

# The Encourager

April 2018

## 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

**April 1: Easter Sunrise Service: Sunday, 7:00 a.m. starting in the Prayer Garden and moving to the Sanctuary. A continental breakfast will be served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following.**

**April 1: Easter Sunday Worship Celebration: Sunday, 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.**

**April 3: Legend Dairy 4H Group Meeting: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Old Sanctuary & GNR.**

**April 3, 10, 17 & 24: Country Western Music Group: 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the FH.**

**April 4, 11 & 25: Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.**

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

**April 8: Easter Musical: Sunday. To be presented by our Worship Choir during the 10:30 a.m. worship celebration, "Lamb of Calvary".**

**April 8, 15, 22, 29: Youth Group Meetings: Sundays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.**

**April 9: Irene Circle Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Meets the 2nd Monday every month in the GNR.**

**April 11: 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.**

**April 14: Breakfast Club: Saturday, 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.**

**April 17: Trustees Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.**

**April 19-25: Pastor Terry Away: Thursday - Wednesday. Pastor Brian Brink will be on call for emergency pastoral care.**

**April 28: Boy Scouts Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser: Saturday, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. \$5.00 per person. Proceeds go to this years summer camp.**

**April 29: Heritage Sunday Celebration: 10:30 a.m. Celebrate with us at Worship Service, followed by a covered dish luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.**

Dear Easter People and Fellow Disciples of the Risen Christ!

**HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY....AND BY THE WAY....  
NO FOOLING....CHRIST IS RISEN!  
HE IS RISEN INDEED!!! HAPPY EASTER!**



From the  
Pastor

This month's Pastor's message is a little different than previous messages. This year I'm "borrowing" a devotion from United Methodist Communications that focuses on one of our hymns written by Charles Wesley, the brother of the founder of the Methodism, John Wesley, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." This very familiar Easter hymn is sung in United Methodist Churches across the denomination as well as by others on Easter morning to begin the day's celebration of the Resurrection and New Life of our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The lyrics of this familiar song of praise wonderfully celebrates how Jesus' resurrection is God's victory over death, and they call us to tell the world.

*Some history:*

It is reported that Charles and John Wesley published this beloved Easter hymn in their first hymnal, "Hymns and Sacred Poems in 1739. There is a section toward the back of that hymnal that includes songs for special days where "Hymn for Christmas-Day," which we now know as "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," is just a few pages away from "Hymn for Easter-Day" that we now sing as "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." Here is a bit of trivia for you: The *alleluias* that we love and are used to singing at the end of each line of the hymn are not a part of the words that Charles Wesley penned. It is said that a later editor added the *alleluias* to make the lyrics fit the tune and to give added opportunities for praise.

*Entering the story:*

Charles Wesley writes about the Resurrection in the present tense, and in so doing, he invites us into the biblical story. As I have sung this song every Easter for more years than I care to remember, I can always and easily picture myself standing among the witnesses of the empty tomb on that first Easter morning and discovering that the stone had been rolled away and the tomb is **EMPTY!**

*"Christ the Lord is ris'n today"  
Sons of men and angels say,  
Raise your joys and triumphs high,  
Sing ye heav'ns, and earth reply.*

As we participate in this amazing moment in time, we become aware of the magnitude of the Resurrection. In this opening verse, Charles Wesley introduces the theme that runs throughout the hymn: the Resurrection is celebrated both on earth and in heaven. (Our hymnal includes an edit to Wesley's second line: "Earth and heaven in chorus say" replaces his original words and emphasizes the Resurrection's impact throughout the world and beyond.") The Reverend Paul Chilcote, United Methodist scholar, writes: "The entire universe sings the triumphant chorus with earth and heaven shouting their praise back and forth in ecstatic joy."

*Love's redeeming work is done,  
Fought the fight, the battle won...  
Lives again our glorious King,  
Where, O death, is now thy sting?*

Rev. Chilcote is also quoted as saying: "Death seems to be a final word in the life of every human being. *Seems to be*, I say, a final word, because it isn't. The final word is life, not death. The final word is resurrection. The final word is eternal life with God who loves us." The Good News of the Resurrection is the affirmation that death does not have the final word for any and all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. In this affirmation is the gift of hope for the promise of Revelation 21:1-5. Charles Wesley calls us to live into eternal life....every day!

*Soar we now, where Christ has led?  
Following our exalted head,  
Made like him, like him we rise,  
Ours the cross—the grave—the skies!*

In a later verse (not published in our hymnal) Wesley reiterates our call to follow Christ more closely each day:

*Ris'n with him, we upward move,  
Still we seek the things above,  
Still pursue, and kiss the Son  
Seated on his Father's throne.*

*Life still to come:*

Wesley wrote eleven verses to this Easter-Day hymn. In the final three of these verses the hymn's focus shifts to the hope of a day of resurrection for us yet to come. Charles Wesley returns to the theme of earth and heaven singing praise on that glorious day.

*Hail the Lord of earth and heav'n!  
Praise to thee by both be giv'n;  
Thee we greet triumphant now;  
Hail the resurrection thou!*

The Risen Christ is the very One who brings new life to ALL of creation. The Risen Christ is the One who will bring it to completion, who will usher in the new heaven and the new earth, upon his Second Coming. And, ALL of this new life in Christ we receive by God's love....his amazing grace. We are the ones who are called to share this amazing love with the world where we live today.

*King of Glory, soul of bliss,  
Everlasting life is this,  
Thee to know, thy pow'r to prove,  
Thus to sing, and thus to love!*

*Living Easter every day:*

Rev. Chilcote asks the question: "We experience so many little deaths, don't we, in our lives?" The answer to his question is a resounding "YES"! Some of these deaths are literal deaths such as the loss of a friend or loved one. We also experience many other deaths and griefs as we journey this thing we call life. Jobs are lost. Hurricanes wash homes away. Churches are closed. Relationships end. The list goes on and on and on. This amazingly familiar Easter hymn, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today," proclaims loud and clear that the Risen Christ has conquered ALL those deaths.

"The central message of our faith," Rev. Chilcote states, "is the Cross and the Resurrection. Its earliest proclamation of a God who is in the business of raising us from the dead. Oh, if that isn't good news, I don't know what good news is."

On this April 1<sup>st</sup> (April Fool's Day) we will once again gather on Easter Sunday 2018 and will sing, not once but twice (the first time at our sunrise service and the second time at our morning worship at 10:30AM), this traditional song of Easter praise and joy "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." When we do we will once again celebrate Jesus' resurrection to new life and God's Good News that life in Christ conquers death once and for all. **THIS IS NO JOKE!**

As the Risen Christ's disciples in the world today, we must raise our joy and triumphs high. In so doing as we GO into the world, we go about the business of inviting others to join us in this NEW way of living...with hope and joy! May this Easter truly be a time of raising your joy and triumphs high!

Blessings now and forevermore!

Pastor Terry

## PASTOR TERRY AWAY

Pastor Terry will be away April 19<sup>th</sup> through April 25<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Brian Brink will be on call for emergency pastoral care, (call 813-765-7108 or the church office at 813-689-3513). Pastor Lloyd McClelland will preach Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## MANY THANKS



.....to EVERYONE who helped with our church's recent community Egg-stravaganza on March 24<sup>th</sup>. The day was gorgeous, the spirit was great, attendance by all ages wonderful, music uplifting, and food from the food trucks delicious! About 125 kids enjoyed many games, a bounce house, free popcorn, and a visit from the Easter Bunny as well as a petting zoo made possible by the Mullins and Legend Dairy 4-H Group, and no one went home empty handed....lots of candy, beads, prizes, and books galore! It took many hands, adults and our youth alike, to make the day so special for everyone attending.

Thank you! --Pastor Terry

## NEW CHURCH WEBSITE

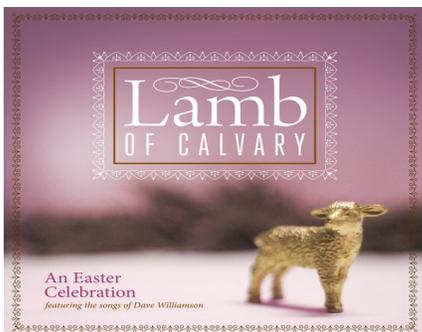


Our newly updated church website is now up and running in a brand new format. The web address for the new site is [www.fumcseffner.com](http://www.fumcseffner.com). I encourage you to take a look and see the many significant changes and updates that are a part of our new website. It has a much more contemporary look (and hopefully appeal to those searching the web for United Methodist Churches in the Seffner area) and is easily navigated. It's FULL of information about Seffner First Church, and I believe it is very invitational. My gratitude goes to Kelley Nelson for the re-design and update and to Chris Carter who is our church's website information "updater" on a day to day basis! Take a "look/see"!

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

...Regarding Oak Street (the "alley") that runs behind our Fellowship Hall between Seffner Avenue and Wense Avenue. Please be advised by our Board of Trustees that this stretch of Oak Street is a non-vacated (active, public right-of-way). As such this street is to be free of parked vehicles and open for flow of traffic. The church was advised in August of 2012 that **NO PARKING** is allowed on the sides of the street. *Please be aware that any parking along the fence on one side of the street and our buildings on the other side of the street could be subject to the issue of citation by the local police department or by code enforcement.*

Many people use this door of the Fellowship Hall for loading and unloading. It is recommended that after any loading and/or unloading is completed that vehicles are then parked in one of our church's three parking lots. We realize that this may be seen as an inconvenience, but we don't want anyone to receive a citation for unlawful parking. (The church will not be responsible for any citations that may be issued.) Thank you for your co-operation. --The Board of Trustees



## Easter Musical

...to be presented by our Worship Choir, Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, during the worship celebration, "Lamb of Calvary". Invite friends and family to join us!

## *Wednesday Night Dinner*

**April 11, 2018 @ 6pm**

Please join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner on April 11 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 - April 14**

**Please join us Saturday, April 14th 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.**

## **Choir Practice**

**There will be no Choir Practice on Wednesday, April 18th.**

## Native American Ministries Sunday.....April 15, 2018

**“A gift opens the way and ushers the giver into the presence of the great.” Proverbs 18:16 (NIV)**

Native American Ministries Sunday is one of the six special offerings that we as United Methodists support throughout the denomination each year. “It takes a movement like Native American Ministries Sunday to bring awareness that we're more than a percentage. We're a people who are still present in this time and in this culture.” (Rev. Roy Hilburn, Native American Seminary Scholarship recipient.) Hilburn calls this special scholarship a blessing, adding that he felt honored and respected by the gift, but most importantly, he felt noticed.

Gifts of Native American Ministries Sunday provide scholarships for United Methodist Native American seminarians, strengthen and develop Native American ministries and communities, both urban and rural, and support Native American outreach at the annual conference level. This ministry gives Native Americans exposure to keep people sensitive to the fact that they are a vital part of our communities and our culture today.

Your contribution on April 15<sup>th</sup> supports aspiring Native American pastors and enriches outreach in their communities. Thank you for your generous gift. Special offering envelopes will be in our church bulletins on Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, or available by calling the church office.



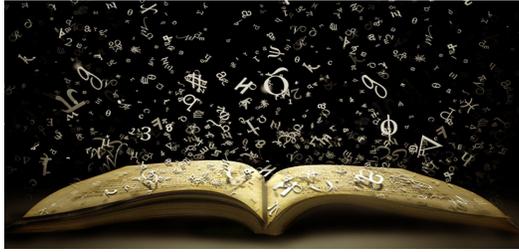
### Administrative Professionals' Day Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>

Don't forget to give a big “THANK YOU” to our church secretary, Deborah, for her faithfulness to the work and ministry of the church that happens through the church office!

### Traditional Annual Boy Scouts Spaghetti Dinner April 28th



The Boy Scouts are having their Traditional Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, April 28th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The spaghetti dinner will be \$5.00 per person. Take outs are available also. The proceeds will go to this years summer camp at the Elite Bert Adams High Adventure Summer Camp in Georgia. Come out and enjoy a delicious dinner and help support the Boy Scouts.



## **Time to Celebrate!**

**April 29, 2018 ~ Heritage Sunday ~ 130 Years**

We will be celebrating our heritage and *“telling the story”*. Invite family, friends and previous members for: worship, special music, covered dish lunch, memory displays, door prizes. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service as we celebrate. Meat and drinks will be provided for the covered dish lunch. Please sign up in the Narthex to let us know how many will be coming and what you would like to bring.

## **Women’s Spring Luncheon**

**Fashion With a Twist**

**Saturday, May 5th at 11:45 A.M.**

Join us as we celebrate with a unique fashion show that will surely make you a trend setter. Our “models” will give you new ideas that will prepare you for any occasion and the remarks will prepare you for life’s assurances.

We will gather at 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy a light lunch, a short program, door prizes and a great time together. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3.00 for children 4-12 years and 3 years and under is free. Invite your family and friends, we would love to meet them! Sign up in the Narthex on Sundays or contact the church office at 689-3513.

## **Colson Donation & Volunteer Opportunities**

Colson Elementary in Seffner is having another **ACHIEVE Store** on May 18th and they are collecting garage sale items!! They are looking for **VOLUNTEERS** to help set up for the sale at Colson the day before on May 17th from 2:45 - 5:00 p.m.

They can also use donations of candy bars/individual bags of chips to give out to students after they take the **FSA Test** (replaced the **FCAT**) if they showed they persevered through and didn’t rush, not based on how they did on the test.

Please drop off donation items on Sundays through May 13th. Call Luran at 813-408-2306 with any questions.

## **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 March: \$9,372.00**

**Our Monthly Need for Ministry: \$13,398.00**

## **A Thank You Card**

**Below is a thank you card from our seasonal friends who enjoyed the special breakfast in March.**

**Thank you all so very much for being welcoming - you've really made me feel a part of your "family"! Blessings to All - Anita**

**Thank you all for such a wonderful breakfast. You all are so generous, kind and welcoming. Will miss you over the summer, but look forward to joining the church family again in the Fall. Love to All - Cheri**

**Your generosity and kindness meant so much to us. Thank to everyone who helped with the breakfast. - Barb**

## **ADULT NURSERY WORKERS NEEDED**

**We need some adults who would be willing to be "on call" for our church nursery team to help out with child care when needed in our church nursery during the worship hour. We need at least two adults at a time in the nursery when we have even one child to care for. Please let Pastor Terry or Renee Lebron or the church office know if you'd be willing to be a part of our team of child care-givers. (A brief training in procedures as well as a security clearance will be provided for all volunteers.) With Easter on the way, we want to make sure that we're ready to handle any childcare needs for parents with toddlers through age 5 if needed. Thank you!**

## **Help Needed to Clean Nursery**

**Pastor Terry needs some help with cleaning the Nursery. Please let Pastor know after church if you can help out. Thank you!**

## Altar Guild Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed for Altar Guild for June 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 at [seffnerfumc@gmail.com](mailto:seffnerfumc@gmail.com).

## Altar Flower Calendar



There are still many Sundays without flowers for worship. The price is still \$25/Sunday. Please consider signing up for a Sunday or two and place flowers on the altar in memory or honor of your loved ones. Thank you.

## 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](http://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.



## Prayer Requests

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

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

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

**Pam Hill:** Continued healing prayers for son, Chip Hill, for severe spinal stenosis and multiple ruptured discs.

**Daniel Allen:** Continued healing prayers for close friend, Jon Black, for chemo treatments to fight pancreatic cancer that has moved to his liver.

**Dan Rogers:** Prayers for healing and strength.

**Jim & Dot Blaney:** Continued healing prayers for John Kolibab, brother-in-law, for a cure from liver and pancreas cancer.

**Bobbie Hawkins:** Healing prayers for dad, Duke Hawkins, for heart problems and memory loss.

**Larry White:** Please keep Larry's sister-in-law's family in your prayers as her sister, Debbie, is facing a losing battle with cancer.

**Ed & Pam Hoyos:** Baby Timothy, born 2 months early, continues to grow, has graduated from the incubator to a bed, and weighs 3 lbs. 8 oz. Pray that his blood sugar stabilizes and for him to be released from the hospital in a few weeks. Pam's cataract surgery is a success and she is recuperating well. Thank you for all the prayers!

**Alan Bunch:** Healing prayers for a series of 6 cortisone steroid injections into his spine that he will be getting over the next month, prayers they relieve the pain in his back. Prayers also for healing from a severe sinus infection.

**Scionti Family:** Continued healing prayers for Chase Colwell, he is feeling better. Thank you for your prayers.

**Eric Nelson:** Praise Report! Eric's cousin, Tom Hodge, is in complete remission from his Hodgkin's 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.**

<b>Weekly Events:</b>	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Small Groups	Morning (FH)
Monday Meals on Wheels	6:30 p.m.
Cub Scouts	6:30 p.m.
Venture Crew	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts	

# APRIL 2018

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> 7:00 a Easter Sunrise Service Continental Breakfast to Follow 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship Easter Celebration	<b>2</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>3</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 6:30 p Legend Dairy 4H Meeting	<b>4</b> 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice - Cancelled	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship - Easter Musical "Lamb of Calvary" 3 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	<b>11</b> 6 p Wednesday Night Dinner 7 p Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 6:30 p Church Council Meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 8:30 a Breakfast Club	
<b>15</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>16</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>17</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting	<b>18</b> 6 p Family Support Group No Choir Practice	<b>19</b> Pastor Away April 19-25	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	
<b>22</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 3 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> 5 - 7 p Boy Scouts Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser	
<b>29</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Heritage Sunday Celebration - Covered Dish Lunch 3 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>30</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics						

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

April 2018

The Encourager

Please let the office know if your special date is not



Anniversaries

May 22 Ken & Dot Conklin  
May 31 Chris & Luran Breeden



Birthday's

April 1 Ronald Montgomery	April 26 Dennis Stull
April 2 Elayn Ring	April 26 William Coleman
April 5 Kaleb Breeden	April 27 Jason Farber
April 18 Dot Conklin	April 28 Nancy Dube
April 21 Art Pletcher	

May 1 Jerrie McClamma	May 24 Eric Nelson
May 8 Carolyn Alexander	May 25 Gary Bryant
May 19 Carl Brill	May 25 Chris Greer
May 20 Harry Cumber	May 31 Anthony White
May 22 Eric Heffner	