

## 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

**March 4, 18 & 25: Youth Group Meetings: Sundays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the FH and Youth Room.**

**March 6: Legend Dairy 4H Group Meeting: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the GNR.**

**March 6, 13, 20 & 27: Country Western Music Group: 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the FH.**

**March 7 & 21: Family Support Group: 6:00 p.m. Every other Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.**

**March 7, 14, 21 & 28: Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.**

**March 11: Daylight Saving Time: Starts on this Sunday. Don't forget to set your clock one hour ahead before you go to bed Saturday night, March 10th.**

**March 11: All Church Birthday Party Pot Luck: Sunday, 11:30 a.m. in the F.H. R.S.V.P. with your birth month on your Attendance Card.**

**March 12: Irene Circle Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Meets the 2nd Monday every month in the GNR.**

**March 13: Trustees Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the GNR.**

**March 14: 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.**

**March 17: Breakfast Club: Saturday, 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.**

**March 18: Seasonal & New Friends Breakfast: Sunday, 9:30 a.m. in the FH. R.S.V.P. on your Attendance Card.**

**March 24: Egg-stravaganza Community Event: Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Church grounds and Fellowship Hall. Come join the fun.**

**March 25: Palm Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Join us for a special service of song, scripture and readings.**

**March 29: Maundy Thursday Service: 7:00 p.m. Join us for a moving service of Word, song and prayer.**

**March 30: Good Friday: Office will be closed. Good Friday Service at New Hope UMC at 7:30 p.m.**

**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.**



Dear Friends in Christ,

Once again, as all too often it happens, the calendar is pushing me through the season of Lent which only just began less than a week ago with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes on our foreheads. Now I find myself sitting at my computer composing a message for the March issue of the "Encourager" and feel like I'm on fast-forward speeding towards the last hours of Jesus' life here on earth. I feel this way in part because of the date of Easter this year, April 1<sup>st</sup>. It seems like there's no time left to just focus on the journey of Lent. It seems like there's not even enough time left to focus on Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and his first few days there. I feel pushed to get to his final day where Lent and Holy Week come to climax in the events of the last 24 hours of Jesus' life where we have the blessings of sitting beside him at the Last Supper, of praying with him in Gethsemane, of following him to the cross where we find ourselves among those who desert and deny him.

According to author Adam Hamilton, "The Gospel writers devoted most of their work to...the last 3 years of his life; and their primary interest was in a particular day—the day he was crucified. They believed this 24-hour period changed the world, and each of the Gospels drives toward it.

"Beginning Thursday evening after sunset and lasting on through Friday, Jesus would eat the Last Supper with his disciples; pray in the garden of Gethsemane; be betrayed and deserted by his friends; be convicted of blasphemy by the religious authorities; be tried and sentenced for insurrection by Pontius Pilate; be tortured by Roman soldiers; and undergo crucifixion, death, and burial.

"The suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ represent the pinnacle of the Gospel and the completion of God's saving work through Jesus."

So....how can we best look ahead to these final hours of Jesus' life? Through God's Word, of course! I encourage you (from the "Encourager") to read the scriptures below and meditate on each, focusing on God's amazing love that underscores each of them and relive those final hours with Jesus and let them help you renew your gratitude for the Love he has for you....a Love so accepting and deep that he died that you and I would have real life....eternal life!

The Last Supper:	Mark 14:12, 22-25	THE meal that defines us
The Garden of Gethsemane	Mark 14:32-42	The turmoil we caused
Condemned by the Righteous	Mark 14:53, 55, 61-68, 70-72	Are we among them?
Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate	Mark 15:1-15	Filling the part of Pilate
The Torture & Humiliation of the King	Mark 15:15b-23	What part do you play?
The Crucifixion	Mark 15:25-39	Among his 7 last words of love

And after all of this on that final day....three days later, comes the Christ the Victor! Stay tuned to April's "Encourager"!

Praying that the rest of your season of Lent and Holy Week is blessed!

Peace and grace,  
Pastor Terry

## Special Lenten Sacrificial Offering



In response to the sacrificial gift that Christ gave us through his death on the cross, we have an opportunity to show our gratitude through participating in this year's Special Lenten Offering. **NO COIN FOLDERS** this year and all those quarters to keep track of....instead....we're simply making a special offering envelope available during this season of Lent in our worship bulletins and on the table in the Narthex for your convenience of giving.

This year's special Lenten sacrificial offering will be donated to the **United Methodist Children's Home** to help with their ministries to the children and youth who are residents at the home. Your generous offering will help with many, many needs of these children and youth.

Please turn your offering envelope in by **Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!

## UMCOR Sunday (Formerly One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday) March 11<sup>th</sup>

This year's theme: **Share the Goodness of Life with Those Who Hurt**

Once again we are given an opportunity to support the ministries of **UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief) and the administrative costs involved in keeping **UMCOR** ministries going so that when such things as natural disasters like this past year's devastating hurricanes happen that **UMCOR's** resources, both people and supplies of all kinds, can continue to be among the first "on the ground" wherever and however needed. Our **UMCOR Sunday** offerings take care of administrative costs and grants to support such projects as rebuilding homes, etc., in affected communities so that designated gift and special offerings for specific disasters can go 100% to meet those disasters' needs.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

--Galatians 6:2 (NIV)

### YOUR GIFT MATTERS!!!!

Your generous gift supports **UMCOR's** ongoing ministries that have helped thousands of people throughout the years of the organization's existence. Your contribution ensures **UMCOR's** response in times of crisis. Thank you!



## Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday, March 11. Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead before you go to bed on Saturday night, March 10th.

**WE ARE HAVING A PARTY, PLEASE COME**  
**ALL WELCOME**



On Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> after service  
we are celebrating all our birthdays for 2018.

Since FUMC of Seffner has been here for 130 years  
we are celebrating our church's birthday too.

The church will supply the meat and birthday cake,  
if everyone will bring a covered side dish  
we can have a grand celebration of food and fellowship.

Please R.S.V.P. on your attendance cards in your bulletins  
and put them in the offering bucket. We want to have enough for all.  
(Also be sure and put your birthday month on the card.)

Hope to see you there!

*Wednesday Night Dinner*

March 14, 2018 @ 6pm

Please join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner  
on March 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Dine in or Take Out



Menu: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Cole Slaw, 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 - March 17th**

Please join us Saturday, March 17th 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.

**Are You A New Worshipping Friend To Our Church Family?  
Or A Seasonal Friend of FUMC of Seffner?  
We Appreciate You! Let Us Show You!**



**On Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. a special breakfast  
will be served just for you in the Fellowship Hall.**

**We would love to get to know you better and wish you well.**

**Please R.S.V.P. on the back of your attendance cards.  
(If you will be travelling home please put your  
home state on the back of the cards also.)**

**Water & Wrapped Easter Candy Needed**



**We are asking for donations of cases of bottled water and  
wrapped Easter candy (no chocolate) for our Community Egg-  
stravaganza on March 24<sup>th</sup>. A sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Please bring  
in your water and candy by March 18<sup>th</sup>.**



**COMMUNITY EGG-STRAVAGANZA**

**Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**11:00-2:00PM**

**Featuring: 4 Food Trucks:**

**Up In Smoke BBQ...pulled pork, brisket, sides**

**Cuban B's Burgers & Bakery Bazaar**

**Phil's Pizza..."huge" pieces of pizza as well as kid-size slices**

**Wicked Chicken's Gourmet Deviled Eggs**

**Free Kids' Zone: Bounce House**

**Games/Prizes**

**Petting Zoo**

**Popcorn**

**Easter Bunny**

**Entertainment: Jazz Band**

**Bake Sale sponsored by our Youth Group**

**First Church Give-Aways**



**INVITE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AND PLAN  
TO COME AND ENJOY OUR EASTER EGG-STRAVAGANZA!**



## **Holy Week Worship Opportunities**

**HOLY WEEK BEGINS.....WITH PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP:**

**March 25th: 10:30AM**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP: March 29th: 7:00PM**

On this night we remember and celebrate the final supper Jesus shared with his disciples in the context of Passover, when the people of Israel observed their liberation from Egypt. This year's Maundy Thursday worship will focus on the table: "Prayer at the Table" through Word, song, and prayer....and of course.... sharing the Lord's Supper together as the family of God. Join us!

**GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: March 30th: 7:30PM**

New Hope UMC in Brandon will be having a Good Friday Service in their Sanctuary if you would like to attend a Good Friday service.

**EASTER AT SEFFNER FIRST.....April 1<sup>st</sup>**

.....Begins with: **SonRise Service at 7:00AM** in the church's prayer garden then moving inside to the sanctuary to complete our **SonRise Easter** worship. This Easter's service will focus on an angel's perspective of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection (from Christmas to Easter) an angel who doesn't always understand what is happening to Jesus.

**JOIN US** as we begin our Easter Celebration together in the prayer garden at **SonRise!**

**NOTE:** There will be a continental breakfast served in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the **SonRise Service**.

.....Our Easter Morning worship culminates with our worship celebration of the Resurrection in the sanctuary beginning at **10:30AM!** Invite a friend and/or family and join us!

### **Flowering Cross**

**(Put this reminder on your Refrigerator!)**



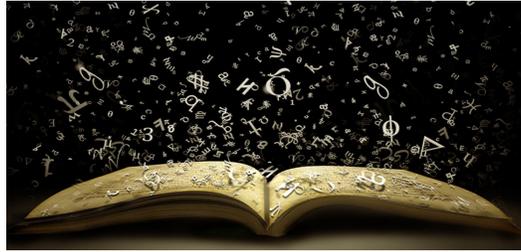
Due to weather conditions and shortages we will not be able to get Easter Lilies. Instead we will be focusing on our Flowering Cross. On Easter Sunday, April 1st, please remember to bring fresh cut flowers which will be affixed to the Flowering Cross which will be initially located outside the Church but will be brought inside during the Service.

This is a wonderful "photo op" for you and your family. For it to be a "photo op", you must bring your own camera.



## Easter Musical

...to be presented by our Worship Choir, Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, during the worship celebration, "Lamb of Calvary". If you would like to sing in the Easter Musical please join us Wednesday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room for rehearsals.



### 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.

### March's Daily S.P.A. Experience

**Study ~ Pray ~ Act**

As we strive to grow personally as a Christ follower, let us strive to enlarge our commitments to serve in the church and community. March's scripture to **Study** and **Pray** through is:

***2 Corinthians 8:2-5 "In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us."***

Now, put this scripture in **Action**. How are we going to give with joy beyond our ability?

Read this scripture every day and let it speak to you in new and exciting ways. Take note of the bolded words above: give yourself first to the Lord. Let's continue our calling to be good stewards of our time, talents and gifts.

**Joyce Allen, SPA Coordinator (a.k.a. Stewardship Chair)**

**Our Giving for February 2018: \$11,370.50**

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

## **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 May 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 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.**

## **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](https://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).

### **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.

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

**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.

**Eric & Connie Nelson:** Continued healing prayers for Britney Edmondson and Tom Hodge for cancer.

**Gladys Ray:** Continued healing prayers for brother, Tom Blanchette, for multiple strokes and other health issues.

**Dan Rogers:** Prayers for healing and strength, recently home from the hospital.

**Ann Kubiet:** Healing prayers for Amanda and Lorenzo's newborn baby, Stella Grace, born premature and only weighing 2 1/2 pounds.

**Jim & Dot Blaney:** Healing prayers for Steven Angotti, their grandson, for recovery from brain surgery on 2/22. Continued healing prayers for John Kolibab, brother-in-law, for a cure from liver and pancreas cancer.

**Jean Hawkins:** If it hadn't been for God and all of your prayers and my family I would never have made it. Thank you to all of you from the bottom of my heart. I love all of you.

*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	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts	6:30 p.m.
Tuesday Cub Scouts	

# MARCH 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ON MARCH 11TH</b> 				1	2	3
<b>4 Third Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>5</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>6</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Legend Dairy 4H Meeting	<b>7</b> 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11 Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship <b>11:30 a All Church Birthday Party Pot Luck</b>	<b>12</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Irene Circle Meeting	<b>13</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting	<b>14</b> <b>6 p Wednesday Night Dinner</b> 7 p Choir Practice	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 8:30 a Breakfast Club
<b>18 Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes <b>9:30 a Seasonal/New Friends Breakfast</b> 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>19</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>20</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music	<b>21</b> 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 11 a Egg-stravaganza Community Event
<b>25 Passion/Palm Sunday</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>26</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>27</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music	<b>28</b> 7 p Choir Practice	<b>29</b> <b>7 p Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>30</b> Good Friday Office Closed <b>7:30 p Good Friday Service At New Hope UMC</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

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First United Methodist Church of Seffner

March 2018

The Encourager

Please let the office know if your special date is not



Anniversaries

March 8 Daniel & Dawn Allen



Birthday's

March 2 Charlene Cabbage	March 27 Antonio Lebron
March 3 Nancy Montgomery	March 28 Carol Dudinetz
March 14 Sue Palmer	

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