

THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

May, 2019

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Ministry happens!

There are a lot of things that just seem to happen. Sometimes we do have an understanding of how and why they happen, and some such as eating, worship and prayer we can even plan.

But there are times that things seem to happen spontaneously. It is sort of like Palm Sunday when the reading of the Scripture was about to take place. I remember somebody saying to me "when are we going to wave the palms?" I looked out and saw a little girl, Amelia, there in the congregation. I asked her to

come forward and wave the palms while the scripture was being read. In her child-like trust and innocence, she responded without question and acted without hesitation. Everybody seemed inspired by her ministry to the congregation during those brief moments of Scripture/palm waving!

Sometimes we can plan the ministry and sometimes ministry just happens when God speaks to you or speaks to a couple people, or at times when your ideas come together like they did on Palm Sunday for me. John 3:8 says "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." We plan the best we are able. That's a good thing. But sometimes the Wind or the Holy Spirit gives us an insight or an inspiration or a conviction or an idea that we did not plan on or did not realize we had. Some thing or someone brought it out at that particular moment and then we realize that God had given us a gift. A prayer or a thought was answered.

I certainly hope that our ministry is well-founded, well-planned and well-coordinated, and that the Holy Spirit is with us when we seek to do ministry. But I would be mistaken if I did not realize that the Holy Spirit also comes upon us and convicts us spontaneously. We experienced that this past Palm Sunday, and as well on the first Palm Sunday, and will see it on the Day of Pentecost. But we must open ourselves up to view it every day, every day that God is leading us. Let us open ourselves up to that freedom that we might remember to do good, and that if something is good, we might do it.

Pastor Alan

Pastor's Days in the Office in May; 1, 6, 8, 14, 15, 21 pm, 22, 28, 29



May 5 Elders: Wanda Gordon & Diane Beidler
Serving: Johnny & Helen Kelly
Elaine Milward & Sue Colwell
Greeter: Elaine Milward
Acolyte: Sue Colwell

May 19 Elders: Marla Null & Linda Ellis
Serving: John & Helen Kelly
CJ Wiggin & Roger Sands
Greeter: Todd & Robin Martin
Acolyte: Todd Martin

May 12 Elders: Rich Campton & Ron Colwell
Serving: Rich Neff & Kathy Whitlock
Todd & Robin Martin
Greeter: Teresa Williams
Acolyte: Rich Neff

May 26 Elders: Teresa Williams & Sandy Laufer
Serving: Kathy Whitlock & Johnny Kelly
Helen Kelly & Roger Sands
Greeter: Wanda Gordon
Acolyte: Johnny Kelly



BIRTHDAYS

May 5 Liz (Klingerman) Collins
7 Howard Woodward
28 Ron Colwell

ANNIVERSARIES

May 26 Trevor & Lynne Warman



On May 9th, we will be finishing "The Swallow's Nest" by Emilie Richards. Then on May 23rd we will be reading a new book called "A Sparrow In Terezin" by Kristy Cambron. This is the sequel to "The Butterfly and the Violin" that we read a few weeks ago.

Present Day: Sera James has stumbled into a charmed life with her new art gallery about to open and her coming marriage. But a brutal legal battle against her fiancé, William Hanover threatens to destroy their future before it even begins. After an 11th hour wedding and a callous arrest, William faces 10 years in prison for a crime he never committed. Sera has to battle accusations that threaten her family and any hope for a future with the man she loves.

1942: Kaja Makovsky barely escaped Nazi-occupied Prague in 1939 and was forced to leave her half-Jewish family behind. Now she's a reporter for "The Daily Telegraph" in England and she discovers the terror has followed her across the Channel in the form of the London Blitz. She learns Jews are being killed by the thousands and has no choice but to return to her mother city, risking her life to smuggle her family to freedom and peace.

Connecting across a century through one little girl, a Holocaust survivor with a foot in each world, these 2 women find a kinship even in the darkest of times. This is a tale of hope and survival. Sera and Kaja must cling to the faith that sustains them and fight to protect all they love, even if they have to place their own futures on the line.

For May 23rd, please read Chapter 1 - 10, p. 1 - 122. And for June 6th please read Chapter 11 - 24, p. 123 - 230. We will finish the book the third Thursday in June.

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 DISCIPLES

"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 May 3 for our last meeting until fall. All ladies are invited to come to share in Bible Study and prayer time. We are usually done by 11:30 if not sooner. Set aside a few minutes to come together.

CALLING ALL D.O.C. MEN

Congratulations and thanks again for everyone who participated and supported our final money making project of the year on April 5th...a Haystack Taco Salad supper. We served over 75 people and cleared \$680.00 after all expenses were paid. A special thanks, again, to Richard Neff who commandeered the kitchen and whipped up the delicious main ingredients for the dinner.

Nine men were present for our second Saturday breakfast. Unfortunately the biscuits were a bit overdone, but the sausage gravy and the scrambled eggs were delicious. We wish our snowbirds fair winds and smooth sailing as they leave for the summer and look forward to their return next fall. Don't forget to stay in touch with your secret prayer pals. Prayer changes things. We will have our next breakfast on May 11th, 8:00 AM at which time we will decide if we will continue to meeting during the summer.

Rich

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

March 2019

CHOIR NEWS



Come to church and join the choir for some good old fashioned hymn singing!!! The anthems this month reflect the wonderful old hymns of the past. Bring a friend!!!!

Keep in Tune,

A JOYFUL NOISE

This month A Joyful Noise will be chiming “Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty”. We really need more members, so if you're thinking of trying us out, the summer is a good time. We do our best and let God do the rest!!!

For Whom the Bell Tolls,

Jaquae



The Outreach Committee is finishing up with the Easter offering which emphasized both global and home land mission projects.

The big global project is helping the people in South Africa that was devastated by a cyclone followed by a terrible outbreak of cholera. The cyclone on tony destroyed 50 health care clinics, but badly damaged the water supply. As a result people were drinking from contaminated wells and some were even drinking stagnant water by the side of the road.

There were 3000 survivors staying in a school with only 6 toilets. By the end of March it is said there were 493 dead in Mozambique and 259 in Zimbabwe. The officials warned that the true final figures may never be known.

At the present time, the committee is collecting shoes for Leslie Behm, a member of our church, who heads up a program called Hope Haven for people in need of transitional housing. They have to have a job, which she will help them get, they have to follow some pretty strict rules, etc. She is asking for donation of any kind of shoes, no matter the condition. Those in good condition, she will find someone who can wear them. The unwearable ones are recycled and parts are reused. There is a box in the hall at church for you to put the shoes.

Thank you so much for your help and concern for the projects the committee undertakes.

One of our projects is the Shoebox ministry. Now is a good time to find small stuffed animals on sale to put in the boxes for shipment in early November. Leaflets that give ideas as to what to put in the boxes is on the table in the hall.



Happening
This Month!

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

MONDAYS: Chime Choir 6:30

WEDNESDAYS: Chancel Choir 6:30

MAY

May 1 May Day *Remember giving/receiving May baskets?*

- 1** Worship Committee 5:15
- 2** National Day of Prayer
- 3** Mary/Martha 10:00
- 4** Mother's Tea in Fellowship Hall
- 5** Evangelism Committee after church
- 9** Book Club 5:30
- 11** Men's Breakfast 8:00
- 12** Mother's Day
- 14** Board Meeting 1:00
- 18** Armed Forces Day
- 19** Luncheon following services
- 23** Book Club 5:30
- 26** Memorial Day Observance in church
- 27** Memorial Day

THOUGHTS AND CHUCKLES

Joys of Motherhood

A hug for no reason.

Belly laughs.

The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.

Smiles and giggles.

Mud pies.

Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.

Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.

Quiet moments on the couch.

Reading aloud together.

A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.

Watching your child be kind to another.

Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.

A child's look of surprise and joy.

A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.

The words "I love you" – and a sticky kiss.

Unknown

Floating on faith

As a man and his young daughter were boating one day, their vessel sprang a leak. The father knew he'd have to swim to shore but couldn't with the child in tow. She hadn't gotten far in swimming lessons but could float on her back, so he told her to do so and promised to return.

Coast Guard personnel were skeptical that a child could survive so long in the water. But hours later, as the sun set and they considered halting the search, someone spied a red dress amid the waves. The girl, still floating, was singing a hymn. Astounded, rescuers asked how she held on so long. "My daddy said he'd come back for me," she said, "and he never breaks his promises."

Prayer rests on just such trust. We can't know when God will answer or act, but we know he promises never to abandon us and that God keeps his promises. So we can lie back and float – on faith.

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Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.

Paul Boese

Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just the first step.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.

C. S. Lewis

We must not allow the clock or the calendar to blind us to the fact that each moment of life is a miracle & a mystery.

H. G. Wells

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS

ANNUAL "STAMP OUT HUNGER" FOOD DRIVE

MAY, 11, 2019

For the 27th year, on Saturday, May 11, 2019 postal employees and volunteers across the USA will be collecting food to help "Stamp Out Hunger" in our nation's largest one day food drive.

Since its inception, well over 1.5 billion pounds of soups, cereals, rice, beans, canned meats, canned vegetables, and other non-perishable items have been collected to feed those in need.

Thanks to generous donors and local businesses, last year's one-day event brought in more than 50,000 pounds of food to help stock the shelves of local charities, church pantries, and food banks for the summer months when the need is the greatest.

If you would like to help, you may drop off non-perishable food at the post office or place any bag with in-date items by your mailbox early on May 11th. A postal employee or authorized volunteer will pick up your donation.

If you would like to help our church fill its own pantry, please call the post office or Roger Sands soon and you will be given a letter of authorization and a specific route to canvas for the food to be picked up by the mailboxes. You should do this in teams of two.....one to drive and one to get out and get the food. You will then bring it to the church after making arrangements for someone to be there to let you in.

Thank you for helping us help our community!!!

Sincerely, Roger D. Sands