

THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

April, 2019

510 POINSETTIA AVE., SEBRING, FL. 33870

(863) 385-0352

WEB SITE: www.FCCSebringFl.com E-Mail: fccd@outlook.com or
firstchristiandocsebring@gmail.com



Seasons Greetings!

That greeting may seem odd at a time like this, yet the Easter Season is the most important holiday for Christians everywhere. Even we Christians celebrate the Easter holiday on different days; Western church one Sunday and Orthodox Church another. Yet we celebrated for the same reason. It is the fundamental Biblical event we all share as central to our faith. There are two questions we need to reflect upon during this season. The first question is "what impact does Jesus' life and resurrection have upon us?" The disciples had been students of Jesus for two or

three years and yet after that that triumphant Sunday and the Last Supper they scattered.

They may have been in the crowd but they stood out little. Oh, likely they were still friends. Their leader was gone and things were about to change. It was questionable at that time if Jesus had any effect on those twelve. They had always been students and now their teacher was gone. Through our education and experiences mixed with many messages that we have heard

Sunday mornings, how has Christ impacted our values and thought?

The other question is "what effect do we have on the life of others?" It took the disciples some time to recuperate from what was as a devastating loss. They mulled around Jerusalem and part of the countryside not really knowing what to do. It may be much like graduating from school. After graduation it seems like some folks just a break. It would take the disciples (students) some weeks to become Apostles (those sent). It would eventually be evident the change they would bring the world on the day of Pentecost. That small group would set the world on fire when they realized the teacher, Jesus of Nazareth, WAS the Son of God!

We may not see our journey to faith as dramatic as the disciples. However, some may actually be more dramatic because our training comes through so many strong Christians who have experiences and shared those with us. And our faith, which is very strong, come from many directions and even more places and directions than the apostles experienced.

As Easter approaches, think of the two questions. What effect does Jesus' resurrection have on you? And after you have reflected on that question ask yourself how much effect you, as a student of Jesus, a Child of God, as a Disciple of Christ, have on others and on the world. The world needs it! The world needs it NOW!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Alan". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

April Pastor Office Days: 3, 5 PM, 9, 13, 18, 19, 23, 24.



April 7 Elders: Teresa Williams & Howard Lewis
Serving: Rich Neff & CJ Wiggin
Elaine Milward & Sue Colwell
Greeter: Teresa Williams
Acolyte: Richard Neff

April 21 Elders: Diane Beidler & Wanda Gordon
Serving: John & Helen Kelly
Elaine Milward & Kathy Whitlock
Greeter: Diane & Elaine
Acolyte: Kathy Whitlock

April 14 Elders: Rich Compton & Sandra Laufer
Serving: John & Helen Kelly
Todd & Robin Martin
Greeter: Howard & Shirley Lewis
Acolyte: Todd Martin

April 28 Elders: Linda Ellis & Marla Null
Serving: Elaine Milward & Sue C.
CJ Wiggin & Roger Sands
Greeter: Lain & Joan McWilliams
Acolyte: Ron Davis



BIRTHDAYS

April 8 Pauline Kincaid (GKin295995@aol.com)
April 11 Judi Stutzman
April 30 Roger Sands

ANNIVERSARIES

April 10 Mark & Heidi McClary
April 13 Keith & Sherry Kunsak
April 23 Todd & Robin Martin



We are now reading "The Swallow's Nest" by Emilie Richards. This is a story of deep love, changing dreams and having to confront the choices you make. When Lilia Swallow's husband, Graham, goes into remission from a horrible year of chemo from having lymphoma, then Lilia, a lifestyle blogger, throws a huge party for all their friends to celebrate his return to health. The doorbell rings, and a strange woman hands Lilia a baby boy and says he's Graham's problem now. This baby is Graham's darkest secret, conceived in a moment of despair. Lilia longed for a baby of her own and is unprepared for her husband's betrayal. Marina, the baby's mother, bore the baby under difficult circumstances and she begins to change her mind about him. Ellen, Graham's mother, sees the baby as a chance to correct the mistakes she made with Graham.

A custody battle begins, and each would-be mother must examine her heart, confront her choices and weigh her dreams against the fate of one tiny little boy. The result will alter their lives and everyone they care for."

For April 4th, please read Chapter 12 – 22, p. 127 – 246. And for April 18th please read Chapter 23 – 33, p. 247 – 365. We will finish the book the first Thursday in May.

Please join us!! There will be a copy in the library for you to read. We meet at 5:30 p.m. in the church library.

WE ARE DICPLIES

*"By this all people will know
that you are my disciples, if you
have love for one another."*

JOHN 13:35, ESV



WOMEN: Mary/Martha Group will meet at the church at 10:00 on April 5 and travel to the New Testament Church (one of our outreaches) for a tour of the facility. Anyone who is interested in learning more about this church and what it does in and for the community is welcome to join us. We will lunch together afterwards for those interested.

CALLING ALL D.O.C. MEN

Many Thanks to all of the men and their ladies who supported our latest Ham and Bean soup supper on March 1st. Our efforts were rewarded with clearing over \$1,000.00 which helped finish off our beautiful new kitchen renovation project. And a special shout out to Richard Neff whose bean soup recipe was the hit of the evening. More kudos to Gordon Walkington, Johnny Kelly, Ron Colwell and Pastor Alan who recently erected the new wood fence along the back of our property.

On April 5, we will be sponsoring a Haystack Taco Style salad bar dinner from 4:30-6:00. Donations of desserts and bags of tortilla chips would be appreciated. Tickets are on sale for \$8.00.

On Saturday April 13th, we will return to our regularly scheduled 2nd Saturday breakfast at 8:00 AM. We will be making plans to participate in the Maundy Thursday communion service on April 18th. Many of you will be headed back north soon. We'll be looking forward to your return in the fall. Also don't forget to stay in touch with your secret prayer pal and remind them that you are thinking about them.

Rich



FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

March 2019

CHOIR NEWS

Well, April is now here along with the joy that comes with this month. The choir will be singing anthems reflecting that joy and hope. We wish you a Happy Easter!!! Come join us!!!

Keep in Tune,

A JOYFUL NOISE

This month you should be hearing “Were You There” from A Joyful Noise on the last Sunday of the month. This is a difficult piece because we are so short with our members. If you'd like to join the chime choir, please talk to me. We'd love to have you! You can try it out, and there are no hard feelings if you feel it's not for you. Just please come and give it a try.

For Whom The Bell Tolls,

Jaquae



Easter is fast approaching when we remember the GREAT sacrifice Jesus made for you and me. How special are we that He would give up His life for us? It shows a love for mankind that is greater than we can understand. We are a forgiven people!

The Disciples of Christ take up a special offering at Easter that benefits many of the General Ministries of our church such as C Historical Society, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women Division of Overseas Ministries etc.

We will be taking up this offering on April 14 & 21. We do not have special envelopes for you to use. Use an envelope in the pews & mark it “Easter Offering” or write that on your check

Thank you so much for your participation.

Wanda Gordon, Outreach Chairman



SUNDAYS: 9:00 Open Door Sunday School
9:45 Coffee Hour 10:30 Worship Hour

MONDAYS: Chime Choir 6:30

TUESDAYS: Bible Study 11:00

WEDNESDAYS: Chancel Choir 6:30

- April 1 April Fool's Day
- 4 Book Club 5:30
- 5 Mary/Martha tour New Testament Church 10:00
- 5 Taco Hay Stack Salad supper 4:30 – 6:00
- 7 – 13 Volunteer Week
- 7 Rev. Brown & Rev. Davis dialog on Pastor/Parish
- 7 Congregational Meeting after Worship services
- 12 Good Friday
- 14 End Child Abuse Day
- 14 Palm Sunday
- 16 Board Meeting 1:00
- 18 Book Club 5:30
- 18 High Five Day Give someone a high five
- 21 **EASTER SUNDAY HE IS RISEN!!!**
- 22 Earth Day do something to neaten or clean the earth today
- 26 Arbor Day



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There are several heroes this month. Rich Neff is recognized for his cooking of the great meals we have served recently. Several men spent 2 days erecting the fence on the South side of the property. Thank you Johnny Kelly, Gordon Walkington, Ron Colwell, and Pastor Alan.

John 20:24-31. (From Daily Bread)

One detail in the Easter story has always intrigues me. Why did Jesus keep the scars from His crucifixion? Presumably He could have had any resurrect body He wanted, and yet He chose one identifiable main by scars that could be seen and touched. Why?

From the perspective of heaven, those scars represent the most horrible event that has ever happened in the history of the universe. Even that event, though, turned into a memory. Because of Easter, we can hope the tears we shed, the struggles we endure, the emotional pain, the heartache over lost friends & loved ones, all these will become memories like Jesus' scars. Scars never completely go away, but neither do they hurt any longer. Someday we will have re-created bodies, & a re-created heaven and earth. We will have a new start, an Easter start.

THOUGHTS AND CHUCKLES

Believing is seeing

When the disciples saw Jesus after his resurrection, they believed. But Thomas, who was absent, doubted until he, too, got to see and even touch Jesus. For him, as the others, seeing was believing.

But what of us who don't get to see Jesus in the flesh? If "seeing is believing," are we out of luck? No. In fact, sometimes it works the opposite way; sometimes "believing is seeing."

Try this: Despite any doubts, choose to believe, trusting the witness of someone who's seen God at work – a biblical figure or present-day Christian. You'll be amazed at the love, healing, peace and new life that spring out of troubles. "With the eyes of your heart" (Ephesians 1:18, NRSV), you will see your Lord and your God

Where was I?

Our young son often asks where he was when something significant happened before he was born. "Where was I when you two got married?" "Where was I when Nana died? And even "Where was I before I was inside your body?"

My response is always "You were in God's heart." God said as much to Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" (Jeremiah 1:5, NRSV).

A Good Friday spiritual asks plaintively, "Were you there when they crucified my Lord?" Clearly none of us was present when Jesus died. Yet as we worship on Good Friday, we place ourselves at the cross, where Jesus bore our sins.

"Where was I," we might ask our heavenly Father, "when they crucified Jesus?" I'm confident that God's tender answer is "You were in my heart." Indeed, only because of our place there did Jesus go willingly to the cross – and rise to assure us of everlasting life.

–Heidi Mann

Four lessons of Good Friday

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* (Harper One), writes that Jesus' suffering and death almost 2,000 years ago are very relevant to our 21st-century lives. He says Good Friday teaches us that:

1. physical and emotional suffering are part of life;
2. suffering isn't always the result of sin;
3. Jesus was fully human – and thus understands our humanity; and
4. suffering isn't the last word.

"The message of Good Friday is incomplete without Easter," Martin writes. "The story of the Passion is not simply of a man being brutally tortured, nailed to a cross and executed by the Romans. It's the story of a man who turns himself fully over to the Father's will, trusts that something new will come out of this offering and receives the astonishing gift of new life."

There's always an opportunity to make a difference.

Michael Dell

Act as if what you do makes a difference.

William James

You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no results.

Mahatma Gandhi