

THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

January 2019

510 POINSETTIA AVE., SEBRING, FL. 33870

(863) 385-0352

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



Happy New Year! Well, we have all survived one more year to face another and all the possibilities it might bring. How will we face that which we call 2019? Will it be filled with anticipation and hopes or will it be filled with anxiety and questions? A lot of it depends upon our circumstances, but so much of it depends upon ourselves.

It is hard to believe that I have been your pastor more than nearly 10 Months. As we come upon 2019, I have asked Rev. Peqqy Davis, of this congregation, to facilitate what I am

terming "Pastor and Parish Checkup". We will gather small groups of 10-20 people to look at how this part-time permanent ministry is working for the congregation and how the staff is integrating support for the pastor and parish. We are a moderate sized congregation. As your Pastor I have

been called for 20 hours per week. The office staff is committed to three or so hours per day four days a week. So are the most needed tasks being accomplished for the spiritual, emotional, religious, and physical needs of the congregation? Do we need to spend that time differently to be more effective or are we balanced in our ministry approach?

Further, the second part of that is reflecting what the congregation has been doing or where we have come and then exploring where we wish to go. Some time ago we have downsized or eliminated programs, but recently have initiated some functions. One initiation has been an Outreach Committee which Wanda Gordon is heading. We are participating more with our Hispanic Disciples of Christ sister church and the region. We are increasing participation in our Facebook Wednesday Weekly prayer video and more Connectivity has been used for the pastor to participate in ministry from a distance. This has also opened or will open these same possibilities to everyone that has automation connectivity and wishes to participate.

One of our strength is the number of activities that succeed and thrive by the "priesthood of all believers", the volunteer hours of so many facilitating spiritual development, fellowship activities, education, and worship.

Are there other ways to reach out to the community and world? How do we show that we are the light in our own faith and Christian walk?

I hope you will eagerly welcome this short time to be involved in a very valuable process! You and your ideas are important to the health and direction of the First Christian Church in Sebring, FL!

BLESSINGS;

Pastor's projected office days in January 2019: 2,3,8,12,15,16,23,24.



The book club is back and ready for another book. Our dates have changed for this month only, so we will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Our new book will be "A Family Forever" by Brenda Coulter. For the Jan. 10th meeting please read the first 9 chapters taking you to page 127. We will finish the book on Jan. 24.

This book is about violinist Shelby Franklin. Her fiancé is killed 3 weeks before their wedding. After the funeral she discovers she is pregnant. Tucker Sharpe, a cyclist and her fiancé's brother, wants to help and offers to marry her. It would be a marriage of convenience, to keep the unborn child with its loving family. Can this work? Is this what God planned?

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.



The Outreach Committee would like to thank the Mary Martha Disciples Women's group for donating to the Good Samaritan's Touch Care Center in Avon Park by donating their 2018 Christmas Stocking offerings of \$123.83 to help local people with health problems that are low income and have no insurance.

Samaritan's Touch Care Center lost their largest supporter, the Florida Hospital for this next year. So, I am sure they will appreciate the donation. Thanks Mary Martha.

Please pick up a pamphlet for Samaritans Purse on the table in the hall. It gives you suggestions of things to include and what not to put in the Christmas Shoe Box., Enjoy collecting your gifts and filling your box for next Christmas.

NIBBLINGS FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



There is an old legend that on Christmas Eve the animals are able to talk. I wish that were true, but even if it were, there was no one here on Christmas Eve to hear me. Not that it matters since you would have a hard time understanding my squeaking voice anyway. But if I could talk to you I'd tell you how much this church—how much all churches—mean to me and how much I love people here. I may be only a small church mouse but the love of God seems to come down to us small creatures as well. I wish you all a good New Year and that you continue to love all creatures both large and small.

The Mouse



FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

January 2019

CHANCEL CHOIR

The chancel choir has already been working on the music for January! They are dedicated, prepared, devoted Christians and I'm so blessed to have them all in the music department. Everyone in our church can do something! Join the choir, the chime choir, volunteer to serve, lead the Call to Worship, greet members, etc. There are any number of jobs that need you!!! Let's make 2019 the year our church grows in numbers and in blessings!!

Keep in Tune,

A JOYFUL NOISE

A Joyful Noise is back in business! We are working on "I Got Shoes", a spiritual that's a lot of fun to play. We still need more help, so if you're interested please don't hesitate to call me or speak to any chime member. We'd love having more people!!!

For Whom the Bell Tolls, Jaquae

My mind has no more right to false opinions than my stomach has a right to poison. I was made for Truth.

God moves the whole universe, but prayer moves God. Infinite power moves the universe, but infinite need moves infinite power, because infinite power is also infinite compassion.

He promised, "The truth will make you free", not "Freedom will ensure you truth."

We think words come to be in the world but the world really comes to be in the Word. It's not "In the beginning was the world" but "in the beginning was the Word."

CHUCKLES AND THOUGHTS

READING RESOLUTIONS

Every January, many Christians resolve to read the entire Bible in one year. That's a worthy goal, but God doesn't require us to read a certain number of verses or chapters per day. Instead, He tells us simply be in His Word – and thus be with Him – so He can grow our faith, light our path and assure us of His love and forgiveness. God's Word is a precious gift, but we need to “unwrap” it!

F.B. Meyer offers this helpful advice for a new year of discovering (and rediscovering) Scripture: “Read the Bible, not as a newspaper, but as a home letter. If a cluster of heavenly fruit hangs within reach, gather it. If a promise lies upon the page as a blank check, cash it. If a prayer is recorded, appropriate it and launch it as a feathered arrow from the bow of your desire. If an example of holiness gleams before you, ask God to do as much for you. If the truth is revealed ... entreat that its brilliance may irradiate ...your life.”

Puzzle!

The 10 words below are spelled correctly but are missing the letter O. Use them to complete the Bible verse below, where you'll find all the missing O's.

S, NE, JHN, ANOTHER, GD,
LVED, UGHT, T, ALS, LVE

Dear friends, since ___0___ ___0___
___0___ ___0___ us, we ___0___ ___0___
0___ ___0___ ___0___
0___ ___0___
1 ___0___ ___0___ 4:11, NIV

Answer: Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. 1 John 4:11, NIV

Enter in

Tired of making small talk at church about the weather or sports? Then follow Edward Welch's advice to “enter in” to the lives of your fellow worshipers.

A churchgoer once asked Welch, author of *Caring for One Another* (Crossway), two simple yet profound questions: “What was the best thing about your week, and what was the worst thing about your week?” About a month later, when some issues were weighing heavily on Welch's heart, he wondered who'd be willing to pray for him. Immediately, the person who'd asked him those two questions came to mind.

When worshipers are willing to enjoy one another's blessings and be burdened by one another's difficulties, Welch says, the body of Christ gets built up.

X X X X X

Quip: Money is a good servant but a dangerous master.

Quote: “For the love of money is the first step toward all kinds of sins. Some people have even turned away from God because of their love for it, and as a result has pierced themselves with many sorrows.”

(1 Timothy 6:10)

Quest: If you make money your god, it will plague you like the devil. (Fielding)



Jan 6 Gordon Walkinton & Jane Walkington
Servers: Bill & Carolyn Hinline
Richard Neff & Elaine Milward
Greeter Bill & Carolyn Hinline
Acolyte Sue Colwell

Jan 20 Diane Beidler & Teresa Williams
Servers: Todd & Robin Martin
Bill & Carolyn Hinline
Greeter Ron & Peggy Davis
Acolyte Ron Davis

Jan 13 Linda Ellis & Ron Colwell
Servers: Sue Colwell & Roger Sands
Kathy Whitlock & Johnny Kelly
Greeter Howard & Shirley Lewis
Acolyte Kathy Whitlock

Jan 27 Ron Colwell & Sandra Laufer
Servers: Johnny & Helen Kelly
Richard Neff & Sue Colwell
Greeter Larry & Prili Anderson
Acolyte Teresa Williams



BIRTHDAYS

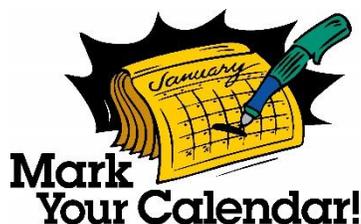
Jan 4 Bob Rhodes
5 Annandra Ramkisson
9 Mark McClary
16 Heidi McClary
21 Sherry Kunsak
23 Marly Colon
30 Liz Malady

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 9 Ronald & Marilyn Conneway



Check out the church website and/or Liz Malady on Facebook. Liz posts really inspiring quotes and sayings almost daily. They give thoughts to ponder.



JANUARY DATES

Sundays Worship the Lord
9:00 Sunday School
9:45 Coffee fellowship
10:30 Worship service
Mondays Chime Choir 6:30
Wednesdays Chancel Choir 6:30

Jan. 1 & 2 Office Closed
Jan. 2 Worship Committee 5:15
Jan. 4 Mary Martha 10:00 all church invited
Jan. 6 Epiphany
Jan. 8 Board Meeting 1:00
Jan. 10 Book Club 5:30
Jan. 11 Chili Supper 4:30-7:00
Jan. 12 DOC Men's breakfast 8:00
Elder's Meeting 10:00
Jan. 20 Fellowship Dinner after church
Jan. 21 Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 24 Book Club 5:30

WE ARE DISCIPLES

WOMEN: A representative from Samaritan's Care will be our guest speaker at the Jan. 4 meeting at 10:00. All women AND MEN are invited to come learn more about this organization which the church has taken as an outreach project. We meet in the library but hopefully for this meeting we will need to move to the sanctuary. Please make an effort to attend this 1 to 1 ½ hour meeting.



MEN: DOC men met on Dec. 8, with eleven members enjoying a hearty breakfast with biscuits and gravy and scrambled eggs prepared by Rich Campton. After our fill, we discussed various ideas for money making projects to refurbish the kitchen cabinets. It was decided that we would have a chili supper on Friday, Jan 11 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. Donations of desserts and corn bread are requested from the congregation. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. A Ham and Bean supper is planned for a future date in February.

There has been a dollar matching dollar gift for the kitchen. Every dollar received by Jan. ? will be matched. Corn bread mixes have been donated for someone to mix and bake for the supper. Pick them up on the hall table. Ron & Peggy Davis are donating handmade napkin holders for this event also. Please contact Ron & Peggy for details and cost.

All of the men of the church are invited to join us for breakfast and a good time of fellowship on the second Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m.