

# The Encourager

August 2017

## First United Methodist Church of Seffner

Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

Our mission at First Seffner is to GO into  
the world to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

### Potpourri of Happenings

**\* There will be no Choir Practices in August.**

**August 1: Church Council Meeting:** Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**August 1: Legend Dairy 4H Group:** Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

**August 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Country Western Music Group:** 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall.

**August 5: Weed Out:** Saturday, 7:30 - 10:30 a.m. Help Pastor Terry get rid of the weeds taking over the church grounds again.

**August 8: Trustees Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

**August 9 & 23: Family Support Group:** 6:00 p.m. Every other Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall or Good News Room.

**August 14: Irene Circle Meeting:** 7:00 p.m. Meets the 2nd Monday every month in the Good News Room.

**August 15: Foster Angels Meeting:** Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Good News Room.

**August 20 & 27: Youth Group Meeting:** Sundays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and Good News Room.



Dear Friends in Christ....

Once again I find myself at the keyboard preparing to write another "Pastor's Message" for the next edition of "The Encourager" and again hoping and praying for some inspiration for this month's message! My prayer was answered as I was reading an article in the recently received issue of "The Interpreter" which is a bi-monthly United Methodist magazine that covers a variety of ministry matters for our denomination. Each issue has a particular emphasis for its articles, etc., and this month's focus is "Experiencing Diversity, Living Well Together." The title pretty well speaks for itself.

As I was reading an article titled: Downward Mobility Reflects Radical Faith written by Emily Snell, the following statement caught me attention. Ms Snell writes, "I have met more homeless people who trust God with every minute of their day than I have sometimes in churches. There's this incredible humility and awareness that they don't take a breath apart from the sustaining presence of God." Wow!

Then, I made an immediate connection to a book that I just started, "How's Your Soul?" written by Judah Smith, the lead pastor of the City Church in Seattle, Washington. The book is about being OK on the inside, at the soul level. A healthy soul is essential to a healthy life. Even in times of difficulty, if our soul is healthy we will find the strength to make it through. Smith writes, "Your soul is healthiest when it comes back frequently and wholeheartedly to God." There's that sustaining presence of God thing mentioned above.

Then, came another connection, this time to God's Word where the psalmist writes in Psalm 46:1-3: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof." As Judah Smith's book explores the "inside you," our soul, he helps the reader to find our way through the emotional roller coasters of life and to discover the soul-healing essentials of rest, responsibility, restraint, and relationships, all rooted in what he calls the soul's only true home—God himself. Stability, peace, hope, love---are rooted in the health of the "inside you," the soul, God's presence within that enables us to praise the Lord no matter what. How's your soul?

And then, another connection....the familiar and inspiring hymn by Horatio Spafford, "It Is Well With My Soul." Most of us have sung this beautiful hymn for years without knowing that it was written by a man who experienced great personal loss: his business during the Chicago fire, the death of his son, then the death of his four daughters who were traveling to Europe with their mother when their ship was hit by another and sank before help could arrive. Even in the midst of his unspeakable tragedy, he was able to exult in God's presence and goodness. This beloved hymn came from a deep place in Horatio's "inside"...his soul which was grounded in the promise of God's love, presence, protection, and strength. This great hymn of faith encourages our souls to praise our gracious God whatever our circumstances because God is in control and working things together for His good.

God wants you and I to develop the habit of praise in our life so that nothing can keep us from fulfilling our purpose, to be one with God from "the inside" out. The psalmist writes in Psalm 64:10, "Let the righteous rejoice in the LORD and take refuge in him; let all the upright in heart praise him!" If we will start and end our day with praise, we will get in the habit of praising God. If we will choose to praise to matter what we face or what our day brings, we will develop the habit of praise to the point that when we are faced with something like Horatio did, we will have the same response he did and also sing, "It Is Well With My Soul."

Peace, Pastor Terry

## THANK YOU....

“Thank You” for your thoughts and prayers and “goodie bag” of food and treats last month as I went through my most recent heart procedure (cryoablation) and “down time” afterwards. Your love, support, and thoughtfulness are so appreciated! --Pastor Terry

---



## THANK YOU

Thank you to ALL who helped in ANY way with our July VBS!

---

## MOVE....The Faith Journey...For Youth!

A new Sunday morning study for our youth about the life of Moses and more importantly a study that will help youth discover how their faith requires trust, perseverance, courage, obedience, and action. During our time together we will also learn how to be open to God's moving and how to be willing to take a risk of faith in following God's lead through life. And who knows, along the way we may even have our own “burning bush” or “Red Sea” experience!

All youth are invited to join Pastor Terry at 9:30AM starting Sunday, July 30th, as we begin this journey of faith together!

---

## WEED OUT!



It's time for another “weed out”! Pastor Terry needs your help Saturday morning, August 5th getting rid of as many weeds as we can that are once again taking over the church grounds. Time: 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (depending on the heat!) Bring your garden gloves and clippers. Bags and water will be provided! Thank you!  
Pastor Terry

**Pancake Fundraiser for Meals On Wheels**  
**Saturday, August 12th - 8am - 10am**  
**Applebee's - 829 Providence Rd, Brandon**

Tickets: \$6.00 each. Breakfast includes 3 pancakes, sausage links, coffee, juice and water. Proceeds will benefit the Brandon Meals on Wheels organization and the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation program on hunger relief.

To Buy Tickets: Mail a check, payable to TBAA of AGD, for \$6/ticket to Tara Prather, 2813 Laurel Leaf Drive, Valrico, FL 33594. Or order tickets online for a .50 cent fee per ticket at [www.tampabayalphagams.com](http://www.tampabayalphagams.com). Click on Activities and then Events.



The Irene Circle is a group of **women** who gather each month to actively pursue mission related activities. In the past, we have provided blankets to the Linus Project, assembled fruit baskets for shut-ins, and Easter Baskets for the children at the Dover Migrant Clinic. We will resume our monthly meetings on **August 14** at **7pm** in the Good News Room. Join us for mission work, devotion time and of course we wouldn't be true Methodists if we didn't have some refreshments. For more information, contact Joyce at 685-0166. Bring your calendars and ideas as we plan our events for 2017-18.



**YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS**

**CALLING ALL YOUTH**

Come join the fun! The Youth Group is back from summer break and has an exciting year planned for all youth from 6th grade to 12th grade. On August 20th come ready to get wet with water kickball. Bring your friends and share the word of God with other teens like yourself. The Youth Group has a new time this year from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. We will be providing a snack during this time of fellowship. Hope you all had a great time this summer and are ready to have some fun!

## **Backpack Update**

During worship on July 16<sup>th</sup>, Jerrie McClamma, Lynnsey McClamma, and Pastor Terry led the congregation in a prayer of blessing over 333 backpacks and the children who will receive them. Thank you for your support with this important Outreach Ministry.

Backpacks were given to the following for the children:

100 to Burnett Middle School

100 to Guardian Ad Litem

103 to Back to School Bash

30 to Colson Elementary

---

## **TERMITES...BE GONE!**

Our loan has been approved by the United Methodist Foundation for the extermination of termites that have overtaken our church campus. A date will be announced, hopefully early to mid August, for the three day tenting process that will be used to exterminate ALL our church buildings of these destructive insects. The ENTIRE church campus will be tented and there will be NO church business or meetings of any kind during this three day time frame. Please note: after the extermination process has been completed, we will need help with getting the church buildings ready for use that following Sunday. Watch for details in the church bulletin and through church emails.

---

## **Stewardship Minute**

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” --Matthew 6:22

Our Giving for July through July 23: \$10,607.75

Our Monthly Need for Ministry: \$13,455.00

---

## **BUY FROM AMAZON** **AND EARN REBATES FOR OUR CHURCH**

If you purchase anything from Amazon you can now have 1/2 percent of your purchase price rebated to our Church.

Just follow these easy steps:

1. Open Amazon as **Smile.Amazon.com**
2. If you have an account with Amazon go to “my account”.
3. Go to “Settings”
4. Go to “Change your Charity”
5. Type in “First United Methodist Church of Seffner”

Then when you wish to make a purchase from Amazon open in **Smile.Amazon.com**. Everything will be the same. But now you will be earning rebates to our Church. If you have questions see Jim Blaney.



## Prayer Requests

Remember Our Shut-Ins: Carl Brill, Charlene Cabbage, Frances Jordan.

Jim & Dot Blaney: Healing prayers for Robin Blaney for recovery from breast and lung cancer. Prayers for John Kolibab, brother-in-law, for a cure from liver and pancreas cancer.

Bob Van Etten: Healing prayers for health issues.

Inge Davis: Healing prayers for health issues.

Chris & Larry Carter: Healing prayers for friend, Marcus A. for a recent diagnosis of stage 4 head and neck cancer and for treatment.

Bobbie Hawkins: Healing prayers for her friends grandson, Josh Campbell, for recovery from a hit and run motorcycle accident that left him in very bad shape.

Mary Philip: Healing prayers for soreness from a car accident while delivering for Meals on Wheels.

Willie Lewis: Healing prayers for Renee Lebron's coworker's mom, Willie Lewis, from a stroke that has left her in critical condition.

Penny Williams: Please keep Airman Krista Williams, Ken and Penny Williams daughter, in your prayers as she has deployed to the Persian Gulf and for a safe return.

---



## Monday Morning Prayer Group

Our Monday morning Prayer Group meets every Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Good News Room. Join us as we pray for church members, family, friends, anyone who is in need of prayer. Everyone is welcome.

---

## Altar Guild Volunteers Needed



Altar Guild is a very important part of keeping God's church presentable to Him and who worship. We need volunteers for November and December. It takes about an hour a week for four weeks or one month. Nothing strenuous and no heavy cleaning, just being sure God's worship area is presentable. If you need a further explanation or will volunteer please see me or contact Deborah in the Church Office. Please, you're really needed.

Blessings, Joan

<b>Weekly Events:</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday Worship</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Sunday Small Groups</b>	<b>Morning (FH)</b>
<b>Monday Meals on Wheels</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Boy Scouts</b>	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday Cub Scouts</b>	

# AUGUST 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Church Council Meeting 7 p Legend Dairy 4H Meeting	<b>2</b> <b>*No Choir Practice</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30 - 10:30 a Weed Out
<b>6</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship	<b>7</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>8</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting	<b>9</b> <b>*No Choir Practice</b> 6 p Family Support Group	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship	<b>14</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Irene Circle Meeting	<b>15</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 6:30 p Foster Angels Meeting	<b>16</b> <b>*No Choir Practice</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship <b>3 p Youth Group Starts Back</b>	<b>21</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>22</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music	<b>23</b> <b>*No Choir Practice</b> 6 p Family Support Group	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 3p Youth Group Meeting	<b>28</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>29</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music	<b>30</b> <b>*No Choir Practice</b>	<b>31</b>		

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Time sensitive material—Please deliver promptly.

Email: staff@fumcseffner.org

Fax: 813-654-4460

Phone: 813-689-3513

Seffner, Florida 33583

PO Box 607

1310 South Kingsway Rd.

First United Methodist Church of Seffner

August 2017

The Encourager

Please let the office know if your special date is not listed!!



Anniversaries

August 5 Wayne & Joyce Allen  
 August 8 Drew & Paula Eaton  
 August 19 Chris & Darlene Greer  
 August 21 Dan & Janice Rogers  
 August 21 Kenneth & Penny Williams

September 1 Jim & Dot Blaney  
 September 19 Mike Ashby & Denise Short-Nieves  
 September 20 Ed & Pam Hoyos



Birthday's

August 2 Penny Williams	August 11 Darlene Greer
August 6 Willie James	August 14 Dawn Allen
August 8 Harriet Stone	August 23 Lawrence Eastham
August 8 Sherry Salamone	August 24 Nancy Facenda

September 1 Marty Davis	September 17 Coleen Burch-Cline
September 1 Beverly Hazen	September 19 Nancy Yutzy
September 5 Tricia Woodford	September 21 Joyce Allen
September 8 Jim Twente	September 28 Brenda Scott
September 12 Kimberly Cawood	September 30 Maryse Lamour
September 15 Richard Scianti	September 30 Frances Jordan