

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

December 25 - January 9: Pastor Terry Away: Pastor Rick Cornwell and Pastor Brian Brink will be on call for emergency pastoral care.

January 1: Happy New Year: The Church Office will be closed Monday for the holiday.

January 1: New Year's Day Prayer Vigil: Monday. The Sanctuary will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a Prayer Vigil for those who want to come pray for those in need of healing and help.

January 2: Legend Dairy 4H Group Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

January 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Country Western Music Group: 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall and Good News Room.

January 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

January 7, 14, 21 & 28: Youth Group Meetings: Sundays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the FH and GNR.

January 8: Irene Circle Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Meets the 2nd Monday every month in the GNR.

January 10 & 24: Family Support Group: 6:00 p.m. Every other Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.

January 13: 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 15: Trustees Committee Meeting: Monday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

January 15: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance: Monday. The Church office will be closed for the holiday.

January 16: Church Directory Pictures: Tuesday, 1:00 - 7:40 p.m. in the Old Sanctuary. See Dot Blaney in the Narthex after Sunday service to sign up for your appointment.

January 17: Wednesday Night Dinner: 6:00 p.m. Join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome. Advance Sign Up - \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children under 12.

January 20: Breakfast Club: Saturday, 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

January 23: Finance Meeting: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Church Office.

January 25: Church Council Meeting: Thursday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

January 27: Church Rummage Sale: Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Dear Friends in Christ,

.....HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

As I sit at my computer getting ready to pen something for the January edition of "The Encourager" I am reminded that in a few short days not only will I be among millions of people all around the world who will be celebrating the beginning of another new year, but I will also be celebrating the beginning of my third year as pastor of Seffner First United Methodist Church. What began as an invitation to be an interim pastor at Seffner First for six months has become being appointed as pastor still serving two years later.

Needless to say we have experienced much together during this time. We have experienced joys and sorrows, laughter and tears, successes and failures, and challenges and changes. Through it all the one constant has been God's presence, grace, and provision. I am so grateful that God has called me here and continues to walk with me as I endeavor to be faithful to that call to pastor his church here. I am also very grateful for the faithfulness and support of God's people who claim Seffner First as their church home. That being said, I cannot help but ask: has the past year been everything that we hoped it would be? Truth be told, most likely not. There is always room for improvement on so many levels, to be better and to do better as the church and people of God we are called to be.

As we move into a new year we are being given the opportunity to write a new chapter in our life together here at Seffner First Church. New Year's day is that day of transition from the past and all that we wish we could do over and or change and a day to look ahead with a clean slate. It is important that we start afresh and welcome the new year that brings with it, its own set of hopes and dreams, aspirations and desires, and challenges and opportunities for ministry. It is also so important that we remember that as we make this transition from the past to the future with our God who makes all things new.

"He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away. And the one seated on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' Then He said, 'Write this down, for these words are faithful and true.'"

--Revelation 21:4-5

'Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come!' --2 Corinthians 5:17

With God's guidance, strength and by his grace, may we be open to following him wherever he calls us in the new year, and may we also claim each new day in the coming new year to weave his call with our hopes and dreams for our life together as his church in this place. May God give us the wisdom and strength to overcome our past years failures and disappointments and claim the opportunities before us to shine.

Together let us make the most of this new year to achieve "success" in God's name in all our endeavors for him and his church. Together let us traverse any and all challenges and look beyond the trivialities of life and rise above any petty issues that may arise. Together may we be open to see the joys and blessings that surround us....all of which are gifts from our God who makes all things new! Together may we be the church God is calling us to be and that is his Light to the community and the world!

I wish each and every one of you a very Happy and Blessed New Year!

In Christ, who has called us to walk in faithfulness together.

Pastor Terry

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR....

Grant me the strength from day to day
To bear what burdens come my way.
Grant me throughout this bright New Year
More to endure and less to fear.
Help me to live that I may be
From spite and petty malice free.
Let me not bitterly complain
When cherished hopes of mine prove vain,
Or spoil with deeds of hate and rage
Some fair tomorrow's spotless page.
Lord, as the days shall come and go
In courage let me stronger grow.

Lord, as the New Year dawns today
Help me to put my faults away.
Let me be big in little things;
Grant me the joy which friendship brings.
Keep me from selfishness and spite;
Let me be wise in what is right.
A happy New Year! Grant that I
May bring no tear to any eye.
When this New Year in time shall end
Let it be said I've played the friend,
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year.
---Edgar A Guest

PASTOR TERRY AWAY

Pastor Terry's vacation continues through January 9th. Preaching January 7th will be Pastor Lloyd McClelland. Communion will be celebrated. Pastor Rick Cornwell will be on call for pastoral emergencies December 31st through January 2nd at 813-892-3041. Pastor Brian Brink will be on call from January 3rd through 9th at 813-765-7108. Or call the church office at 813-689-3513.

THANK YOU....

THANK YOU....

....to everyone who helped in any way to decorate our church for the Advent/Christmas holiday season.

THANK YOU....

....to our staff: Deborah Gendreau, Sid Fortner, and Allen Duncan for their faithfulness to our church and its ministries. Please pray for them as they move into another new year of service.

THANK YOU....

....to everyone who placed a poinsettia in our sanctuary in honor or memory of loved ones.



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!

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



Florida United Methodists Children’s Home

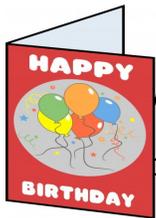
Thank you to everyone who brought in presents for the children at the Florida UM Children’s Home. You helped to make their Christmas brighter!

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone for all the donations for the Colson Elementary School Positive Behavior Support Holiday Store. My little man came home with some cool stuff!

Thank you, Lauran

Card Shower



We are having a Card Shower to wish Edna Barker happy birthday and show her we are thinking of her on her January 5th birthday. If you would like to send Edna birthday wishes please mail her card to: 3600 Oak Manor Ln. Bldg. #23 Coastal Oaks #1 Largo, FL 33774. There are some birthday cards in the Narthex for members who are unable to make a trip to pick one up.

New Year’s Day Prayer Vigil



We are having a prayer vigil to begin 2018 with prayers for those in need of healing and help. The church will be open on News Year’s Day from 10am to 1pm. We hope that everyone will stop in a moment or two to say a prayer for those in need to have healing and grace in 2018. There will be a list of names of those on the prayer list and cards so that those prayed for will know their church loves and cares. There will be a special focus on our precious baby Chase and his “Team”. Please come and send your prayer to our Lord Jesus Christ and intercede on the behalf of those who are in need. If you would like to add a name please see Joan.

Taking Down Our Christmas Decorations

We will take down the decorations Saturday, January 13th, at 9AM. Please plan now to come and help put the decorations away for another year...many hands make light work!

New Church Picture Directory - 2nd Date

Church Photo Directory



The 2nd and last date for pictures for our new Church Picture Directory will be on **Tuesday, January 16th**, appointment times from 1:00 - 7:40 p.m. Please mark your calendar so your picture will be included and we will hopefully have 100% participation....our directory will not be complete without you. Please see Dot Blaney in the Narthex after the church service **starting December 10th** to sign up for your appointment. Every person who participates by getting their picture taken will receive a free Directory and a free 8x10 picture. Lifetouch has a special offer that will give back 5% of photography and frame sales to our church.

Picture Appointment Hostesses Needed

We need Picture Appointment Hostess volunteers to sign people in as they arrive for their Directory picture appointments at our 2nd photography date on Tuesday, January 16th, for shifts between 6:00 and 7:40 p.m. Please see Luran Breeden if you would like to help.

Wednesday Night Dinner

January 17, 2018 @ 6pm

Please join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner on January 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Dine in or Take Out

Menu: Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert

Advance Sign Up: \$6.00 - Adult ~ \$3.00 - Children under 12

At Door: \$7.00 - Adult ~ \$4.00 - Children under 12

*Please sign up in the Narthex to reserve your seat.



Breakfast Club

Saturday - January 20

Please join us Saturday, January 20th at 8:30 a.m. for fellowship and a delicious breakfast.

*Please sign up in the Narthex to let us know how many will be coming to help us plan for food purchasing.



Church Rummage Sale Saturday, January 27th



There will be a Church Rummage Sale Saturday, January 27th, from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds will go to the resurfacing project for the road by the Fellowship Hall. Please bring clean, saleable items to the Fellowship Hall Friday, January 26th in the afternoon. Anyone who can help either Friday or Saturday is welcome.

Contact Nancy Gonzalez at 813-684-8702 if you need to bring items by earlier or if you would like to help.



Cubans Coming Your Way On Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th



Make your meal plans on February 4th, Super Bowl Sunday, to include Seffner Methodists world famous Cuban sandwiches. A sign up sheet is available in the Narthex. The price is \$6.00 per sandwich. Please commit to pay if you sign up and do not pick up. We work on very close margins and buy according to the signups.



Our Second Annual All Church Birthday Party!!!

Watch for details for our second annual ALL CHURCH BIRTHDAY PARTY being planned for February!

Altar Guild



Volunteers are needed for Altar Guild for **January through December 2018**. 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 deborahgndreau@fumcseffner.org.

New Altar Flower Calendar For 2018



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 calendar on the door outside the sanctuary.

Stewardship Minute

“Find out how much God has given you and from it take what you need; the remainder is needed by others.” --Augustine

Our Giving for November as of 11/24: \$11,244.00

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.



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 \$3,490.00 for our church over the past eight 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.



Prayer Requests

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

Jim & Dot Blaney: Healing prayers for niece, Dagmar Blaney, for health issues. Prayers for John Kolibab, brother-in-law, for a cure from liver and pancreas cancer.

Susan White: Continued prayers for relief from pain and that procedures work so surgery isn't necessary.

Bobbie Hawkins: Continued healing prayers for my mother, Jean Hawkins, for recovery from partial hip replacement.

Les & Elaine Hanna: Continued healing prayers for Les for health issues, in Hawthorne Rehab of Brandon.

Richard & Dee Scionti: Continued healing prayers for their grandson, Chase Colwell, recovering from recent surgery, and prayers for his parents, Shane and Amy.

Paula Eaton: Continued prayers for health issues for my mother, Bonnie McBurnett.

Inge Davis: Prayers for healing and strength as she goes through rehab for a cracked hip at Brandon Health and Rehab.

Pam Hill: Healing prayers for son, Chip Hill, for severe spinal stenosis and multiple ruptured discs. Healing prayers for Phil, fighting cancer in his bones. Healing prayers for Camille Ramos, taking chemo for cancer, and has become very ill.

Daniel Allen: Healing prayers for close friend, Jon Black, for pancreatic cancer that has moved to his liver, and for chemo treatments to fight it.

Eric & Connie Nelson: Healing prayers for 4 year old granddaughter, Brielle, for recovery from a tonsillectomy. Continued healing prayers for Britney Edmondson for radiation to help heal her from cancer, and for cousin, Tom Hodge, from lymphoma.

Prayer Works



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.

MEALS ON WHEELS HELP NEEDED



Come one, come all! Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers on Monday mornings, if you can spare an hour or two between 7:00 and 11:00 a.m. to help with the food prep and/or cleanup.

Meals on Wheels is also looking for volunteer drivers and people to ride along with them to deliver the Monday meals from 10:30 to 12:00. Substitute drivers are needed as well. Please call the church office at 689-3513 or see Connie Nelson if you would like to help.

Weekly Events:	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 2018



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

<p>Pastor Terry Will Be Away December 25 - January 9</p>	<p>1 10 a Prayer Group 10 a - 1 p New Year's Day Prayer Vigil 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics HAPPY NEW YEAR! Office Closed</p>	<p>2 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Legend Dairy 4H Meeting</p>	<p>3 7 p Choir Practice</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 Epiphany Sunday 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting</p>	<p>8 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Irene Circle Meeting</p>	<p>9 6:30 p Country Western Music</p>	<p>10 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9 a Take Down Decorations 4 p Eagle Scout Court of Honor</p>
<p>14 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship *Human Relations Day Offering 3 p Youth Group Meeting</p>	<p>15 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Trustees Meeting Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed</p>	<p>16 1 - 7:40 p Church Directory Pictures 6:30 p Country Western Music</p>	<p>17 6 p Wednesday Night Dinner 7 p Choir Practice</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 8:30 a Breakfast Club</p>
<p>21 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting</p>	<p>22 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics</p>	<p>23 6:30 p Country Western Music 6:30 p Finance Meeting</p>	<p>24 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice</p>	<p>25 7 p Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 8 a - 3 p Church Rummage Sale</p>
<p>28 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting</p>	<p>29 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics</p>	<p>30 6:30 p Country Western Music</p>	<p>31 7 p Choir Practice</p>			

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Time sensitive material—Please deliver promptly.

Email: staff@funmcseffner.org

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Phone: 813-689-3513

Seffner, Florida 33583

PO Box 607

1310 South Kingsway Rd.

First United Methodist Church of Seffner

January 2018

The Encourager

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



Anniversaries

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

February 8 Larry & Susan White



Birthday's

January 1 Peggy Moore	January 17 Dee Scionti
January 4 Pat Eastham	January 19 Gladys Ray
January 5 Edna Barker	January 25 Daniel Williams
January 9 Madison Heffner	January 25 Ruth Heffner
January 11 Cheri Champion	January 26 Meagan Heffner
January 15 Dot Blaney	January 27 Pam Hoyos
January 15 Jenna Brink	January 30 Sue Bunch

February 1 Kayla Allen	February 22 Ken Conklin
February 4 Bobbie Hawkins	February 23 Felix Lebron
February 8 Ed Hoyos	February 23 Micah Allen
February 11 Les Hanna	February 25 Pete Gilley
February 18 Bethany Allen	February 27 Ardie Paetz