



HOPE FOR YOUR STRUGGLE

13th January 2019

Good Morning and Welcome! You had lots of choices this Sunday, and we are so glad that you are here with us! We want to connect with you at your speed and in your way. Please take a moment to complete a Connect Card from the seatback in front of you, and bring it by the info center to receive a special gift.



About Us ~ We follow Jesus Christ, believing that he not only provided a way for us to have peace with God, but gave us an example of how we should live. Our doors and arms are open humbly and joyfully to anyone who wants to learn with us how to follow Jesus Christ as Lord. As we say, "Grace happens here."

Kids & Babies ~ During our Modern Worship service, our nursery is fully staffed to care for children from birth through 3 years old, while kids in pre-k through grade 5 are encouraged to join **Little Eden Kids Church** for a special worship time of their own. Parents can register children in the **Kids Courtyard** beginning at 10:30am. Pickup is immediately after the service.



Courtyard Café ~ We offer coffee, tea, hot chocolate, juice, and water from 8:30 –11:15 am each Sunday. Please stop by and enjoy a cup O’ joe and catch up with friends.

Did you know... Jesus wants to spend one on one time with you? We read, “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed – or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” (Luke 10:41-42)

This Week @ Sarasota Community Church

Sunday, January 13

9:00am – Traditional Worship Service

10:05–10:50am – Bible Class en Español – Mod 18

Faith Issues – Module 17 “Questions from Heaven”

Middle School Community Group – Room 6

Winter Friendship Class – Fellowship Hall

Practical Living – Green Room

United Community Group – Room 9

“Remembering the Forgotten God” Book Study – Mod 1

11:00am - Kids Church -Room 11 off Kid's Courtyard

11:00am - Nursery - Room 8 off Kid's Courtyard

11:00am – Modern Worship Service

3:00pm - GriefShare Module 17

6:00pm - High School Community Group

Monday, January 14 – No events

Tuesday, January 15

6:30am – 7:15am Men’s Faith & Life Group – Der Dutchman

6:30pm – 7:30pm Open Prayer Time – Green Room

7:00pm – 9:00pm The Gathering – 5341 Carmen Ave

Wednesday, January 16

8:00 – 9:30am Men’s Breakfast – Der Dutchman

6:30pm – 8:00pm The Faith Group - Green Room

6:30pm – 7:30pm Little Edens Kids Club – Courtyard

Thursday, January 17

9:00- 2:00pm – Dorcas Circle - Rooms 9 & 10

6:30pm – Worship Team Practice – Auditorium

Friday, January 18– No events

Saturday, January 19– No events

We are here for you....

If you or your family are in need of pastoral care or visitation please be in touch with Shirley Good, Pastoral Care Minister at 941-254-1653.



From the Pastor's desk...

Many have been tricked into thinking forgiveness is all that counts. But faithfulness will add way more to your intimacy with God than mere forgiveness. In my book, *Untapped: Five transformations of the Spirit-filled life*, I give the following illustration (pp 31-33):

Imagine an unfaithful woman with a very, very, very, very forgiving husband. She cheats on him once a day, every day, and then apologizes with tears and remorse every day. And he loves her so much that he forgives her every day — not because he feels obligated to, but because he genuinely wants to. He loves her so much and can't imagine life without her.

They embrace and are reunited every single day...He holds nothing against her. She gets to start over with a clean slate every day, even after hurting him deeply every day.

Finally, after living a long life, she dies as the wife of a very loving, forgiving, and faithful husband. But she does not die a faithful wife. And she has never known true unbroken intimacy.

Contrast that with a beautiful, intelligent, strong, independent woman who lives each day at the center of attention. Each day she is propositioned, and she rejects it every single time. Not once does she give it the slightest consideration. Not a single blush. She's not ignorant to it, or even immune to it. She simply guards her heart.

She wastes no affection on fantasy. She cultivates her desire for her husband each and every day. She is able to embrace him with a pure heart and a clean conscience. He knows without a doubt that she is faithful. And she knows that he trusts her completely. She wakes up each morning next to her life mate, and goes to sleep each night with her soul mate.

Finally, after living a long life, she dies, not just the wife of a loving, faithful husband, but as an honorable, noble, loving, faithful wife. She has known true unbroken intimacy.

Both wives know companionship. And both wives know what it is to be loved by their husband. But the first woman's memories are filled with shame and regret. Her relationship is defined by forgiveness. The second woman's memories are filled with trust and affection and devotion. Her relationship is defined by faithfulness.

It's the same way with us and God. You can live like the devil and repent every single day, and the blood of Jesus will cover your sin. But you will never know the intimacy of living faithfully to him. Unbroken faithfulness enhances intimacy.

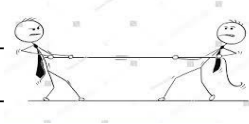
I go on to explain what to do when you've already screwed that up. You can pick up a copy of the book at the Info Center or on Amazon. Just know that there is hope, and you are not alone! Keep pursuing God in love and faithfulness!

Pastor Roger (Colossians 1:28-29)

Roger Shenk, Pastor

“Hope for Your Struggle”!

Pastor Roger Shenk



(You can stop by the Info Center & order a DVD or CD for \$3)

Further Study

“HOPE FOR YOUR STRUGGLE”

We are our own worst influence. We talk ourselves into doing something and then talk ourselves out of it. Or we decide we'll never do something again, and then we convince ourselves it's okay this one time.

We don't even measure up to our own standards, let alone God's. We are self-condemned. It's the human struggle and it can seem like there's no hope. But they're actually is.

Romans 8 says there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Most people read that as a statement about forgiveness, but it's more than that. It actually includes freedom and fulfillment!

For it to be true we need to actually be in Christ Jesus. And that means more than just “accepting Jesus into your heart.” It means living for Jesus with our whole being, trusting him not only for forgiveness, but also for freedom and total fulfillment in life. When we learn to live in that realm of the Spirit, there really is no condemnation, because we don't live lives that condemn us!

This Week

- Read Romans 7:14-8:14. Do you relate more to Romans 7 or Romans 8? How? And is your answer subject to change?
- “The flesh is death and hostility.” Think about which things in your life feel like death and hostility. Take time to “mind your mind” — in what ways is your mind focused on fulfilling the desires of the flesh? Read Galatians 5:13-21. Physical desires are not inherently bad. But living for them is short-sighted. The lust of the flesh says, “If it feels good, do it;” The lust of the eyes says, “If it looks good, use it;” The pride of life says, “If it is good, abuse it.” If the flesh is your guide, you will never see God.
- “The Spirit is life and peace.” When you follow the Spirit of Jesus, you not only receive eternal life, you receive fulfillment and peace in this life. Take time to “mind your mind” — focus your mind on fulfilling the desires of the Holy Spirit. Read Galatians 5:22-25.
- Open your mind to the realm of the Holy Spirit and learn to live there. Adopt a hope-filled prayer for each day: “Holy Spirit, today, I will not be self-condemned. By your grace and my devotion, I will live to please you!”





YOUR GIFT MATTERS

There are three convenient & safe ways to give at SCC

TEXT TO GIVE	GIVE ONLINE	IN SERVICE
Any amount to	Click “Give” @	Leave your gift in
941.877.5090	www.sarasotacommunitychurch.org	baskets

➤ Change for a Dollar isn't where we help our own or support mission programs. This is where we bring a one-time tangible gift of help and hope to a person who is “one arm’s length away” from us. And the cost? **Just one dollar!** Who has God brought to your attention?

➤ Last Week

Attendance.....549
 Offerings & Contributions.....\$10,740
 Change for a Dollar \$359/ \$15,256 YTD / \$126,235 Since 12.14.2011



PRAYERS

➤ **REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS** ~ They are part of our congregation but cannot worship with us on an ongoing basis because of health issues. This includes: Betty Beachy, Leo Cummings, Helen Cydrus, Dave Gerber, Ed Helmuth, Sandra Jamieson, Vi Kauffman, Emma Mullet, Del Serrano, and Dave & Catherine Schrock.

Lord God, I wasn't expecting this, but I believe that You are still in control, and You are close to me even in this moment (Psalm 46:1). Thank You that before any of this even happened, You already knew it all, and You will provide a way through this (Psalm 23:4). Let Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, guard me from dwelling on disastrous possibilities, and plant my feet firmly on what is true (Phil 4:6-8). Help me to trust You even in this hard place, and give me your perfect peace as I fix my mind on You (Isaiah 26:3). No matter what ends up happening, I believe You will use it for good (Jeremiah 29:11), to make much of Jesus and to make me more like Jesus (Romans 8:28-29). I trust You. I love You. Amen.



➤ **PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR** ~ Paul Bobbette, Doug Carlson, Bernie Christner, Marge & Walt Christner, Roy Davidson, Jenna Detweiler, Ann Eichelberger, Billy Gentilman, Jan Graber, Nelson Graber, Bryan Gray, Marilyn Guenther, Verda Hershberger, Betty Kauffman, Ada Kennedy, Peggy Kilmer, David Kniss, Debra Kuykendall, Maggie Latham, Lorraine Maust, Dan Miller, Dorothy J. Miller, Victoria Nussbaum, Shannon Osborn, Queena Phu, Emma Rauschenberger, Rhonda Royer, Barbara Schlegel, John Schwartz, Ron Yoder, Milton & Carol Yoder.

THE WAR WITHIN

“I keep a little scrap paper by my prayer bench, and whenever I read a promise that can lure me away from my guilt and fear and greed, I write it down. Then in dry

spells I have a pile of promises to soak my soul in. The fight of faith is fought with the promises of God. And the fight of faith is the same as the fight to walk by the Spirit. He works when we are resting in his promises. George Müller wrote (*Autobiography*, 152–154): I saw more clearly than ever that the first great and primary business to which I ought to attend every day was to have my soul happy in the Lord. The first thing to be concerned about was not how much I might serve the Lord, or how I might glorify the Lord; but how I might get my soul into a happy state, and how my inner man might be nourished. . . Now what is the food for the inner-man? Not *prayer* but, the *word of God*. George Müller learned the secret of walking by the Spirit: meditate on the precious truths of the word of God until your heart is happy in God, resting in his promises.

Hudson Taylor had learned it too. He received word one day of rioting near one of the inland mission stations. In a few moments George Nichol, one of his evangelists, overheard Taylor whistling his favorite hymn, “Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting in the Joy of What Thou Art.” Hudson Taylor “had learned that for him, only one life was possible — just that blessed life of resting and rejoicing in the Lord under all circumstances, while he dealt with the difficulties inward and outward, great and small” (*Spiritual Secret*, 209). I say to you, brothers and sisters, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. You will have victory over temptation and know the guidance of the Lord if you keep your heart happy in God by resting in his promises”.

(Resource by Desiring God)



CHURCH NEWS

➤ **GRIEF SHARE – Starting today thru April 7th in Module 17 3pm-5pm weekly.** You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. GriefShare is a grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. Using videos and discussion, GriefShare will help you recover from your loss and look forward to rebuilding your life. Shirley Good PhD., brings you this 13-week program and for more information or to sign-up please visit the Info Booth.



➤ **COFFEE WITH LEADERS - Monday January 21st at 6:30 to 7:30pm in the Green Room.** Come and have coffee with the leaders of S.C.C. Come and give us an opportunity to get to know you. This is an awesome opportunity for any new members to hear more about the heartbeat of Sarasota Community Church. It is also open to any current members who would like to have some good conversations with the leadership and make us aware of any ideas and suggestions that you may have.

➤ **ECHO FARM TRIP ~ Wed, Jan 23rd at 9am.** Join us as we travel by bus to Ft Myers, FL for an experience at Echo Farm. This is an experimental farm that addresses world hunger. We will leave SCC parking lot at 9am Wednesday morning and return by 2pm. The cost is \$40 per person which includes transportation, tour and

lunch at the farm. Please sign up at the Info Center as soon as possible.

➤ **LIVING JOYFULLY “Fraud Related to Older Adults” ~ Thurs, Jan 24th at 11:30-1:00pm.** Guest Speaker will be Kjell Prunell with Everance! We share personal stories and experiences so we can be challenged to live joyfully and age well. Luncheon is just \$5 and starts at 11:30 and the program begins at 12:00. For more info or to reserve your spot, email Nancy B. Yoder at yodernb@gmail.com or call her directly at 540-421-6514.

➤ **CARING SISTER’S TEA Saturday, January 26th at 10:00 am in the Community Hall.** This month will be our Annual TEA! The tables will be beautifully adorned by various church ladies. Tea and brunch will be served by the men of the church. Our special speaker will be Author, Irene Shearer who will be speaking on the theme, “The Joy of Moving Forward in Creativity”. RSVP your seat as this event frequently sells out. Cost is \$10 per person. **Ages 13-19 are Free with paying adult. You may sign up at the back of the church on Sunday morning. Contact person is Sue Sprunger her direct phone number is (614) 436-9537 or you can email her at suesprunger@sbcglobal.net

➤ **BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS Sunday, January 27th at 10:05 near the Community Hall.** Did you know that Hypertension Stage 1 is when blood pressure consistently ranges from 130-139 systolic or 80-89 mm Hg diastolic. Take a minute and get your blood pressure checked!

➤ **BETHEL MOUNTAIN BAND** **Saturday, February 9th at 6:00 in the SCC Auditorium.** Have you ever heard them play? They describe themselves as, “We are a group of guys all in our 50’s and 60’s, most of the group grew up in churches singing 4-part harmony, and we have had a Gospel Bluegrass group for eight years. We are basically a quartet with acoustic instruments – mandolin, banjo, guitar, harmonica and bass. We specialize in old-time gospel songs so we appeal to older audiences. We do mostly churches, retirement homes, and some festivals, but we only do a few non-gospel numbers in non-church settings”.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

➤ **CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP MISSION – Inspiration Concert** **Friday, January 18th 1pm & 6pm.** CFM’s 26th Annual Southern Gospel Concert is coming to SCC & featuring the INSPIRATIONS! In addition, John Schmid of Common Ground Prison Ministries will do the opening for each concert beginning at 1pm & 6pm. There is no charge, instead an offering will be taken up. Please call Mark Kennell at 941-376-1542 for more information.

➤ **GLOBAL DISCIPLES “Whole Hearted” Conference** **Tuesday Jan 29th 6:30pm at Bethel Mennonite Church** ~ Every person in the world should have an opportunity in their life to choose and follow Jesus Christ. That is our vision! Come spend an evening with Global Disciples and discover how embracing this vision with your whole heart will help reach the least-reached, ‘til the whole world knows. Please register online today at www.GlobalDisciples.org/events or RSVP to Kimberly Lapham at 717.290.7550 by January 25th.

➤ **THE ANNUAL PALM GROVE QUILT & CRAFT SALE** **Feb 6-9th Wed-Fri 8am – 5pm and Saturday 8am to 12:00pm.** If you have items to consign, check-in is at the Palm Grove Church Fellowship Hall on Mon & Tues Feb 4 & 5th between 8am & 5pm. For more information call Al & Irene Miller at 941-955-2187. All net proceeds go for their Haiti mission project which has a school of over 600 students and includes a feeding program.

➤ **WINTER GOSPEL MUSIC CONVENTION** ~ **Feb 7th at 5-9pm.** Join us and several artists at the 2019 Winter Gospel Music Convention at the Bradenton Area Convention Center. Featuring: The Isaacs, The Mark Trammell Quartet, Jeff & Sheri Easter, Jim Brady Trio, and The Browns! The cost of the tickets are \$32 per person which includes the concert and transportation from SCC parking lot. Sign-up sheet is at the Info Center in the back of the church. Hope you can join us for an amazing night of gospel music!

Pastor

Roger Shenk
roger@sarasotacommunitychurch.org
appts: wendy@sarasotacommunitychurch.org
cell: 941.465.9311

Executive Minister

James Read
james@sarasotacommunitychurch.org
cell: 469.506.4890

Pastoral Care Minister

Shirley Good
shirley@sarasotacommunitychurch.org
cell: 941.254.1653

Seniors' Minister

Dennis Bontrager
dennis@sarasotacommunitychurch.org
cell: 941.356.3577

Youth Coordinators

Nic & Samantha King
youth@sarasotacommunitychurch.org
Nic's cell: 419.260.0643
Samantha's cell: 859.621.2534

Kids Coordinator

Cindy Grant
kids@sarasotacommunitychurch.org
cell: 941.504.6483

Creative Director

Belinda Jobe
marketing@sarasotacommunitychurch.org

Facilities Director & Executive Asst.

Wendy Shenk
wendy@sarasotacommunitychurch.org
cell: 941.404.1849

Administrative Assistant

Kathy Cydrus
kathy@sarasotacommunitychurch.org

Worship Coordinator

Lindsey Caffelle
worship@sarasotacommunitychurch.org
cell: 941.724.9757

Prayer Team Leaders

Gilberto & Elizabeth Perez
prayer@sarasotacommunitychurch.org

Church Office Hours

Tue, Wed & Thu | 9a-3p or by appointment

Save the Date!

January 2019

13 GriefShare
21 Overseers Mtg
21 Coffee with the Leaders
24 Living Joyfully
26 Caring Sisters Tea
27 Blood Pressure Checks
28 Coffee with Leaders
28 Overseers Meeting

February 2019

7 Southern Gospel Concert
9 Bethel Mountain Band
14 Living Joyfully
17 Aaron Stutzman
25 Overseers Meeting
25 Coffee with Leaders
28 Living Joyfully

March 2019

1 Generosity Sunday
9 Caring Sisters Brunch
14 Living Joyfully
16 Movie Night & Potluck
25 Overseers Mtg
28 Living Joyfully

Bulletin Submission deadline is every Wednesday @ 10am. Send your requests to the church office for consideration: marketing@sarasotacommunitychurch.org

4041 Bahia Vista St. Sarasota, FL 34232
Ph: 941.377.4041 Fx: 941.378.9674
www.sarasotacommunitychurch.org

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