



PASTOR'S KEYBOARD



As a Christian have you seriously considered forgiveness? Covid has been a relationship killer and isolated all of us from each other. It seems that all of the persons I have met recently are far more into revenge than into Christ's teaching of the new life forgiveness. When you have been isolated and caring only for yourself and your own. it is easy to forget relationships outside of the family.

When I first noticed this, I assumed the unchurched would be the most vulnerable. I was wrong... Those that forgot about forgiveness the most frequently were strong and true Christians; staunch church attenders. Christians fell in with the new get mine before you get yours and community be damned. What happened to compassion? Loving your neighbor as yourself?

Forgiveness is both a giving and a receiving command. (Matt 6:14-15 For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.) The best relationship is a Christian relationship including forgiving one another as Christ forgave you! (Ephesians 4:32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.)

Its time! We need to put our church life back together. We need to practice what we preach and follow in the footsteps of Christ. Change your fear into compassion and extend forgiveness to others as Christ has forgiven you.

Pastor Dave

Special Offering Opportunities:



This Sunday (July 3) is the last chance for brining a donation to go to Annual Conference for Girls, Inc of Omaha.

Food Pantry will restart July 22nd. We will need monetary donations to be able to continue to offer this program to the food insecure in Highlands County. We estimate we will need \$8,000 for the year to feed 200 people a week. (mark food pantry in memo line to donate)



IMPORTANT DATES

- July:** No Sunday fellowship meals
No Wednesday Night
No Thursday Bible Study
Friday Food Pantry restart July 22
- July 3** 10am Worship ~*Pastor David*
- July 6** 9-noon Ladies Aid
- July 7-14** Pastor Craig at Annual Conference
- July 7-Aug 15** Pastor David at Conference then Vacation
- July 10** 10am Worship ~*Special Worship*
- July 10-14** Annual Conference
- July 13** 9-noon Ladies Aid
- July 17** 10am Worship ~*Pastor Craig*
- July 20** 9-noon Ladies Aid
- July 22** 11am-1pm Food Pantry
- July 23-28** National Youth Conference
- July 24** 10am Worship ~*Pastor Craig*
- July 27** 9-noon Ladies Aid
- July 29** 11am-1pm Food Pantry
- July 31** 10am Worship ~*Pastor Craig*
- July 31-Aug 5** Mountain Adventure Camp

July

15. David & Louanne Barber
16. Rick and Sarah Jones
17. Jim and Babs Johnson



July

1. Walter Livengood
3. Christopher Ziegler
4. Wilma Moon
6. Brenda Hollar
10. Jim Johnson
14. Virginia Tharp
18. Ramona Hollinger
21. Barbara Kesselring
22. Christopher Rupert
25. Miriam Kauffman
27. Dawn Ziegler
28. Larry Weise
29. Leland Beery
30. Mary Slotter

Office Schedule (July)

- M:** Office Closed (Pastors on Call)
T: 9am-1pm Secretary & Pastor(s)
1pm-2pm Treasurer
W: 9am-1pm Secretary & Pastor(s)
Th: 9am-1pm Secretary & Pastor(s)
F: Office Closed (Pastors on Call)
- David: 863-214-1224**
Annual Conference July 7-14
Vacation July 14-Aug 15
- Craig: 610-781-4329**
Annual Conference July 7-14

Bible Studies and Sunday School starting this Fall:

- 9 am Sundays: Women's Sunday School (Blough Hall)
Men's Sunday School (Library)
preK-2nd grade (nursery)
- 4pm Wednesday Night KidZone Elementary and
Junior/Senior High (Youth Rooms)
- 4:30pm Thursdays Bible Study (Blough Hall)
Time TBD Evangelism Refresher Study (Parlor)



Notes from the Leadership Team Meeting: Monday, June 27th.



- Our Internet Network upgrade is complete! We have a building wide guest network in addition to dedicated streaming and office networks. This was funded by the Archie Wolfe Memorial.
- Our Church had a nice presence at the district camp this summer. We sent one camper, Korra Bozeman; two deans, Dawn Ziegler and Tricia Bozeman; two kitchen staff, Christ Rupert and Christopher Ziegler; one chaplain, David Smalley.
- Pastor Craig shared in his report that he going to lead a refresher study in evangelism.
- The Audio Visual Team (AV team) reports that the New Cameras for the sanctuary (from the Hollenberg Memorial) are installed and being used! Thank you for your patience as we make this transition the video picture should be much clearer.



Church Servants

Deacons on Call - Barbara Kesselring, Chair

Month of July Barbara Kesselring C - 863-381-8316

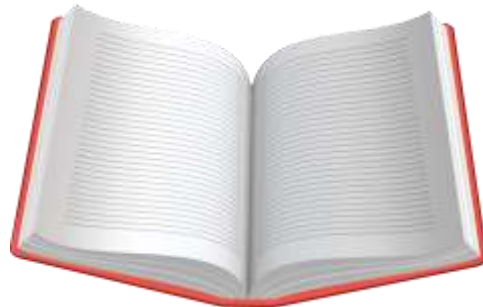


Directory!

The Church office is very close to completing the long awaited directory!

Thank you to those of you who contacted the church office to update your information! When the directory is completed a PDF version will be emailed to those who receive the newsletter by email. Please contact the church office if you are in need of a printed copy. We will have printed copies available locally.

A photo directory is still in the works. We need to continue to gather pictures of everyone to make this a reality.



Church Budget Update:

Needed Each Month	\$6,250
Received in June	\$4,321
Still need for June	\$-1,929
Behind since May 1	\$-1,406

Note from Properties

Please be aware we do not currently have a custodian cleaning the building, it is done as volunteers have time, so if you make a mess please clean it up. Thank you!





Special Prayer List 7-3-2022

To All of our Church Family,

Please give updates to **Barbara Kesselring**
(863) 381-8316 or email: kessellb@embarqmail.com

RED is new names or issues since the last Newsletter.

Recent Church Family:

Michelle Brandt (cancer)

Dorothy Bugbee (breast cancer surgery)

Tracy Burnhart (not doing well after surgery)

Karen Ferguson (foot surgery completed)

Lisa Franks (Job searching)

Diane Hurst (in hospital)

Tony Kesselring (in hospital)

Paul Klossner (lung cancer)

Miriam Kauffman (home recovering)

Faye Livengood (Hip Surgery)

Walter Livingood (waiting for test results)

Ruby Ludwig (knee surgery)

Judy and Bob Skow (Judy home, Bob in healthcare)

Keith Simmons (home, prayers for continued healing)

Lorraine Walker

JOYS:

Children in Worship!

Friends & Family Visiting

Food Pantry

Travelers home safe

Camp Ithiel

DECEASED*:

Atlantic Southeast District:

Youth and Advisors going to National Youth Conference

Ilexene Alphonse—death of step father

Church Body

Prayer for Leadership team

Prayer for Church financial needs
(\$2,000 needed per week)

Growth and Transition in the Church

Ongoing Church Family:

Louanne Barber

Joan Bohrer (moved to Ohio)

Louise Bohrer

Jim Burner

Carolyn Colver

Gayle Diehl (home after surgery)

Colleen Drew (Gail Strome's daughter)

Gary Harnage and Kay Harnage

Curtis Heitzman (Carolyn Colver's son)

Brenda Hollar (slowly getting better)

Jonathan Hollenberg

Stephanie Hollenberg (Life Changes)

Ramona Hollinger

Paul Levey

Betty Liliquist

Scott Lofton

Craig and Jenny Luckenbill

Baldy & Marcel Miranda (Alzheimer diagnosis)

Teresa Skinner

David & Terry Smalley

Nick Vela (Prayer for positive life changes)

Randy Walker (Lorraine Walker's Son) (ALS)

Other:

Nation's Unity

Prayer for Teachers, Staff & Students

Prayers for the world

Refugees in the Ukraine conflict

Calm Hurricane Season

Violence in the World

Congrats Grad! Tucker Frail SHS Class 2022

On Sunday May 22 the Church had a reception to celebrate Tucker Frail graduating Sebring High School.

Tucker is currently working at Don Jose Restaurant and plans to attend the local State College (SFSC) this fall. His goal is to become a nurse.

Congrats Grad!



Camp Ithiel Pictures

Korra Bozeman (smares!)

Yoel (pool) from Wed night youth

David Smalley (teaching)

Chris Ziegler (Kitchen)

Find in Group photo: Tricia B, Jemma B, Korra B, Chris R, Chris Z and Dawn Z.

JEOPARDY!

The game show that gives the answers and you come up with the questions:

LET'S PLAY!

Answer: Giving an informed and loving extra donation to the Sebring Church of the Brethren.



Question(s): What is needed today to help the congregation in Florida continue its Brethren presence, its dynamic food outreach program, share the love of Jesus in the local area, and teach new/continuing disciples about God's plan.

I hope this little game has caught your attention. With a smile and a little laughter I hope to talk with you about our financial situation. We are in a serious situation. We need the help of everyone with a love and fondness for the 106 year old Florida church.

Our financial situation did not happen overnight. In 2012, our attendance for worship was close to 200 during the winter and around 80+ during the summer. Although this number was a decline from the 500's in its hayday, all churches everywhere, (not just Sebring and not just Florida) were showing similar drops in attendance.

In 2013, and 2014 there were two factors that gave church leadership concern. We had very few homebuilders in attendance or in membership, (ages 30-50) which also meant few children. Second, we could see that new retirees were not moving to Florida. People lived longer, stayed healthy longer, and worked longer staying where they had established themselves or moving to their children's communities. They had more healthy time to spend with grandchildren and great grandchildren.

At first we worked at becoming a more visible church in our community and we had our greatest year in that respect in 2016. This was our 100th anniversary year and we celebrated with invitations going out across the country! We had our second and best attended "Back to School Summer Splash" for kids as they headed back to school where we handed out over 200 school kits. These were great events for occasional attendance, but membership and worship attendance continued to decline.

Our greatest losses were our beloved seniors and winter attenders from the north. Beginning in 2017 our numbers began to drop drastically. By the end of 2019 we had lost between 80 and 100 members to either death or returning north to stay with their children because of declining health. We were working with this downturn in attendance by planning new outreach and evangelism events. Then, in early 2020 Covid entered all of our lives. To keep the church family together, we attempted to continue our worship online.

As attendance dropped to new lows, so did our financial base. In 2019 we took \$25,000 from our investments, but they still earned more. In 2020 we used closer to \$30,000, but our investments still earned more. In 2021 two things happened that really opened our eyes. We still needed almost \$30,000 from our investments while a concerned staff and leadership underspent the budget by almost \$30,000. This meant that in 2021 a little less than half of our budget came from non-giving sources.

We are early into our first quarter of our fiscal year and have withdrawn \$20,000 from our investments for this year's budget and the economic downturn has caused an additional loss of investments of more than \$15,000.

We don't know the future but these times call for faith. Faith that God is still calling us to Sebring, Florida.

Can you help? A one time gift above and beyond your normal giving to the Sebring Church of the Brethren would greatly make a difference.

With you in God's hands,
Pastor David Smalley

Evangelism



What if there was an easier way to bring people to Jesus? What if the secret of evangelism was a question that unlocked anyone's heart to Christ? Wouldn't it be easy? No more worrying about the opinions of others. No more worrying about if you're going to be rejected. No more worrying about if you've got the right words! You'd have a silver bullet, ready to pierce the hearts of others. Here's the secret of evangelism: it's not about you. There is no 'one simple trick' that will make someone a Christian. Sorry. Sometimes, when we think about evangelism we want God to provide us with something easy, we want a silver bullet. But God doesn't give us that, he promises something much better. In 1 Corinthians 3:6, Paul writes, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth." The promise is that in evangelism, God does the growth. This takes a great weight off our shoulders, God doesn't leave it all up to us when we share the gospel with others, he is the one who does the growth. God gives us seeds to sow that bring new life. The seed that God gives us is the Gospel – the good news. We have news to share – Jesus has beaten death, and Jesus brings new life! God doesn't give us a silver bullet; he gives us seeds to plant. Jesus in the parable of sower tells us as much. In Matthew 13:18-23, Jesus calls the seeds the sower plants, "the word of the kingdom". Our job is to plant seeds and to share the good news of Jesus with others. Planting seeds can be tough work! Not all ground is as receptive to hearing the good news as others. If you've tried to share the gospel with another person, there's a good chance that it didn't go as smoothly as you might've hoped. We can sometimes feel like we alone are responsible for the salvation of our friend or family member, but remember God is the one who does the growth. If we return to 1 Corinthians 3:6, we see that evangelism involves more people than just you and God. Paul says that "Apollos does the watering". What this looks like for us is remembering that there are other Christians who we could bring into a relationship with our non-Christian friends. Remember, the secret to evangelism is not you. There isn't one question that will be the silver bullet to the conversion of a person. Instead, we plant seeds that are about the good news of Jesus, trusting that God will do the growth. We plant seeds remembering that we are not alone, trusting that God will use other Christians to water that seed and that he will do the growth.

Blessings

Pastor Craig



Dear Church Family:

July 2022

How are you preparing for the future? We don't know what tomorrow brings and yet we do. We have Christ. Christ offers us the opportunity to join Him in Heaven. We are in a time of crisis, gas prices are high, investments are falling and grocery store shelves are missing items. How can we find Joy? We know that we will face struggles in this life, but we have the next to come. Accepting Jesus as Lord gives a peace that even when our lives are in turmoil. We know life is not always going to be this way. We can prepare for tough times in this life, but if don't prepare for the next, what good is it? All we have in this life will simply be thrown in fire when we go where the streets are paved with gold.

See you Sunday! Invite a friend!

In Christ's love,

Tricia Ziegler-Bozeman

SEBRING CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
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SEBRING, FL 33870

