

# The Encourager

January 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

**January 1: New Year's Day:** Sunday. Happy New Year! The Church Office will be closed Monday, January 2nd for the holiday.

**January 3: Legend Dairy 4H Group Meeting:** Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

**January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: Country Western Music Group:** 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall.

**January 4, 11, 18 & 25: Choir Practice:** Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Choir Practice starts back January 4th with our new Choir Director, Sidney Fortner.

**January 4 & 18: Family Support Group:** 6:00 p.m. Every other Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.

**January 7: Take Down Christmas/Advent Decorations:** Saturday, 9:00 a.m. Please join us to help take down the decorations in the Sanctuary and Narthex.

**January 8, 15, 22 & 29: Youth Group Meetings:** Sundays, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and Youth Room.

**January 9: Irene Circle Meeting:** 7:00 p.m. Meets the 2nd Monday every month in the Good News Room.

**January 10: Trustees Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

**January 12: Nursery Task Force Meeting:** Thursday, 6:30 p.m. in the Nursery.

**January 16: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance:** Monday. The Church office will be closed for the holiday.

**January 17: Foster Angels Meeting:** Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Good News Room.



**BLESSINGS &  
Happy New Year!**



Dear Friends in Christ and HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

First, let me say that I can't believe that it's been a year since coming to Seffner First Church as Interim Pastor! Time has flown by, and together we have accomplished much with God's help! Among the changes that have occurred along the way was dropping the title "interim" and my being appointed as the pastor of Seffner First by our District Superintendent and Cabinet and affirmed at the Florida Conference Annual Conference in June when appointments for the current appointment year were made official by the Bishop. At this time in my life and ministry I can't think of any place I'd rather be! I also believe that God brought me to Seffner for His purposes and that those purposes are being realized as we share in ministry together! I look forward to walking into God's future for Seffner First Church with you as together we live out our Mission Statement: To GO into the world to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

I pray that each of us will resolve to be faithful to the mission that God has given us by Jesus Christ and that we will resolve to walk together with Him into the future, taking one day at a time and living out the unconditional love of God toward each other and the world. I also pray that each of us will resolve to step out in faith, giving more, serving more, and always practicing gratitude, compassion, and grace!

Most importantly, let us take advantage of this time of the year, New Year's, to resolve to become closer to the Lord! Let us together re-commit ourselves, resolve, to pray more, to read the Bible more, and to worship more regularly! And finally, let us ask the Lord for guidance along the way, for strength, and for perseverance in achieving all these resolutions. Paul wrote to the Philippians these words: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." Phil 4:13

If indeed God is the center of all that we do, our New Year's resolutions will have a better chance for success and we will have a better chance of growing closer to the Lord and His church will grow and flourish for His Kingdom!

Peace to all in the New Year and always.....

Pastor Terry

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## **THANK YOU.....**

--to EVERYONE who helped in any way with both decorating our church for the Advent/Christmas Seasons and with taking the decorations down and putting them away for next year.

--to EVERYONE for the wonderfully generous gift at Christmas and for ALL of the other amazing gifts of love as well.

--to EVERYONE who placed a poinsettia in memory or in honor of loved ones in the sanctuary at Christmas....they added an amazingly beautiful splash of color to our already lovely sanctuary during this Holy Season.

--to EVERYONE who shared their gift of music through the Advent/Christmas Season and especially on Christmas Eve.

--to EVERYONE working on converting the once Pastor's Office to our newly decorated and equipped Nursery....it's almost ready to host toddlers who worship with us.

.....WITH GRATITUDE....Pastor Terry

## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR....

Dear God of New Beginnings--

I praise you for being the God of the universe.

Thank you for creating such glorious beauty in this world. Give me the ability to appreciate your creation and to do my best to care for such a precious gift.

Gracious God, I humbly ask you to shine your love on me, my family, my friends, and all people. May your love bring health and peace, peace in my heart and soul, peace in my family and among my friends, peace in the nation, and peace in the entire world.

Please, Dear God, help me to know my highest purpose and to realize what you define as success and not the world. Please grant me wisdom in making decisions that affect not only me but those around me and wisdom that would lead me to best serve you here on earth.

Merciful God, please forgive me for my shortcomings and the ways I have disappointed you as well as others in the past and help me to walk in your ways from this day forward trying to do better and be better.

Thank you God for new beginnings for hearing my prayer and for giving me and all life with all its blessings and for giving me and all who believe in your Son, Jesus, the gift of new life, eternal life.

I praise you Dear God and thank you for loving me and all your creation! Thank you for your forgiveness and peace and for bringing holiness to all life!

May peace, your peace, prevail on earth!

Amen.

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**THANK  
YOU**

Thank you so much from the First UMC of Seffner  
staff for your thoughtfulness at Christmas.  
Your gift to us was greatly appreciated.  
We hope everyone has a very blessed and happy New Year!

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*A Special*  
**THANK YOU**  


We would like to give a big thank you to Carolyn Alexander for playing the piano for Worship Services for the past couple of months and for the Christmas Eve Service. We greatly appreciated Carolyn helping out with her musical talents!

## Guardian Ad Litem Gifts



Thanks to everyone for your generosity and caring in helping to make this Christmas time a happy memory for our Guardian ad Litem children. We received many happy hugs and thanks in delivering your gifts to the children. Again - many thanks to everyone!!

Dot and Ken Conklin

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## TRUSTEES AND TREE REMOVAL UPDATE....

Removal of the dead trees that surround our Fellowship Hall and that hang precariously over our buildings in that area of our church property was started just before the Christmas/New Year holidays. After a pause in the work, removal has resumed. As soon as these trees have been removed, the area between the Fellowship Hall and the old church building will be cleaned up by an Eagle Scout candidate and a new fence will be built to provide storage and protection for our Boy Scout Troop 797 trailers and camping equipment. THANK YOU to EVERYONE who has supported this major and much needed project to both protect the integrity of our building and to improve the condition of the church property.

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## Volunteers Needed to Help Take Decorations Down Saturday - January 7th

Pastor Terry needs some helping hands to take down the Advent/Christmas decorations in the Sanctuary and Narthex on Saturday, January 7th at 9:00 a.m. Please come by if you would like to help out.

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## Volunteers for Youth Group Lunches



Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to bring lunch for the Youth Group after church on Sundays for their Youth Group Meetings, for 8-10 kids. January 8, 15, 22 and 29 are still open. Please call Denise Short-Nieves at 813-618-1268 if you have any questions.



## HELP NEEDED....

We need someone who has both the “know how” and the time to keep our church’s website updated EVERY month. Please let Pastor Terry know if you “fit the bill” and would be willing to take on this important ministry. Thank you! Pastor Terry



## Choir Practice Has Started Back

Join us for our weekly Choir practices on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room with our new Choir Director, Sidney Fortner.

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## Altar Guild



Volunteers are needed for Altar Guild for March through December. We usually work in teams of two and it usually takes about an hour each week. This includes dusting Chancel area, replacing offering envelopes and pencils, checking hymnals and Bibles in the racks, changing paraments when needed, water plants, clean water fountains, etc. There is a complete list in the Sacristy. If you can spare an hour a week for this, please contact the Church Office at 813-689-3513 or at [deborahgendreau@fumcseffner.org](mailto:deborahgendreau@fumcseffner.org).

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## Raise Money For First UMC of Seffner When You Use *H&R Block* To Do Your Taxes

H&R Block will donate \$20 for every new client we refer. Pam Hill, who works for H&R Block preparing tax returns, signs our church up for the Referral program every year, which has brought in \$3,070.00 for our church over the past seven years.

Just pick up a referral form in the Narthex for yourself, a friend, relative or co-worker and take it to any participating H&R Block office through April 15. If you, or someone you refer, qualify as a new client, FUMC will receive \$20 (via one check at the end of the tax season).

- You qualify as a new client if you did not file with H&R Block last year.
  - You can email a Referral form to friends and relatives in or out of state.
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## Altar Flowers



Please consider providing altar flowers in honor or memory of your friends and loved ones. These flowers not only grace our worship center with their beauty but honor loved ones as the church community gathers for worship each Sunday. The cost is only \$25.00. Please note your payment is for altar flowers. Sign up on the flower chart on the door outside the sanctuary.



## Prayer Requests

Carl Brill: Continued healing prayers for health issues.

Betty Herbert: Continued healing prayers for Gary Wilson, Betty's son-in-law, for pancreatitis and health issues.

Bobbie Hawkins: Continued healing prayers for friend, Thomas Gentry, for heart problems and for recovering his health and strength.

Jim & Dot Blaney: Continued healing prayers for their brother-in-law, John Kolibab, for recovery from liver cancer and for chemo treatments. Continued healing prayers for Jim recovering after having a pacemaker put in.

Lynne Whitney: Continued healing prayers for Lynne's cousin, Alison McNutt, for multiple fractures and a broken pelvis from a boating accident and for therapy.

Debbie Cash: Healing prayers for health issues.

Dawn Allen: Healing prayers for continuing health issues.

Renee Lebron: Healing prayers for friend's mom, Gina Homa, recovering from a heart attack and for high diabetes.

Inge Davis: Healing prayers for a bump on her head and a sprained left foot from a fall.

Nancy Gonzalez: Healing prayers for Nancy's son's in-laws, Wallace and Mildred, for Wallace's return of prostate cancer and for chemo treatments, and for Mildred's health, she is blind and depends on Wallace.

Edna Barker: Continued healing prayers for recovery from surgery for a fractured hip and for therapy. Edna is at Hawthorne Village Rehab, Room 613.

Carmen Smith: Healing prayers for Carmen in the hospital for pneumonia and for upcoming tests to find out if her leukemia has come back. She is at Lakeland Memorial Regional Medical Center, Room 6654.

Peggy Moore: Healing prayers for Peggy in the hospital for dehydration from being sick from a virus. She is at Baptist Hospital in Plant City, Room 271E.

Wayne Allen: Healing prayers for Wayne for recovery from a heart attack and a heart cath procedure. He is at Brandon Hospital.



## 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.

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



# JANUARY 2017

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

<b>1</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class <b>10:30 a Worship</b> Epiphany Sunday 12 p Youth Group Meeting <b>Happy New Year!</b>	<b>2</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Legend Dairy 4H Group Mtg.	<b>4</b> 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice Starts Back	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9 a Take Down Advent/Christmas Decorations
<b>8</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 12 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>9</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Irene Circle Meeting	<b>10</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting	<b>11</b> 7 p Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 6:30 p Nursery Task Force Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 12 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>16</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics <b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>17</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Foster Angels Meeting	<b>18</b> 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 12 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>23</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>24</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music	<b>25</b> 7 p Choir Practice	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 12 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>30</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>31</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music				

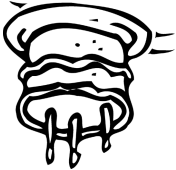
January 16	Dee Scionti	January 1	Peggy Moore
January 19	Gladys Ray	January 4	Pat Eastham
January 25	Daniel Williams	January 5	Edna Barker
January 25	Ruth Heffner	January 9	Madison Heffner
January 26	Meagan Heffner	January 15	Dot Blaney
January 30	Sue Bunch	January 15	Jenna Brink

January 5	Wally & Theresa Sparks
January 19	Robert & Mary Davis

Anniversaries



Birthday's



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

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January 2017

First United Methodist Church of Seffner

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CURRENT RESIDENT OR