFICERS:**

**We give thee but thine own**

## **TRAFFIC ENGINEERS:**

**Where cross the crowded ways of life**



There was a moment when Moses had the nerve to ask God what his name is. God was gracious enough to answer, and the name he gave is recorded in the original Hebrew as YHWH.

Over time we've arbitrarily added an "a" and an "e" in there to get YaHWeH, presumably because we have a preference for vowels.

But scholars and Rabi's have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds, or aspirated consonants. When pronounced without intervening vowels, it actually sounds like breathing.

YH (inhale): WH (exhale). So, a baby's first cry, his first breath, speaks the name of God. A deep sigh calls His name – or a groan or gasp that is too heavy for mere words.

Even an atheist would speak His name, unaware that their very breath is giving constant acknowledgment to God.

Likewise, a person leaves this earth with their last breath, when God's name is no longer filing their lungs.

So, when I can't utter anything else, is my cry calling out His name? Being alive means, I speak His name constantly.

So, is it heard the loudest when I'm the quietest?

In sadness, we breathe heavy sighs.

In joy, our lungs feel almost like they will burst.

In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down.

When we're about to do something hard, we take a deep breath to find our courage.

When I think about it, breathing is giving him praise. Even in the hardest moments!

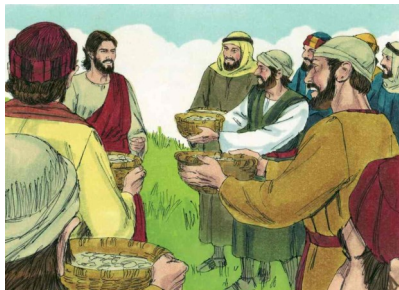
This is so beautiful and fills me with emotion every time I grasp the thought.

God chose to give himself a name that we can't help but speak every moment we're alive.

All of us, always, everywhere.

Waking, sleeping, breathing, with the name of God on our lips.





## SUNDAY SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY

This is not the Sunday Scholl of your formative years. We do not fill in the page of our workbooks and memorize the Bible Verse-for-the day. We have simply been reading aloud the Bible to try to understand the meaning behind the verses.

Sunday School class has almost finished the Gospel of John. Our next step will be somewhere among one of the prophets of the Old Testament.

Tuesday Bible Study if following Paul through Acts. I think our next project might be what many scholars believe to be the very first book to be written in the New Testament (and, no it isn't the Gospel of Matthew).

The more class members we have, the wider the range of expertise we have to share. Glad to have you join us.

Sunday School meets at 9:00 on Sunday and Bible Study meets at 11:00 on Tuesdays. Each are an hour in length and are in the library.



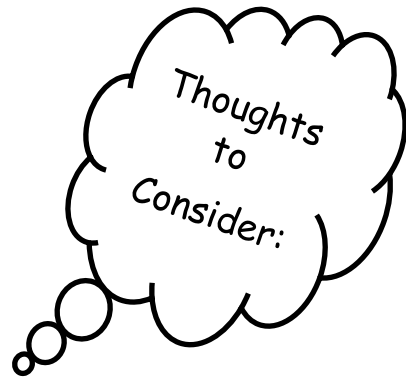
### September Birthdays

- 7<sup>th</sup> Joan McWilliams
- 8<sup>th</sup> Rachel Wright
- 20<sup>th</sup> Rev. Peggy Davis
- 20<sup>th</sup> Johnny Kelly
- 30<sup>th</sup> Trevor Warman



### September Anniversaries

- 4<sup>th</sup> Howard and Shirley Lewis
- 8<sup>th</sup> Jerry and Kay Duball
- 16<sup>th</sup> Fred and Liz Collins



- First we learn to talk, then after many years, we learn to keep still
- The Lord gave us commandments - He didn't mention amendments.
- A smile takes but a moment, but the memory of it lasts forever.
- If God seems far away – who moved?
- You can preach a better sermon with your life than with your lips.
- Prayer can change burdens into blessings.
- God still speaks to those who take the time to listen.
- To love and be loved is the greatest joy on earth.
- No man ever got lost on a straight road.
- God wants spiritual fruit – not religious nuts.

## Rich's Corner

Hopefully we have survived the dog days of summer and are looking forward to a little less humidity. Come on October!!!

In the meantime, we still have September (and the height of hurricane season) to get through. The kids are back in school and it is time to get back on track. (it's only 122 days until Christmas) [OB]

We'll start with our DOC men's breakfast Saturday, September 10th at 8:00 AM in the kitchen. All men of the church are invited to attend and enjoy a hearty breakfast and good time of fellowship.

On Tuesday September 13th 6:00 PM we will be having a board meeting. It will be online for those of you who are still up North or can't attend in person.

We would like to get back to a time of fellowship on Sunday morning in the kitchen from 9:45 to 10:15AM. Covid concerns made socializing over the past year or so difficult but, hopefully, we can resume normal activities with safeguards. So come, mingle with friends, enjoy a cup of coffee and sweets before going to Worship.



## Worship/Education/Fellowship Committee

### Report

We still have many hot/humid days ahead (please, no hurricanes), but it is not too early to start planning for the upcoming holidays. A big "Thank you" to Rick and Liz Broadway for their commitment to the Shoebox Ministry. They recently attended a workshop regarding this program and came back filled with enthusiasm and ideas for fulfilling our dreams of making at least 100 children happy. BTW, did you know that empty pill box you have can be filled with quarters? How about it? I tried it out - it's \$10.00 - more than enough to pay the postage on a Shoe Box!!!.

Let's start the fall season with a Workshop/Sharing/Brown Bag lunch on September 18th! We will supplement that sandwich you bring with salad, drink, dessert. You bring ideas for promoting our church, fund-raising, and holiday plans (Thanksgiving turkey) plus Advent. Fellowship is a vital part of our persona here at DOC; we thrive on it.

SAVE THE DATE! November 5th is the date set for our rummage sale. Many treasures have been collected. Do your Christmas shopping early.!\!

Traveling mercies to all our traveling friends and family; prayers for those who are suffering with illnesses and surgeries.

Blessings to all, Ann



## OUTREACH

By: Sue Cowell



There will be a meeting of community Shoe Box Ministry on Sept. 10 from 10-11:30 am. It is a drive-through event at the Bible Fellowship Church, 3750 Hammock Rd., Sebring. If several people go, I'm sure we'll each come away with a different idea of how to make the Shoe Box Ministry a success.

We have several boxes to fill. Most of these are from the Samaritan Touch. They do cost money. Try out the idea of decorating a regular shoe box.

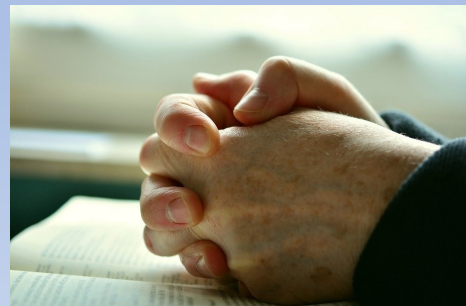
The church has access to Oriental Trading Magazine which have many suggestions of small items to put the boxes. If you would like to look at a magazine (fall issue is out and there will be a Christmas one), it can be located on the table in the hallway. If interested, you may donate money and a group order can be placed.

Remember the shipping of shoe boxes is about \$10.00 Money will be needed for this expense.

Individual pencil sharpeners are need to go along with the pencils we send. If you are buying pencils, please make sure they are made in USA. My experience has been the those made overseas do not sharpen very well and end up being stubs to get a point.

Other suggestion ideas will be posted as more is learned. Small toys, yo-yos, skip ropes, small dolls or animals, small color books, crayons, are some ideas. I wonder about story books as to whether the children can read English. Hope to find out more at the meeting about that.

Pray for this mission of the church and please help out.



# CHURCH ETTIQUETTE

1) COME. Never miss church unless it is absolutely necessary. George Washington's pastor said of him, "No company ever kept him from church."

2) COME EARLY. Rushing into church the last minute is not conducive to true worship.

3) COME WITH YOUR WHOLE FAMILY. "The church service is not a convention that a family should merely send a delegate."

4) TAKE A PLACE TOWARD THE FRONT OF CHURCH. Leave the rear seats for those who may come late, and for backsliders, and mothers with children.

5) BE DEVOUT. The church is not a theater or place of amusement. You come to worship God, not to whisper, lounge or sleep. God's house deserves our very utmost reverence.

6) HELP STRANGERS TO FIND AND FOLLOW THE SERVICE. If they have no book, share yours with them. Sing! Join in the worship! Don't just sit!

7) ALWAYS—REMEMBER THAT STRANGERS ARE THE GUESTS OF THE CHURCH MEMBERS. Treat them with the same courtesy as you would if they should visit in your home.

8) GIVE A GOOD OFFERING TO GOD. God loveth a cheerful giver. Freely ye have received.

9) NEVER RUSH FOR THE DOOR after benediction as though the church were on fire. Speak and be spoken to. Be congenial.

10) NEVER STAY AWAY FROM CHURCH BECAUSE THE CHURCH IS NOT PERFECT. How lonesome you would feel in a perfect church.

Author Unknown