

THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN
September, 2018
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

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September is upon us and that means the Fall schedule is in full swing! Many of the activities already began in late August but now you will notice more events than what we have seen during the hot dog-days of summer.

I have sincerely enjoyed this summer as I have gotten to know many of you better. We have greatly missed so many of you that soon will return. Upon your return I certainly look forward to personal visits so we can share some of our personal stories. For the folks here all year long, I have been to nearly every person's house or met with them and just had a great time in that more personal fellowship. It has been apparent that we all have more in common than different.

Now we begin our fall program, but we should never look at our program just as a program. It is an opportunity to worship, teach, fellowship, reach out, and of course love each other. There is no need to have any program for the sake of having a program. It must be incorporated within the mission of our congregation.

Perhaps the idea that is gaining participation are the sermons found on the web site and the weekly prayers found on our Facebook page. I would pray for the church weekly (I actually do nearly daily) in the sanctuary anyway. I thought "why don't I just share those prayers with you?" I find many of our congregation and others are viewing both.

I would pray that in all we do and in all we would say we would reach out and spread the love of Christ whether there might be one of us, 10 of us, or a hundred of us. Our mission is to make a difference. Summing up a Confucius quote; he said "If your plan is for one year plant rice. If your plan is for 10 years plant trees. If your plan is for 100 years educate children." Whether we reach out and touch children that are physically young or spiritually young we can educate and love them not only in the words we say but in the example we live. As a dynamic and serving community of faith, let that be the reason why we have programs and worship together!

Pastor's Projected Office Schedule for Sept: Mornings Sept. 4-5 11-12, 18-19, 24-25.

WE ARE DISCIPLES



WOMEN—Come and join us at 10:00 on Friday, Sept 7 in the library. We will be studying a woman of the Bible and making plans for a new year. This is an opportunity to meet with others as we seek what the Lord would have us to do for Him. It's not too late to bring school supplies to be given to Fred Wild School. Help us in this outreach to others.

MEN—All men are welcome to kick off the new season with a breakfast at 8:30 on Sat. Sept. 8.

A legacy of faith

National Grandparents Day became an official observance in 1978, thanks largely to the lobbying efforts of Marian McQuade, a West Virginian who had 15 children and 43 grandchildren during 60 years of marriage.

The purpose of National Grandparents Day, celebrated on the first Sunday after Labor Day, is threefold: to honor grandparents, to give grandparents an opportunity to show love for their children's children and to help children become aware of strength, information and guidance older people can offer.

Grandparents – and, in this mobile society, surrogate grandparents – also serve as examples of how to endure challenges with God's help. Elders describe how God remains present, faithful and steadfast throughout the years. As Psalm 145:4 (NIV) says, "One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts."

When I awoke this morning, I asked, "How shall I live this day?" The answers were all around me:

The fan said, "Keep your cool."

The ceiling said, "Aim high."

The window said, "Look outside yourself."

The clock said, "Every minute is precious."

The calendar said, "Stay up to date."

The door said, "Take advantage of opportunity."

The floor said, "Kneel down and pray."

—Unknown (adapted)



Sept 2 Elder Linda Ellis
Deacons Helen Kelly & CJ Wiggins
Greeter Donna Ross
Acolyte Sue Colwell

Sept 9 Elder Marla Null
Deacons Johnny & Helen Kelly
Greeter Prili Andrews
Acolyte—Teresa Williams

Sept 16 Elder Sandra Laufer
Deacons Rich Neff & Johnny Kelly
Greeters—Todd & Robin Martin
Acolyte Todd Martin

Sept 23 Elder Rich Campton
Deacons Kathy Whitlock & Helen KELLY
Greeter Richard Neff
Acolyte Kathy Whitlock

Sept 30 Elder Wanda Gordon
Deacons Johnny & Helen Kelly
Greeter Wanda Gordon
Acolyte Johnny Kelly



BIRTHDAYS

Sept 7 Joan McWilliams
Sept 8 Rachel Wright
Sept 10 Linda Johnson
Sept 12 Desmond Walker
Sept 17 Frances Goff
Sept 18 Dick Campbell
Sept 20 Johnny Kelly
Sept 30 Trevor Warman

ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 4 Howard & Shirley Lewis
Sept 4 Jerry & Donna Duball
Sept 16 Fred & Liz Collins



- Labor Day, *September 3, 2018*
- National Grandparents Day, *September 9, 2018*
- Patriot Day, *September 11, 2018*
- Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15 - Oct. 15, 2018*
- First day of autumn, *September 22, 2018*

Sundays—SS at 9:00, coffee at 10:00, worship at 10:30

Mondays—Chime choir at 6:30

Tuesdays—Bible Study at 11:00 Studying Luke

Wednesdays—Choir practice at 6:30

Sept. 5 Worship committee meets at 5:00

Sept 6 Book Club meets at 5:30 in library

Sept 7 Mary-Martha meets at 10:00 in library

Sept 8 Men's breakfast at 8:00

Elder's meet at 10:00

Sept 11 Board Meeting at 1:00

Sept 14-15 Regional Assembly Council Retreat Center

Sept 16—Fellowship meal

Sept 20—Book Club meets at 5:30 in library

THE CHALLENGE OF SCRIPTURE

GQ magazine recently included the Bible on a list of 23 books not worth reading, calling the text “repetitive” and “foolish” (among other things). Pushback came from both secular and religious folks. Writing in *USA Today*, Tim Swarens argued that even if you don't believe in God, the Bible helps your understanding of Western culture, history, current events and your neighbors.

For Christians, the Bible – God's Inspired Word – reveals God's love and will. It isn't always easy to read or process, but no other book contains such good news.

As Danielle Shroyer writes in *Original Blessings*, “Scripture is a sacred book meant to provoke us in ways that will move us toward God. And, often, that is the very last thing we are looking for. We would rather have an answer, a simple plan, even a nicely tidy moral story. But Scripture gives us none of these things, because the holy is anything but domestic. We go looking to find a plan and instead are sent on a treasure hunt.”

Welcome to the start of a new year of Christian education May all who gather here know God's love. September is the time for school to begin. How important do you think it is for students to continue learning? What about yourself? How much time do you spend studying (not just reading) the Bible? It often helps to share with others and hear different viewpoints. Come to Sunday School at 9:00 on Sundays and learn more about God and the Bible. Bible Study on Tuesday at 11:00 is looking at the book of Luke. Give them a try an also give more time seeking the Lord. The teacher promises that unlike school students, there will be no tests.

No thief, however skillful, can rob one of knowledge, and that is why knowledge is the best and safest treasure to acquire.”

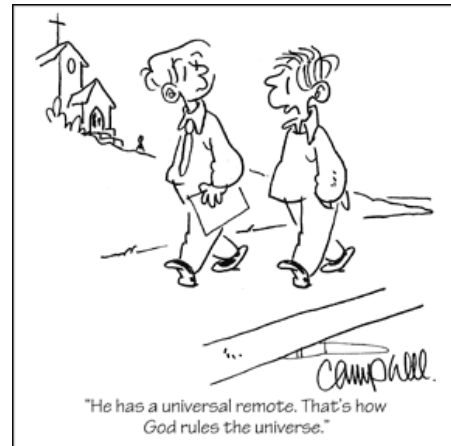
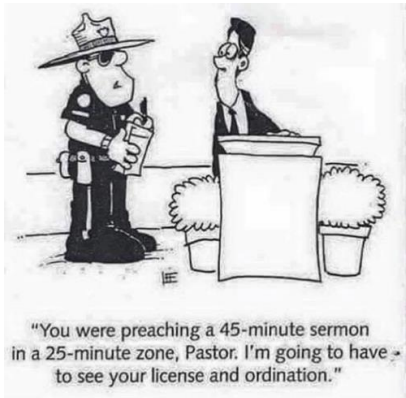
—L. Frank Baum



WHAT IS PRAYER?

Is it measured words that are memorized,
Forcefully said and dramatized,
Offered with pomp and with arrogant pride
In words unmatched to the feelings inside?
No.....prayer is so often just words unspoken
Whispered in tears by a heart that is broken . . .
For God is already deeply aware
Of the burdens we find too heavy to bear,
And all we need do is seek Him in prayer
And without a word He will help us to bear
Our trials and troubles---our sickness and sorrow
And show us the way to a brighter tomorrow . . .
There no need at all for IMPRESSIVE PRAYER
For the minute we seek God ...HE IS ALREADY THERE!

CHUCKLES & THOUGHTS



"I know what Mary sang when Jesus brought home pictures from school." Tony told his parents. "How Great Thou Art"

* * * * *

When Jacob's parents gave him his weekly allowance, he gave it to his little brother

"Why did you do that?" asked his mom.

"I already have \$75, and my Sunday school teacher said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of the needle than for a rich man to go to heaven." Jacob said. "I don't want to be rich. I want to go to heaven."

* * * * *

Judas was the one with the backpack full of stuff. That's how he got his name: Judas IS-Carrying-It. Pat. Age 8

* * * * *

Celebrate even small victories.

Remember that a grateful is almost always a happy one.

Don't forget that couple words of praise or encouragement can make someone's day.

Never be too busy to meet someone new

Remember that cruel words deeply hurt but loving words quickly heal.

If it's not a beautiful morning, let your cheerfulness make it one.

Never deny anyone the opportunity to do something nice for you.

From Life's Little Instruction Book Vol. III

OUR PRAYER LIST



In a study of heart patients revealed that those patients who were prayed for had fewer complications in recovery. The Mid America Heart Institute of Kansas City studied 990 coronary patients in one year. The first names of half the patients were given to religious believers who prayed for four weeks that they would have a speedy recovery with no complications. Amazingly, those who were prayed for had fewer complications than the others. The study was published in the American Medical Association's Archives of Internal Medicine.

The study suggests that prayer does indeed facilitate healing.

—Reported in
Religion Today,
October 27, 1999

FROM OUR CONGREGATION

Marla Null – knee injury

Diane Maxson – gall bladder tests

Howard Lewis – showing improvement

Jane Weldy

Franny Goff – declining health

Rich Campton – health concerns

Judi Stutsman – doing better

Bob Rhodes – home, kidney surgery

Heidi McClary

Betty McClery – health in general

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF CONGREGATION

Bill Robards - pneumonia (Jacque's brother)

Rob & Peggy Pluymers – health issues

Helen Pedit –Uterine cancer (Linda E. sister-in-law)

Christina & daug.. Janice unspoken (Liz Malady)

Gary Musselman – cancer

Harlan Schmidt – melanoma (Roger Sands)

Betty Harmon & family

Shelly Ash & children

Betsy Plumero – health/marriage issues

FROM LINDA JOHNSON:

Kris Vaught, Dorothy Deal, Claus, Amy & Ashley Zimmerman, Eddie Johnson, Judy Knofel

Bill Timmons – health issues

Buddy Whitlock –awaiting liver surgery

Trina Dow-Pugh – stage 3 kidney failure

Debbie Straer – asthma (Linda E.)

Carol Moss – cancer

Angelo Morita – heart transplant

Mick St. Clair

Frank Glinski – cancer

Robert Marre – health issues



Many thanks to Rick Campton for his efforts to redesign the memory Garden following the unfortunate accident that took out several shrubs and sections of the fence. Robins Nursery supplied new shrubs and the stepping stones were donated by a friend of Rich's. Stop into see the new garden and take a moment to meditate.

ONLY AS GOOD AS

by Judy Crone

Her smile brings a glow
As she raises her baton.
An awe hushes the din
As the music begins to dawn.

The voices blend in glorious sound,
The words which were penned in song
And the blend of joyous music
Echoes out over the silenced throng.

The finale brings a tear or two
As they end in brilliant praise,
For all the tiresome labor
Has left the audience in quiet daze.

Then the roar of appreciation
Echoes through the awe struck crowd
And standing there, the choir brightly smiles
For they know the reason, though not said aloud.

The choir can only sing with fervency,
If the director takes the time to care.
For the choir is only as good as the leader
Whose love for music, the choir will share.

Thank you Jaquae, for the beautiful music you provide. She spends many hours selecting and practicing the music for the services. She also leads the chime choir in its efforts to bring special music to praise the Lord.

Linda Ellis is a wonderful gift to our church family. She works tirelessly in the office keeping everything flowing smoothly. She attends the leadership Council meetings, heads the Worship Committee, is the church treasurer and sings in the choir. Linda is always ready to answer questions and lend a helping hand. Office "Angel" is the perfect description for Linda.

