

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

November 1, 15, 22, & 29: Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. No Choir Practice on November 8th.

November 1, 15 & 29: Family Support Group: 6:00 p.m. Every other Wednesday in the FH or GNR.

November 5: Daylight Saving Time Ends: "Fall Back". Set your clocks/watches back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night (November 4).

November 5: All Saints' Sunday: 10:30 a.m. during the Worship Service.

November 5 & 19: Youth Group Meeting: Sundays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the FH & GNR.

November 6, 13, 20 & 27: Bible Study on The Holy Spirit: Mondays, 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

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

November 7, 14, 21 & 28: Country Western Music Group: 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the FH.

November 8: First Seffner Annual Church Conference: Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

November 11: Thanksgiving Dinner: Saturday, 6:00 p.m. The Youth Group will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner to our Church Family and Friends. Don't forget to fill out your bulletin insert to R.S.V.P.

November 12: Veterans Day Observed: Sunday: Veterans Day will be celebrated in Church on November 12th.

November 13: Irene Circle Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Meets the 2nd Monday every month in the GNR.

November 14: Trustees Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

November 17: Church Directory Pictures: Friday in the Old Sanctuary. See Dot Blaney in the Narthex after Sunday service to sign up for your appointment.

November 18: Breakfast Club: Saturday, 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

November 21: Foster Angels Meeting: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Church Office.

November 21: Finance Meeting: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Good News Room.

November 23 - 24: Happy Thanksgiving: The Church Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 23rd and 24th for the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope you have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

November 28: Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.



Dear Friends in Christ,

“Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” --Ephesians 5:19-20

Think of it: Always giving thanks for everything—no matter the circumstances!

It's Monday, October 2nd, and I'm already writing my article for the November “Encourager”. I'm writing earlier than usual to help Deborah with the flow of work that needs to be done before she takes some time off the end of the month for her daughter's wedding. Also driving my early writing of next month's article are two other things: our preparation for this year's annual Church Conference on November 8th and my trip to PA to visit with my son and daughter-in-law for a week in mid-October.

As I sit here trying to write what should be a “normal” Thanksgiving message for this issue, the television playing in the background is broadcasting the horrific news of the shooting in Las Vegas where early reports are of 50+ people killed and 500+ injured, some critical, so many innocent lives forever changed. And, my heart is breaking! Even with the images and sounds being broadcast I'm having a really hard time wrapping my head around this news event. It's just one more layer of horrifying events recently experienced where literally hundreds, even thousands, of lives have been shaken to the core and changed forever: Charlottesville...the church shooting in Tennessee, the earthquake in Mexico City, and three hurricanes....Harvey in Texas....Irma in Florida, the Virgin Islands, and other Caribbean islands including Puerto Rico....Maria, again hitting the Caribbean and literally devastating the island of Puerto Rico. My heart is breaking! Thanksgiving....what do I say?

I sit in the comfort of my living room hearing about these events, and so many others like them every day, and truth be told I am a mere observer far removed from the events themselves. In the nearly two years that I have been pastor of Seffner First United Methodist Church I have sat with people of our church family who have lost their job, lost their health, lost a loved one, experienced a broken relationship, dealt with other life-altering circumstances, and all the while I am still a mere observer removed from the events themselves. This I've done for thirty years as a pastor. Then...there's my own life and the life-changing circumstances that I've walked through. And, now I have to write about Thanksgiving. Truth be told, there's a part of me that feels that anything that I might write will come across as empty words. I'm enough of a realist to know that for most people who walk through these kinds of times in their lives, that words don't mean a whole lot to them. Yet, words are what I have, and I'm speaking of God's Word.

It's my experience and belief that when we are faced with life-altering circumstances, the one place we need to go is to God and his Word. We may not be able to go there right away, but it's always my hope and prayer for both myself and for others that eventually we can move to that place where we can find comfort and strength and hope in God's Word, which I believe assures me of his presence, always and no matter what. Having said all of this, it's in this context and as we move towards another celebration of Thanksgiving that I share the following from God's Word: “Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” --Ephesians 5:19-20

The circumstances of life can be tremendously difficult to say the least. But even so and truth be told, we all have much for which to be thankful. There's a story from God's Word that speaks of a man who certainly had every right to be bitter about the circumstances of his life---but wasn't.

“The next footsteps in the corridor, he knew, might be those of the guards taking him away to his execution. His only bed was the hard, cold stone floor of the dark, cramped prison cell. Not an hour passed when he was free from the constant irritation of the chains and the pain of the iron manacles cutting into his wrists and legs.

“Separated from friends, unjustly accused, brutally treated---if ever a person had a right to complain, it was this man, languishing almost forgotten in a harsh Roman prison. But instead of complaints, his lips rang with words of praise and thanksgiving!

“The man was the Apostle Paul---a man who had learned the meaning of true thanksgiving, even in the midst of great adversity. Earlier, when he had been imprisoned in Rome, Paul wrote these amazing words inspired by God, 'Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!'”

Just think about that: Always giving thanks for everything---no matter the circumstances! Hard to do today? Absolutely---no doubt about that! Possible? Absolutely---by the grace, the strength, the presence of our loving God! A process, a journey---absolutely, and it's one that is longer for some than for others. But it's a journey taken with us by God himself. For the Apostle Paul it was a journey, and by the grace of God Paul made it to the place where even in the midst of persecution (just one of the many and varied tragic circumstances he faced along the way) he could give thanks to God for EVERYTHING!

For Paul thanksgiving was not a once-a-year celebration. Instead, thanksgiving was a daily reality that literally changed his life and enabled him to become a joyful person in every situation. Of course it was an inner joy that was from God and God alone and a gift that sustained Paul through the worst of times. In the worst times of our lives God will do the same for us as we allow ourselves to be open to receive this amazing gift through our faith in Him through his Son Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving, the giving of thanks, to God for all his blessings should be one of the most distinctive marks of a believer in Jesus Christ. We must never allow the circumstances of life, no matter how horrific, move us to a place and spirit of ingratitude that only serve to harden our heart and chill our relationship with God and with each other. Nothing can turn us into a bitter, selfish, dissatisfied person more quickly than an ungrateful heart, and nothing will do more to help restore the joy of our salvation and even a spirit of contentment than a true spirit of thankfulness to God at all times and in every thing we walk through as we make this journey. A spirit of thankfulness helps us to see the light of love in the midst of the darkest darkness and gives us hope for each new tomorrow we enjoy.

As hard as I know it will be for many people to be thankful when the annual Thanksgiving holiday rolls around later this month, I pray that the light and love of God will touch each and everyone of us in a new way this year and in a way that will lead us closer to God and each other.

Finally, when our life is a mess and what if the circumstances of our life feel like anything but what we can give thanks for? Circumstances can cloud our thinking and at times even may deceive us, but God's Word is clear: “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). God is always at work for our good and his glory. Biblical thanksgiving does not focus on our circumstances, but always focuses on God's character. Circumstances change; God does not! God is our rock, our refuge, our light...always...no matter what. And, for that we can be forever thankful for all God has done, is doing, and promises to do in Jesus Christ!

May the peace of God in Christ bless you this Thanksgiving, and always!

Pastor Terry

THANK YOU.....

..... to EVERYONE who helped clean the church building(s) after the recent extermination project as well as to EVERYONE who helped wash all the dishes, pots and pans, and utensils in the kitchen! Many hands make light work, as they say!

..... for the amazing birthday surprise on Sunday, October 1st, of an absolutely delicious chocolate cake and new supply of Oreo cookies!

.....for the amazing and very generous love offering given to me last month prior to my trip to Erie. Your love and support in every way are so appreciated.

Pastor Terry

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee On Relief)

Thank you to EVERYONE who made a donation to UMCOR for their work of recovery and relief to the victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria. In addition to our personal gifts our Post Office Ministry added an additional \$3000 which brought our total donation to \$4,655. NOTE: 100% of this money given is for hurricane relief.

Let us not forget to continue to pray for ALL the hurricane victims as they work at rebuilding their lives which have been profoundly affected and changed in many cases forever!

Thank You

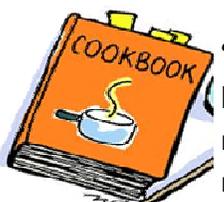


Thank you to Everyone who donated or volunteered for Trunk or Treat!! We had an amazing turnout and made a lot of trick or treaters happy. Thanks to everyone, we couldn't do it without you!

Irene Circle News



The Irene Circle is sponsoring a RADA Cutlery sale. There are many items available for you to purchase for yourself or as a gift. Orders will be back in time for Christmas. Check out the catalogue in the Narthex to place your order. We will receive 40% on all sales to use for our mission projects throughout the year. Another option to support this project is that you can purchase items for the church's kitchen: paring knife (\$6.00), server spoon (\$5.00), or cook's spoon (\$9.50). Deadline to order is November 12.



We are also resurrecting the cookbooks from YEARS ago. It is dedicated to the "saints that have gone before us" since many of the recipes are from their kitchens. Fifty copies were found in storage and rather than throw them away, you now have the opportunity to get a copy for only \$5.00. They are available in the narthex on Sundays and the church office during the week.

Florida United Methodists Children's Home



We will be collecting items for the children at the Florida UM Children's Home for Christmas through December 10th. Please place your donations in the box in the Narthex. Please see Nancy Facenda for questions.



Christmas Gift Ideas:

Jewelry	Make-up	Games	Boxer Shorts
Toys	Socks	Pajamas	Twin Size Sheets
Twin Size Bed Comforters			

Stocking with small items: Lip balm, Sunblock, Deodorant, Hair Brushes, Combs, Shampoo & Conditioner, Mousse, Gel, Non-Aerosol Spray, Bath Soap, Moisturizers & Lotions, Toothbrushes & Fluoride Toothpaste, Disposable Razors



Daylight Saving Time Ends - November 5th

"Fall Back", Set your clocks/watches back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night (November 4th).



All Saints' Sunday November 5th, 2017

The first Sunday of this month we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday during our worship celebration. We will remember and honor all those church members who have passed through death to life eternal since November 2016.

CHURCH CONFERENCE Wednesday, November 8th - 6:30PM

ALL CHURCH MEMBERS are invited to attend this year's annual Church Conference which will be held in the Sanctuary on Wednesday, November 8th, beginning at 6:30PM. This will be our first conference with our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Candace Lewis, who will preside. She will be accompanied by the district's Administrative Assistant, Maggie Corrigan. This will also be our first conference as a member of the "newly" organized Gulf Central District which became effective July 1st of this year.

The usual business will be attended to such as setting the pastor's salary for 2018 and approving the membership of church committees and ministry teams. ALL CHURCH MEMBERS have both a voice and vote on all matters that come before the conference for action. There will be some brief reporting on how First Seffner Church is growing in our "TRUST" of God as we seek to be the church that God is calling us to be.

I hope that you will mark your calendar and plan to attend this year's conference and meet our new superintendent.

Pastor Terry

No Choir Practice

There will be no Choir Practice Wednesday, November 8th due to the Church Conference.



The youth group will be serving Thanksgiving dinner on November 11 at 6:00pm to our Church Family and Friends. Please let us know how many will be attending so we ensure there will be plenty of food. Just fill out your bulletin insert with your name and number of adults and number of children attending and drop it in the offering plate by October 29. Please see Jerrie or call her at 321-749-9348 to R.S.V.P. if you missed turning in your bulletin insert.



November 11, 2017

Veterans Day, which originated as Armistice Day on November 11, 1919, the first anniversary of the end of World War I, will be observed at Seffner Church on **Sunday, November 12th** during our worship celebration. Veterans Day pays special tribute to all American veterans--living or dead--but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served our country honorably both during war and/or peacetime. Did you know??? There are approximately 23.2 million military veterans in the United States! Thanks to all who have served...and...thanks to all who are active duty and/or reserves today for your service!

Please bring a picture of yourself or family members, past or current military members to the Church Office by **Wednesday, November 8th** to include on our display table.

"How important it is for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and she-roes!" --Maya Angelou

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave."--Elmer Davis

It takes courage for a soldier to risk life and limb for his or her country while protecting the many freedoms that we too often take for granted. The least we civilians can do is to honor these heroes, the men and women of our Armed Forces who have served and are currently serving our country. This I believe is the basis of our annual Veterans Day remembrance and celebration—to venerate these great men and women with words of appreciation. The very foundation of our society stands on the selfless service of these men and women and even in too many cases their martyrdom.

"In valor there is hope." --Publius Cornelius Tacitus

New Church Picture Directory

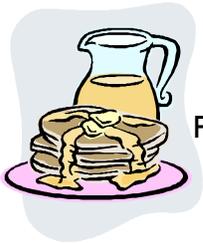
Church Photo Directory



The first day for pictures for our new Church Picture Directory will be on **Friday, November 17th**, appointment times from 2:00 - 8:30 p.m. Please mark your calendar so you can participate...our directory will not be complete without you. Please see Dot Blaney in the Narthex after the church service to sign up for your appointment. Pictures ordered on this date will be available for Christmas. A makeup picture day will be on Tuesday, January 16th. The new Directory will be available after the makeup date. Every person who participates by getting their picture taken will receive a free Directory. Lifetouch has a special offer that will give back 5% of photography and frame sales to our church.

Breakfast Club

Saturday - November 18th



Please join us Saturday, November 18th 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.

Don't Forget To Order Your Christmas Poinsettias



Please fill out the Poinsettia order form bulletin insert to order your Christmas poinsettias for \$5.00 each beginning November 12th. A beautiful way to remember loved ones and add a festive touch to our sanctuary. Please note how many, the names of your loved ones and circle in honor or memory of.

Guardian Ad Litem Gift Tree



The Guardian ad Litem gift tree for children in foster care will be in the Narthex beginning November 26th. If you would like to help make Christmas brighter for one of these children, please take an angel card from the tree. If the angel tags for our kids are all taken, anyone who wishes may bring a gift for another child in foster care. All gifts may be placed under the tree on Sunday mornings in a gift bag, or given to Dot or Ken Conklin, by Sunday, December 10th, or please call the Conklins' at 689-9266 to arrange for your gift to be picked up. Thank you for caring for our kids!

Thank You From the Florida Guardian Ad Litem Program

Thank you for the church's generous donations of children's books and toys. We are lucky to have your support for our children!

Thank You, Tabitha Lambert - Director of GAL Program

Advent Begins Sunday, December 3rd!



Watch the bulletin for opportunities to be a part of decorating the church for the Advent/Christmas season as well as for opportunities to share the joy of Christmas with others through giving to yet to be expressed needs.



Altar Guild Volunteers Needed



Altar Guild is a very important part of keeping God's church presentable to Him and who worship. We still need 2 volunteers for December and volunteers are needed for January through December 2018. 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

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 October as of 10/22: \$9,570.75

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.

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.

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.

Job Opportunities



Please check the table in the Narthex for job opportunities offered by the District Office.

34th Annual United Methodist Women's Retreats February 16-18, 2018 and March 8-10, 2018

Our theme for 2018: "Restored and Free"

The Women's Retreats are designed to provide women a time to intentionally come away from the responsibilities of their home, children, families, and jobs; to set their feet on holy ground; and to meet Jesus Christ face to face. Come and join us at one of our two weekends held annually at the Life Enrichment Center on the shores of beautiful Lake Griffin in Fruitland Park, Florida. Every weekend offers a time for Bible study, enrichment and craft sessions, music, fun, fellowship and food! Spend the weekend in a way that is meaningful to you – bring a friend, bring a group of friends or come and make new friends.

Registration is online only at www.flumc.org/floridaconferencewomensretreats and will begin Tuesday, November 1, 2017 at 6:00 am. Please contact Lori Buonasera at 352-360-9389 or at lori@lecretreats.org for questions.



PRAYERS
of the
CHURCH

Prayer Requests

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

Inge Davis: Healing prayers for health issues.

Allen Duncan: Continued healing prayers for our custodian, for health issues. Prayers for finding a new second job.

Susan White: Continued healing prayers for leg pain.

Eric & Connie Nelson: Continued healing prayers for Britney Edmondson for radiation and chemo to help heal her from cancer that is spreading into her bones. Healing prayers for cousin, Tom Hodge, from lymphoma.

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.

Paula Eaton: Healing prayers for Paula's mother, Bonnie McBurnett, for recovery from surgery in rehab.

Les Hanna: Continued healing prayers for Les for recovery from a bad reaction to a dye, at Hawthorne Village Rehab.

Alan Bunch: Continued healing prayers for recovery from gallbladder surgery.

Deborah Gendreau: Healing prayers for stepmother, Cyndi Wall, for health issues.

Carol Dudinetz: Continued healing prayers for recovery from surgery.



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.

NOVEMBER 2017

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	

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

5 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship - All Saints' Sunday 3p Youth Group Meeting	6 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Bible Study on The Holy Spirit	7 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Legend Dairy 4H Meeting	1 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	2	3	4 <i>Daylight Savings Time</i> <i>Ends On 11/5</i> <i>Set Your Clocks Back One Hour</i> <i>On November 4th</i> 
12 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship - Veterans Day Observed	13 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Irene Circle Meeting 7 p Bible Study on The Holy Spirit	14 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting	15 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	16	17 2 - 830 pm Directory Picture Appointments	18 8:30 a Breakfast Club 
19 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 3p Youth Group Meeting	20 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Bible Study on The Holy Spirit	21 6:30 p Country Western Music 6:30 p Foster Angels Meeting 6:30 p Finance Meeting	22 7 p Choir Practice	23 HAPPY THANKSGIVING  Office Closed	24	25
26 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship *UM Student Day Offering	27 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Bible Study on The Holy Spirit	28 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Church Council Meeting	29 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	30		

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Time sensitive material—Please deliver promptly.

Email: staff@funmcseffner.org

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Phone: 813-689-3513

Seffner, Florida 33583

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1310 South Kingsway Rd.

First United Methodist Church of Seffner

The Encourager
November 2017

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



Anniversaries

November 7 Harry & Gail Cumber

December 1 Mike & Carolann Mullins

December 6 Paul & Sue Palmer

December 21 Eric & Connie Nelson



Birthday's

November 5 Gail Cumber
November 5 Theresa Sparks
November 8 Wally Sparks
November 8 Brandi Fouche
November 11 Inge Davis
November 11 David Trayal
November 15 Janice Rogers

November 18 Betty Herbert
November 20 Ryan Heffner
November 20 Matthew Whitney
November 26 Larry Stone
November 26 Renee Lebron
November 26 Nick Mullins

December 5 Dan Rogers
December 9 Michael Whitney
December 11 Mike Mullins
December 12 Carol Sanelli
December 12 Maureen Harter
December 14 Britton White
December 19 Carolann Mullins
December 19 Richard Scionti, Jr.

December 20 Nancy Gonzalez
December 22 Patty Barker
December 24 Jim Blaney
December 25 Timothy White
December 28 Paul Palmer
December 30 Lynne Whitney
December 31 Daniel Allen