

THE SEBRING CHRISTIAN
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC)

February 2019

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I misplaced my coffee cup at the church the other day and looked high and low for it. It was one presented to me on Pastor's Appreciation Sunday. It had become dear to me, but now it was nowhere to be found. I looked in the kitchen with all of the dishes and in the office and on the tables around along the hallway and in the bathroom, of course, and even in the pulpit. Was it misplaced or lost? I could not find it.

In my life I have misplaced a few things. Some I did find and others I replaced. Some I still miss. While I was looking for that cup, I heard that song in my head where the writer says I can climb the highest mountains and run through the fields or scale city walls, but I still haven't found what I'm looking for, no I still haven't found what I'm looking for. I felt like that in my now frustrating search.

Have you found what you are looking for? In the case of the song, it was to be with his one true love. For me this time it was a coffee cup. But I speak to others nearly every day that are looking for hope or meaning or relief or help or purpose.

Sometimes we don't know what we are looking for. It might be akin to going into the antique store just to see what we can find, that past object that may remind us of different times. Other times we know what we are looking for but can't find it, like that cup and maybe keys.

Most of the things we need money cannot buy. I have a poster that says "Things money can't buy". It includes manners, morals, respect, faith, character, common sense, trust, patience, class, integrity, love, and hope. The Holy Scriptures say that Jesus can give us the rest and peace we need and we can find our rest, our wholeness, in Him.

As you are searching to find what you are looking for, remember those qualities money can't buy. They are found in our faith, family, and fellowship with one another and with God!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Alan". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Pastor's projected office days in February 2019: 5, 6, 13, 14, 19, 20, 26, 27

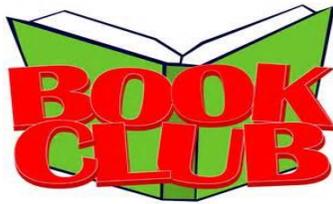


The Week of Compassion Offering taken February 17 and 24 is a special mission offering to support specific ministries of the General Church. This mission offering leads the relief, refugee and development work.

This past year you shared your compassion with families in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico hit by hurricanes and fires and floods in California; in Sierra Leone and Bangladesh who experienced the most severe floods of the century. You extended care to refugees from Syria and Somalia. By education and work opportunities, women and girls were empowered in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia.

Please give and give generously to the Week of Compassion offering. This is the way our God works through us to provide for His needy people.

The Outreach Committee



On Feb. 7th we will be starting to read "The Butterfly And The Violin" by Kristy Cambron. The author weaves together two intriguing stories: one set during World War II in Auschwitz, and the other set in present day. The past and present combine to reveal how there is beauty to be found in the darkest moments of our lives, and reasons to trust God even when it seems wiser to abandon hope. Sera James, a Manhattan art dealer had her world crumble 2 years ago. Her desire to distract herself ignites a passion to find a mysterious portrait she saw as a young girl....a painting of a young violinist with piercing blue eyes. In her search, she meets William Hanover, the grandson of a wealthy California real estate mogul, who may be the answer to find the missing masterpiece. Together they figure out the story of the paintings subject: Austrian violinist Adele Von Bron.

Adele, of the Austrian aristocracy of 1942, was a talented violinist and daughter to a high-ranking member of the Third Reich. She risks all when she smuggles Jews out of Vienna. In an instant, her privileged life dissolves into a world of starvation and barbed wire.

As Sera untangles the secrets behind the painting, she finds beauty in her own troubled heart, and the grim camps of Auschwitz.

For Feb. 7th please read the first 12 chapters. For Feb. 21st read Chapters 13 thru 22. And for Mar. 7th we will finish the book, reading Chapter 23 to the end.

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.



Feb. 3 Elders Gordon & Jane Walkington
Serving Helen Kelly & CJ Wiggin
Elaine Milward & Kathy Whitlock
Greeters Donna & Bill Stanley
Acolyte Lain McWilliams

Feb. 17 Elders Howard Lewis & Diane Beidler
Serving Kathy Whitlock & Robin Martin
Sue Colwell & Richard Neff
Greeter Donna Ross
Acolyte Ron Davis

Feb. 10 Teresa Williams & Sandra Laufer
Serving Johnny & Helen Kelly
Todd & Robin Martin
Greeters Larry & Prili Andrews
Acolyte Prili Andrews

Feb. 24 Elders Teresa Williams & Rich Campton
Serving Todd & Robin Martin
Johnny & Helen Kelly
Greeter Mary ANN THOMAS
Acolyte Wanda Gordon

FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR
February 2019
CHANCEL CHOIR

Now is a good time to join the chancel choir. We could use a few more voices!!! We are a small little family that sings together and prays for each other. Come join us!!!



Keep in Tune, Jaquae

JOYFUL NOISE

This month A Joyful Noise will be chiming “He's Got The Whole World In His Hands” on the 4th Sunday. This is a fun, happy piece of music you won't want to miss. Also our chime trio Trinity will be playing on the 3rd Sunday so you'll get a double whammy from the chime members. Please come and bring a friend!!!

For Whom The Bell Tolls, Jaquae

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Christian author Corrie Ten Boom wrote "Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength." Corrie Ten Boom and her sister were to continue to spread the saving grace of Christ while imprisoned during WW 2. Corrie returned to Germany after the war and personally forgave the guards who had treated the prisoners so badly. Her books are fascinating reading and available in the library.



BIRTHDAYS

- Feb 1 Jerry Duball
- Feb. 2 David McCord
- Feb. 7 Rich Campton
- Feb 11 Ann Holly
- Feb. 12 Heaven Kunsak
- Feb. 21 Bill Hineline
- Feb. 22 Mary Ann Thomas
- Feb. 28 Don Tiemens

ANNIVERSARIES

- Feb. 13 Roger & Jaquae Sands

Congratulations and welcome to Frank Reilly as a new member of our family of God

WE ARE DISCIPLES



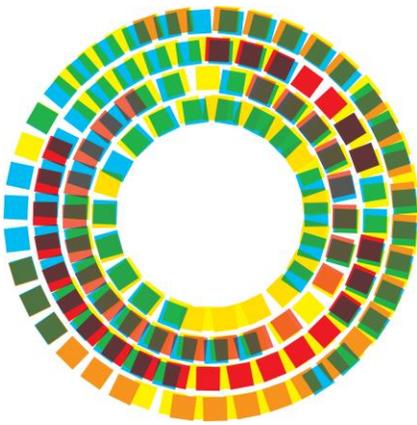
WOMEN: Many thanks to the ladies of the The Mary-Martha Group who served funeral dinner of about 50 for Jane Weldy on Friday, Jan. 19, 2019. We will meet at 10:00 on Feb. 1 in the church library. The Rev. Peggy Davis will facilitate a discussion on where we are as a church and where we should go. All church members are asked to participate in one of several such discussions. Please plan to attend on Feb. 1 or one of the other meetings. We will look at the organizations the group has supported in the past and decide which groups and has much to support them in a monetary way. We will be deciding what to study at our March meeting.

MEN: On Jan 12 eleven men enjoyed a hearty sausage, egg, potato and cheese casserole prepared by Sue Colwell, with grits on the side and gram muffins supplied by Jane Walkington. They know well the old adage, "The way to a man's heart..." After a brief devotional thought entitled "A Squeaky Clean New Year" discussion followed concerning the new kitchen cabinets which will be delivered on Jan. 25 and installed by our faithful worker bees. Another money making venture was discussed and it was decided that the men will sponsor another supper on Friday, Mar. 1

MANY THANKS to everyone who supported our recent chili supper. Special kudos to our head chef Richard Neff who wowed everyone with his "old family" chili recipe. We had a record for this affair and cleared \$1,044.00.

D.O.C. men meet at 8:00 AM every 2nd Saturday of the month for breakfast and fellowship. All men are invited and encouraged to attend.

CHUCKLES AND THOUGHTS



A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: “I make God visible.” But others who see us together can say: “They make God visible.” [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

Lighten your load

Keeping Sabbath, not just on Sundays but throughout the entire week in an integrated way, keeps us sane, says Donna Schaper. While our culture pushes us to move faster, work harder and acquire more money and stuff, Sabbath observances promote play, rest, love and worship.

“Sabbath – time for God – is a gift in its origin and in its keeping,” Schaper writes in *Sabbath Keeping* (Cowley Publications). “It is not another must; it is a may. God invites us to keep Sabbath; God does not demand it.”

The commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy, she notes, “is an invitation to a party, not to a hanging. Sabbath keeping is not one more thing to add to our already long lists. [It] is lightness, not heaviness.”

Henri J.M. Nouwen

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“Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not.”
–C.S. Lewis

You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no action.
Mahatma Gandhi

There is no better exercise for your heart than reaching down and helping to lift someone up. *Bernard Meltzer*
You have a brain in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.
Dr. Seuss



PRINT OR TEAR THIS PAGE FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER AND PUT IT WHERE YOU WILL SEE IT FREQUENTLY. People have said they have missed dates of meetings in the newsletter or in the bulletin. If you post this, you will be reminded of goings on at First Christian Church.

- Sundays** 9:00 Open door Sunday School all are invited
9:45 Coffee hour in fellowship hall this month while kitchen repairs are done
10:30 Worship service *There's always a place for you*
- Mondays Chime** Choir 6:30 *always room for more*
- Wednesdays** Chancel Choir 6:30 *raise your voice together for the Lord*

- Feb. 1** Mary Martha in library 10:00 **Peggy Davis Pastor & Parish checkup discussion group**
- Feb. 2** Ground Hog Day
- Feb. 6** Worship committee 5:15
- Feb. 4** Thank a Mail Man Day
- Feb. 7** Book Club 5:30 in the library
Natl. Send a Card to a Friend Day
- Feb. 9** Men's breakfast 8:00 10:00 Elders meeting **Peggy Davis discussion group at both meetings**
- Feb. 10** Laity Sunday
- Feb. 11-12** **Portrait** taking in board room for church directory
Natl. Shut-In Visitation Day
- Feb. 14** Valentine's Day
- Feb. 15** No one Eats Alone Day *Invite someone to eat with you or even a cup of coffee At least call an alone person*
- Feb. 17** Church potluck following church **Peggy Davis Pastor Parish checkup discussion group**
Natl. Random Acts of Kindness Day
- Feb. 18** President's Day
- Feb. 19** Board Meeting @ 1:00 pm
- Feb. 21** Book Club 5:30 in library

JUST FOR FUN DAYS

- Feb 4** Homemade Soup Day **Feb.9** Natl. Pizza Day **Feb. 11** Natl. Peppermint Patty Day **Feb. 20** Natl. Cherry Pie Day (Ron Colwell says this should be a natl. holiday) **Feb. 22** Skip a Straw Day

The church is planning a rummage sale on March 9th from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. PLEASE come in when you have some free time to sort and arrange the articles to be sold. Come early before a meeting, plan on staying a little longer afterwards, whenever you can. Every little bit of time you can contribute will help. Volunteers for the sale day need to sign up with Helen Kelly. Deadline for dropping off donations will be March 3rd.