

**THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN**  
**November, 2018**  
**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)**

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I certainly appreciate your graciousness, as does Kathy, allowing us to go west and assist family. It is a marvelous gift from you. I feel blest as one week you sent me to look out over the ocean for a brief time at the Regional Assembly and the next week allowed me to go see some of the first snows on the Rocky Mountains.

We say as Christians "we are in but not of the world". That is no less true today than when first penned. Saturday, October 6, our nation had one of the most divisive votes in our history. I fail to see these as the best of time. Perhaps they come closer to the worst of times as divisions as wide as caverns became twice as broad. The words spoken and the apparent disdain which may have even been hatred on both sides did not make these States United.

That same Saturday, October 6, the Florida Regional Disciples Church demonstrated something totally different. Varied congregations of different tongues and voices and ethnicity and backgrounds gathered together to raise a common voice in worship and praise. In both worship and presentations there were Anglo-Americans, African-Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Haitian refugees all gathered together singing in different languages one with another in mutual faith.

Will we ever return to "one nation under God indivisible"? How long will this go on as Isaiah asked Israel? How long, O Lord, will the divisions of our society be the opposite of what we have in the church and what we have in this region? I have confidence that we do not choose the attitude of anger, vindictiveness, hostility, jealousy, rage, or hurt but rather take on the spirit of gentleness, meekness, patience, kindness, and long-suffering. Have we forgotten our call? Is that not our call? Is that spirit not what we proclaim with our words and show with our spirit? Act always in the spirit of the church, what I described happening at the assembly, harboring ill feelings against no one and loving until there is no room for hate! Only then do we have our prayer enfold "on earth as it is in heaven".

*Pastor Alan*

**Pastor's Projected Office Schedule November 13-14, 20(pm)-21, 27-28.**

## WE ARE DISCIPLES



**WOMEN**—Come and join us at 10:00 on Friday Nov. 2. in the library. We will be studying another Woman of the Bible-- Plans will be finalized for our Christmas Cookie Walk on Dec. 1 and the Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 7. Mark your calendars for these dates. The Cookie Walk (cookies sold by the pound) is a way to replenish our treasury so that we may continue to reach out to the needy in our county.) The luncheon will be catered at the church. Cost to be posted later. Any donations of cookies and sweets are appreciated and help is always welcome. Baking at the church if you like will be Nov. 30.

**MEN**—Our next breakfast will be Saturday, Nov. 10. Many items have been tabled until our snowbird members have returned. Come for fellowship, food, and ways to serve the Lord.



**Nov 4** Elder Teresa Williams  
Preparing Johnny & Helen Kelly  
Serving Bill & Carolyn Hinline  
Greeter Diane Beidler & Elaine Milward  
Acolyte Sue Colwell

**Nov 18** Elder Ron Colwell  
Preparing John Kelly & CJ Wiggin  
Serving Bill & Carolyn Hinline  
Greeter Bill & Carolyn Hinline  
Acolyte Bill Hinline

**Nov 11** Elder Rich Campton  
Preparing Helen Kelly & Elaine Milward  
Serving Kathy Whitlock & Sue Colwell  
Greeter Kathy Whitlock  
Acolyte Richard Campton

**Nov 25** Elder Wanda Gordon  
Preparing Helen Kelly & Sue C  
Serving Todd & Robin Martin  
Greeting Todd & Robin Martin  
Acolyte Todd Martin



#### BIRTHDAYS

*Nov. 2 Janet Johns*  
*Nov. 2 Elaine Milward*  
*Nov. 7 Janet McCord*  
*Nov. 9 Robin Martin*  
*Nov. 18 Linda Ellis*  
*Nov. 19 Marilyn Conneway*

*Nov. 23 Leslie Behm*  
*Nov. 25 Diane Beidler*  
*Nov. 25 Ronald Conneway*  
*Nov. 29 Fred Collins*  
*Nov. 30 Elissa Crothers*  
*Nov. 30 Joyce Gardner*

#### ANNIVERSARIES

*Nov. 12 Buddy & Kathy Whitlock*  
*Nov. 23 Paul & Sharon Wiseman*  
*Nov. 29 Marion (Red) & Linda Johnson*



#### FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR CHANCEL CHOIR

November 2018

Now for some cooler temperatures and anthems that bring warmth to the heart and soul. Our choir might be small, but we're mighty in the spirit. And we prepare 6 weeks in advance so we're ready to bring you the message in song. Come, bring a friend to church and get a blessing!

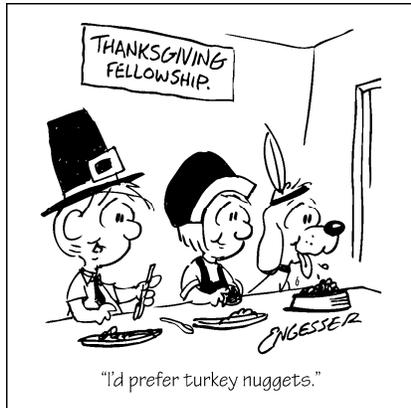
Keep in Tune, Jaquae

#### A JOYFUL NOISE

A Joyful Noise has been working on bringing you spirituals for the last 2 months. We're not done yet and this month is no exception. But we will be playing on Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> instead of the last Sunday because of Advent and the church will be set up with the Christmas tree and decorations. So come, bring a friend and hear the chime choir ring "I've Got Peace Like A River".

For Whom the Bells Toll Jaquae

## CHUCKLES & THOUGHTS



### WORDS OF WISDOM:

Only love can be divided endlessly and still not diminish. *Anne Morrow Lindbergh.*

There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.

"A single grateful thought toward heaven is the most complete prayer." *Gotthold Lessing*

"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." *Oprah Winfrey*

### FROM GOD'S LITTLE DEVOTION BOOK

Worry is like a rocking chair: It gives you something to do, but doesn't get you anywhere. Read 1 Peter 5:7

When I come to the end of my rope, God is there to take over. Read Hebrews 13:5

Give your troubles to God: He will be up all night anyway. Read Psalm 121:3

You can accomplish more in one hour with God than one lifetime without Him. Read Col 4:5

Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see. Read Psalm 117:2

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## Little word, big difference

God says to give thanks in everything. That doesn't mean you need to give thanks *for* everything. You don't need to give thanks *for* that bad day. Or *for* that bad relationship. Or being passed over at work. Financial hardship. Whatever it is – you are not to give thanks *for* the difficulties but rather *in* the difficulties.

That is a very important distinction, and one I think we often miss. Giving thanks *in* everything shows a heart of faith that God is bigger than the difficulties and that he can use them, if you approach him with the right heart and spirit, for your good and his glory. –Tony Evans.

Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread and pumpkin pie.”

*Jim Davis*

“Variety’s the very spice of life that gives it all its flavor.” *William Cowper*

**#####**

No told me of any errors I made last month. Either you don’t read closely or don’t care, I can’t believe I didn’t make any erros. Or maybe you don’t want to hurt my feelings, but I rather know when I err.

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## BOOK CLUB

Our new book is “The Christmas Angel Project” by Melody Carlson. This is actually a story about a book club! Abby Wentworth is the glue that holds her book club together. So when she unexpectedly passes away on the cusp of the Christmas season, the rest of the women in the group are stunned, saddened, and sure that, without her, the group can't continue. They gather “one last time” to open gifts Abby left behind, little knowing how it will change each of their lives.....forever.

This month will be a little different. We are meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Thursdays because of the holiday and some other problems. So for Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> please read the prologue through Chapter 8, p. 87. For Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> please read Chapter 9, p. 89 through the end of the book, Chapter 15, p. 166.

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.

Submitted by Jaquae L. Sands,



Wanda Gordon is our hero this month. Wanda is one who will give a helping hand whenever needed. She has been the financial secretary for some time and now has accepted the position of Chair of the Outreach Committee. She's treasurer of the Mary-Martha Group, and a really good cook as we know from our potlucks. She also volunteers once a week at a local food pantry.



## **PRAY FOR**

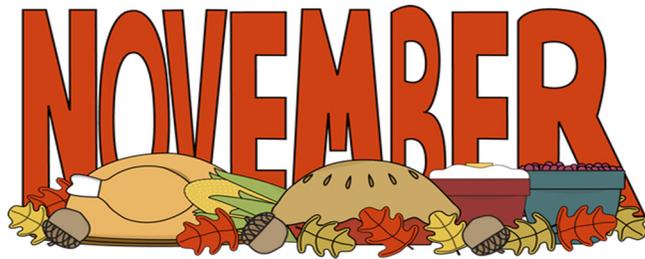
### **FROM OUR CONGREGATION**

JANET JOHNS - having thyroid surgery in November  
KATHY BROWN - neck problems  
MARLA NULL - knee injury  
BOB RHODES -working to get his strength back  
JAYNE WELDY  
HEIDI McCLARY  
BETTY McCLEARY - health in general

### ***FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF OUR CONGREGATION***

DEBBIE LEITNER - breast cancer - friend of Sandi Laufer  
BRUCE GORDON - car trouble - Wanda's son  
BILL ROBERDS - recovering at home - Jaquae's brother  
ROB & PEGGY PLUYMERS - health issues  
ALAINE PERKINS - breast cancer - friend of Carol Chandler  
CHRISTINA and daughter JANICE (6/17) unspoken - niece of Liz Malady  
TRINA DOW-PUGH (7-1) - stage 3 kidney failure  
BILL TIMMONS - health issues  
BUDDY WHITLOCK - health issues  
GARY MUSSELMAN - cancer  
CAROL MOSS - passed on Sept. 28th  
ANGELO MORITA- on the list for a heart transplant  
MICK ST.CLAIR

BETTY HAMMON AND FAMILY  
 SHELLY ASH and children JACOB and MARGO  
 FRANK GLINSKI (7-1)- cancer  
 ROBERT MARRE - health issues  
 BETSY PLUMERO (8/6)- health/marriage issues - sister of Bob Marre  
 From Linda Johnson: Sister-In-Law, Kris Vaught - is responding well to new treatment  
 Sister-in-law Dorothy Deal - health issues  
 Claus, Amy & Ashley Zimmerman - medical issues  
 Eddie Johnson - diagnosed with cancer - nephew of Linda & Red Johnson  
 Judy Knofel - cancer - friend of Linda Johnson  
 Kay Jacobs, cousin of Linda's has cancer  
 Linda is very grateful for all of the prayer for her family and friends  
 TRAVELING MERCIES FOR ALL THOSE TRAVELING



Sundays—SS at 9:00, taking an overall view of the Bible.  
 coffee at 10:00, Worship at 10:30  
 Mondays—Chime Choir at 6:30  
 Tuesdays—Bible Study at 11:00 Studying Acts  
 Wednesdays—Choir practice at 6:30

- Nov 2 -- Mary Martha 10:00 in library
- Nov 4 -- **Day Light Saving Times ends SET BACK YOUR CLOCKS**
- Nov 7 --- Worship Committee in library at 5:00
- Nov 8 -- Book Club in library at 5:30
- Nov 10 – Disciples Men 8:00 in kitchen
- Nov 10 – Elders meet 10:00 in library
- Nov 11 – Grace Harmony joins us for worship – Fellowship dinner following
- Nov 13 – Board Meeting 1:00 in board room
- Nov 18 – Heritage Sunday – worship at **10:00** – Fellowship dinner (potluck) at our Spanish sister Church on Schumacher Road at **1:00**
- Nov 18 – Community Thanksgiving Services **4:00** at Church of the Brethren (across from Palms)
- Nov 22 – Thanksgiving Dinner **2:00** (sign up sheet on bulletin board)
- Nov 24 – Greening of the Church **10:00** – soup luncheon to follow
- Nov 29 Book Club 5:30

**TWO CHANCES TO SHARE YOUR FAITH  
TO STRENGTHEN THE SHOW OF CHRISTIANITY**

1. Plan to participate on Nov 18 by sharing a lunch with our sister church.
2. The annual Sebring are Community Thanksgiving service will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Sebring Church of the Brethren across from the Palms. This service is entitled "A Musical Thanksgiving Celebration", and will include participants from all major faiths. Included will be representatives from many area churches. Musical presentations will be given by the Highlands Community Chorus, Heartland Harmonizers, Greater Mt. Zion Church and Wings of Faith choir. Vocalists are Gary Hermoso and Charles Wood. Mayor John Shoop will share a special reading.

Supplies are being collected to send to Hurricane Michael victims, you may contribute by taking your donation to Alligator Shipping on Sebring Parkway.

## **Why Go To Church?**

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today.

Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

# VETERANS DAY

By Cheryl Dyson

On Veterans Day we honor all,  
Who answered to a service call.  
Soldiers young, and soldiers old,  
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.  
Some have lived, while others died,  
And all of them deserve our pride.  
We're proud of all the soldiers who,  
Kept thinking of red, white and blue.  
They fought for us and all our rights,  
They fought through many days and nights.  
And though we may not know each name,  
We thank ALL veterans just the same.



**Please exercise your privilege  
and duty to vote.**

**There are many items on the ballot that everyone  
needs to speak to.**

**There are 13 amendments to the Florida constitution  
proposed.**

**State & Federal candidates selected could have a big  
impact on how our country continues.**

## A THANKSGIVING DAY PRAYER

*Scott Wesermann*

Lord, so often times, as any other day  
When we sit down to our meal and pray  
We hurry along and make fast the blessing  
Thanks, amen, Now please pass the dressing  
We're slaves to the olfactory overload  
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold  
But Lord, I'd like to take a few minutes more  
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for  
For my family, my health, a nice soft bed  
I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those  
Whose lives touch me more than they'll every know  
Thankful, Lord, that you've blessed me beyond measure  
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure  
That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place  
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace  
So please, heavenly Father, bless this food you've provided  
And bless each and every person invited. Amen

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

The board voted at a recent meeting to be more conscious of reaching outside our congregation. So the Outreach Committee has been revived after a long hiatus. This committee is responsible for searching out local and global needs and then deciding which to help and deciding how to accomplish it.

The **Disciples of Christ Denomination** has several **Special Day** offerings a year such as **Week of Compassion**, (to support relief and long-term development), **Easter** (to support the majority of General Ministries), **Pentecost** (to support New Church ministries), **Reconciliation Fund** (to support reconciliation ministries), **Thanksgiving** (to support higher education in our denomination), **Christmas** (to support YOUR region). *For more information visit Disciples Mission Fund at: [disciplesmissionfund.org](http://disciplesmissionfund.org).* There is also so much local need too when we look around.

We presently reach out locally to the **New Testament Church**. The board has considered adding **Samaritan's Touch Care Center. (STCC)** This group has been serving medical and Spiritual needs of lower income, uninsured people of Highlands County for over 10 years. Their clients must be at or under 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, and without insurance of any kind. There are thousands of people in our county who meet that criteria! **STCC** is undergirded by volunteer intercessors who pray "behind the scenes" (without patient contact). Patients are seen, as well by volunteer chaplains who are available to pray and minister to those who would also like to receive spiritual care. The professional personnel all volunteer their time.

Though **STCC** is primarily staffed by volunteers, there is a need for some paid staff as well. Attending to the patients' needs, purchasing medications & covering costs of physically operating the facility requires a significant amount of money. **STCC** was recently notified by FL Hospital Heartland that they would no longer support them financially as much as in the past (See article on bulletin board at church). For the last 10 years FHH has provided finances that covered half of **STCC's** budget. So, this loss is devastating to them as they receive no state or federal funding either. **STCC** is the only free & charitable clinic in Highlands County that provides free primary & specialty health vision and dental services to uninsured, financially struggling residents in the county.

So if you feel moved to want to help them mark on your check for "**STCC**" or put in an envelope so marked. If you want more info, there will be leaflets on the table in the hall or go to [www.smaritanstouch.org](http://www.smaritanstouch.org).

The Outreach Committee, which has not met yet, consists of Wanda Gordon, Chair, Rich Campton, Shirley Lewis, and CJ Wiggin. Please pray for this committee and ask for guidance as to the best way the Lord wants us to REACH OUT.

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