

**THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)
AUGUST, 2019**

(863) 385-0352

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



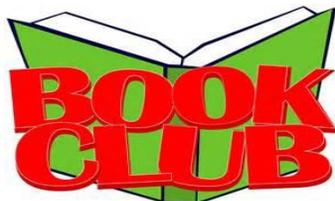
I may have shared this with some of you but several weeks ago I received a message stating nine reasons small churches thrive! I thought this was unique in that our Pastor and Parish Checkup workshops with Rev. Peggy Davis we identified some of the points as important to our congregation. I thought I would share some periodically.

The first is that small churches are particularly authentic. In a small church you don't get a cookie-cutter template typical of even large churches in the denomination let alone other churches that may be mega-churches. So many of the activities and much of the worship reflects its members. Disciples typically come around food and the Communion Table, but we perhaps more than many. I experience each time as both typical and unique. We even program more ways and invent more opportunities. It is interesting that large and mega-churches emphasize small groups so there can be some authenticity within the various groups focus of their ministry, but I would suggest those small groups do not reflect the spirit of the congregation.

Small churches stay connected to the community around them. We likely could work on this a bit. However we reach out and have an ever-increasing outreach to the Sebring community. We assist with our food pantry, pastor's fund, local mission, and the many projects accomplished by the Mary and Martha Group. When small churches can stay connected to the community around them, they realize that there is a need and it is with the personal touch the church can reach those closest at hand. We can provide that personal touch.

The third one is there is always time for prayers of the people. It's interesting that this task takes an increasing role in our congregational life. It is something we look forward to and have a unique emphasis on every Sunday morning. God's people are heard and prayers are answered. We focus on prayer not only on Sunday Morning but during the week in our personal prayers and during our Wednesday morning Facebook prayer post. And we see those prayers answered. They are answered not always in the ways we wish but some are answered in more ways than we can imagine.

Pastor Alan's August projected mornings in the office: 6, 7, 13, 14, 19, 27, 28.



We are now reading “Bees in the Butterfly Garden” by Maureen Lang. This is a novel of the Gilded Age as our story begins in 1879.

Meg Davenport, raised in an exclusive boarding school, has all she needs, but not what she wants most which is the love of a family. She doesn't want her future based on etiquette and marrying well. She has hardly ever seen her father and suddenly he dies giving her the chance to break all the rules surrounding her life. She learns John Davenport, her father, wasn't the wealthy businessman she thought, but one of the Gilded Age's most talented thieves!

Now comes along Ian McQuire, whose mentor was John Davenport. He knows John would never have wanted his daughter to carry on in his footsteps, yet she is determined to carry on his legacy. Her talent for garden design has earned her an invitation to stay with one of Fifth Avenue's wealthiest families. Meg could actually help Ian pull off his biggest heist yet. But Meg learns living in both worlds is dangerous, and Ian finds himself torn between greed and guilt as he discovers his love for Meg. Can they find the legacy they both long for? Or in trying to gain everything will they lose it all?

For August 1st please read Chapters 1 – 15. For August 15th please read Chapters 16 – 26. We will finish the book on Sept. 5th, reading Chapter 27 through the Epilogue.

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.

MEMBERSHIP/EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

Saturday, August 17, at 4PM Movie Matinee. The featured movie will be “I Can Only Imagine”.

Bring your favorite snack, drinks will be provided. You also may want to bring your favorite comfortable camp chair and flash light, though we will be inside the air conditioned fellowship hall. No bug spray required.



FROM THE

MUSIC DIRECTOR



(August 2019)

CHOIR NEWS

What a wonderful chancel choir I have!!!! They kept singing through July even though we didn't have practice. Now we're back in the choir room and will be working harder than ever. Come join us!!!!

Keep in Tune,

A JOYFUL NOISE

A Joyful Noise is back from their break and will be chiming for you soon. If you would like to try out the chimes, please come to practice on Monday nights at 6:30 p.m. It's only for an hour and we'd be happy to teach you how to play. We are running on a skeleton crew now and need more people in order to make our noise as joyful as it can be! Come try us out!!! Or see me personally if you don't want to try in front of everyone. I'd be happy to work with you!

For Whom The Bell Tolls, Jaquae

From the Regional Office:

E-Glimpse is the monthly newsletter from the Florida Disciples Regional Office. It contains a lot of good information about what is happening around the state as well as information on upcoming events. To sign up go to www.fldisciples.org.

THOUGHTS AND CHUCKLES



Bound by grace

Grace binds you with far stronger cords than the cords of duty or obligation can bind you. Grace is free, but when once you take it you are bound forever to the Giver, and bound to catch the spirit of the Giver. Like produces like, Grace makes you gracious, the Giver makes you give.

—E. Stanley Jones

SUMMER FRUIT BASKET

Taste some fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23) – perfect for summer, and all year round!

- Love: “There is always an ‘again’ with love.” –Unknown
- Joy: “I don’t think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains.” –Anne Frank
- Peace: “Peace begins with a smile.” –Mother Teresa
- Patience: “The purposes of God may sometimes seem delayed, but they are never abandoned.” –H.C. Mears
- Kindness: “Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” –Mark Twain
- Goodness: “Goodness means to do things for the glory of God.” –Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- Faithfulness: “Do small things as if they were great because of the majesty of Christ, who does them in us.” –Blaise Pascal
- Gentleness: “There is nothing stronger in the world than gentleness.” –Han Suyin
- Self-control: “God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” –2 Tim. 1:7 (ESV)

While the outreach is asking you to collect small school supplies for the Shoebox Ministry, the Mary-Martha group is also asking you to buy other school supplies that will go to Fred Wild School and help teachers who purchase these supplies with their own money for children who cannot afford the supplies. Crayons, scissors, rulers, pens, notepaper, compasses, glue are a few of the items they will need. A complete list will be appearing at Walmart soon.



Aug. 4 Communion – Sandra Laufer
Servers – Helen Kelly & Kathy Whitlock
Greeter – Frank Reilly
Acolyte – Kathy Whitlock

Aug. 18 Communion – Ron Colwell
Servers – Kathy Whitlock & C.J. Wiggin
Greeter – Frank Reilly
Acolyte – Kathy Whitlock

Aug. 11 Communion – Teresa Williams
Servers – Johnny Kelly & Rich Neff
Greeter – Frank Reilly
Acolyte – Rich Neff

Aug. 25 Communion – Wanda Gordon
Servers – Johnny & Helen Kelly
Greeter – Frank Reilly
Acolyte – Helen Kelly



BIRTHDAYS

August 7 Annakirk Ramkissoon
8 Lois Hammel
10 Diane Maxson
20 Carol Chandler
22 Sandra Laufer
23 Lynn Warman

ANNIVERSARIES

August 1 Bill & Carolyn Hine
7 Don & Barbara Tiemens
15 Tim & Barbara Wheaton
24 Gordon & Jane Walkington



The biggest project of the Outreach Committee is the Children's Christmas Shoeboxes. The boxes have to be filled and delivered to the pick-up point by the third week in November. We need to have our boxes filled and completed by the week of November 10. That sounds like a long way off but time is flying by.

Each box must be marked for either a boy or girl and the age appropriate; 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. We have designated the Women's Parlor (1st door to left upon entering from the parking lot) for the shoebox items. Stop in to see what we have gathered and bring your items to this location. \$9.00 will be needed for shipping cost of each box. One generous gentleman has already given us enough for 10 boxes. But we hope to be able to send more than that number.

I was filling a box for a 5-9 year old and was amazed just how much will fit in a shoebox. School supplies will be going on sale soon so look for items to add to a shoebox. Ask your dentist for donations of tooth brushes. Toothpaste is not allowed though. I was shown how to add a bar of soap, a washcloth and attach them together with a pony tail rubber band. Inexpensive and easy too. Small flashlights are a good items to include. Extra batteries would be a nice addition to that item. Combs & brushes are good items to include.

When the children receive the boxes, they are invited to attend a series of 12 classes entitle "The Greatest Journey", where they learn about God's Greatest Gift, His Son, Jesus Christ. Many boxes go into countries where Christianity is not allowed. But through these children learning and then telling family and friends, The Word is spread. There is a graduation ceremony with gowns and all when the classes are completed.

Lori Bell from Samaritan's Purse, will be speaking to the congregation on Sept. 7 about the shoebox ministry. Invite your friends and neighbors to attend that day to learn of this worthy endeavor. Below is a list of suggested items that can be put in the shoeboxes:

- Small/medium stuffed toys dolls coloring books/crayons toy cars hats ball caps note paper
- Balls/air pumps games mittens slinky scarves yo-yo jump rope panties underwear socks
- Playing cards sunglasses watch flip flops flashlight/batteries bar soap wash cloths shirts
- Tote bags backpack brushes/combs hair bows small notepads/pencils pencil sharpener ruler
- Calculator necklaces ponytail holders tools/small hammer nails in a pill bottle toothbrushes
- Fishing kit marbles dry water colors/brushes



AUGUST-BACK TO SCHOOL

- Sundays:** 9:00 Open Door Sunday School
9:45 Coffee Hour
10:30 Worship
- Mondays:** 6:30 Chime Choir
- Tuesdays** 11:00 Bible Study Studying Galatians
- Wednesdays:** Prayer Time on internet
6:30 Chancel Choir

- AUGUST** 4 Friendship Day
- 6 Wiggle Your Toes Day
- 7 Purple Heart Day
- 13 National Left Handed Day
- 14 V-J Day
- 14 Movie Matinee 4:00 Come for a couple hours of enjoyment and fellowship. Watch bulletin for movie title. Bring snacks, a comfortable chair, a flashlight and a friend.
- 14 National Creamsicle Day.
- 27 Just Because Day



A LETTER FROM GALATIA

We live a long way from the Centers of Power and wealth. It's a long way to Rome, to Athens, to Jerusalem. We live up here in the middle of nowhere.

(Like us – a long way from Washington, from New York, from Los Angeles)

Awhile back, a traveling preacher came through here telling us of a new thing. How God is giving us hope for our lives, forgiveness for our sins, about love for one another.

We were excited to hear it and wanted to know more, but then he was gone. I wish we could have him teach us more. And then we received this letter—"To the Churches of Galatia"

(to the churches of Sebring)

We would like to show you this letter—read through it together. Beginning August 6 at 11:00 in the Church library.

Many ways to give

As a hen and a pig walked down the road, they noticed a church sign advertising a breakfast of "Ham and Eggs!"

"That's nice," said the hen. "A chance for us to serve the congregation."

"Easy for you to say," replied the pig. "For you, it's a contribution; for me, it's a sacrifice!"

Versions of this story appear on inspirational websites, with comments about the chicken being *involved* in breakfast, while the pig is *committed*. Opinions differ, however, about which animal has the right idea. Some people warn against being the pig, sacrificing yourself for success; others say the chicken isn't all-in.

"People who give themselves to Jesus with a trusting abandon" are like pigs, says Rick Lawrence in *The Jesus-Centered Life* (Group). That total, "without reservation" commitment, he says, shows a willingness to give your life to Jesus – as he gave his for you.

On the other hand, giving consistently, day in and day out, even in what might seem to be small ways, also is valuable. Maybe the moral is not to judge others' stewardship because we all give differently.

