

The Encourager

June 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

June 5, 12, 19 & 26: Country Western Music Group: 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the FH.

June 6, 13, 20 & 27: Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

June 7-9: 2018 Florida Annual Conference: Thursday through Saturday in Lakeland.

June 10: First Seffner Cuban Sandwich Sale: Sunday. Following Worship Service. Sign up in the Narthex to place your order.

June 13: 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.

June 13 & 27: Family Support Group: 6:00 p.m. Every other Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall or Good News Room.

June 16: Yard Sale: Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Church yard by the road.

June 17: Happy Father's Day!

June 19: Trustees Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

June 23: Breakfast Club: Saturday, 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

June 24: Farewell - We Love You Luncheon: Sunday, 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for Pastor Terry's Farewell Luncheon on his last Sunday with us. Sign up in the Narthex to R.S.V.P. and to note what favorite side dish you would like to bring.



Dear Friends in Christ and Seffner Church Family,

As I sit at my desk this morning writing this message for the June "Encourager," it hit me that this will be the last time I will write a pastor's message for our newsletter. I'm reminded that the writer of Ecclesiastes begins the third chapter with these words: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven." He then goes on for seven more verses, offering examples of the various seasons of life, along with their opposite. For example: "a time to be born and a time to die," and so on. It's a wonderful way of being reminded of the seasons that we all experience at some time or another as we make the journey of life.

Henri Nouwen, priest and author, wrote these words: "Each day holds a surprise. But only if we expect it can we see, hear or feel it when it comes to us. Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy. It will open a new place in our hearts, a place where we can welcome new friends and celebrate more fully our shared humanity."

I write to you at this time in my journey to tell you that my season as pastor of First United Methodist Church of Seffner will end on June 30th. (I made this announcement at the close of worship on Sunday, May 6th.) And, beginning July 1st I will begin a new season of ministry as the part-time pastor of the Cochranon United Methodist Church in Cochranon, Pennsylvania. (Because vacation plans have been made several months ago, my last Sunday at Seffner Church will be June 24th.)

Although this is not where any of us thought we would be two and one half years ago when I came to Seffner Church January 1, 2016, as interim pastor and subsequently appointed as pastor of the church, it is where we find ourselves at this point in time. I never gave thought to leaving Seffner Church; there is no reason for me to leave this wonderfully welcoming, dedicated church. I have loved my time as pastor of this church and working together with God's provision and help to get where we are today as his church in this community. We have laughed together and we have cried together. We have worked side by side and we have cared for each other. We have loved each other and we have offered the love of Christ to the community in amazing ways.

Having said all of this, for the past few months (since going through my heart ablations) it has been my heart's desire and prayer to return home to Pennsylvania to be closer to those who are family to me. By God's grace my prayer was answered when a former District Superintendent from the Erie-Meadville District called to offer me the Cochranon Church appointment. After prayerful consideration and a take-in interview that occurred when I was vacationing in Erie in April, I accepted the appointment. Now I'm preparing to end my season of ministry at Seffner Church and preparing to begin a new season of ministry back in Pennsylvania.

Be assured that I will remain your pastor through June 24th (Pastor Brian Brink will be on call for pastoral care emergencies through June 30th) and will continue to be faithful to the office of pastor, doing all that is expected of me as the pastor of Seffner Church. Through the coming weeks I covet your prayers as I transition to this new season of ministry. Please also pray for Seffner Church now facing another transition in pastoral leadership and for our District Superintendent and our church's SPRC as together they move through the process of discernment for new pastoral leadership. And, please add to your prayers the Cochranon Church as it prepares to transition from full-time to part-time pastoral leadership.

Yes, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven," and the writer of Ecclesiastes goes on to say that, "He has made everything beautiful in its time." I believe that our redemptive God will make something beautiful from this season of change for us all. I pray that God will bless us as we move through this season of change and the seasons of our lives with the assurance 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)

With God's blessings and peace,
Pastor Terry

PS....Throughout these past two and one half years I want to thank you for all the various gifts of love that you've given me at various times of the year like Pastor Appreciation Month, my birthday, Christmas, Easter, and "just because" gifts....including ALL kinds of Oreos!!! Most of all....thank you for your love!

THE MAKING OF FRIENDS....

Life is sweet just because of the friends we have made
And the things which in common we share;
We want to live on, not just for ourselves,
But because of the people who care;
It's giving and doing for somebody else...
On that all life's splendor depends;
And the joy of this world when you've summed it all up,
Is found in the making of friends.

--Author Unknown

Thank you for being my friends! You've made a significant difference in my life!

Pastor Terry

PASTOR TERRY'S LAST SUNDAY....

Pastor Terry's last Sunday to share worship and God's Word with us will be June 24th.

PASTOR TERRY AWAY.....June 25-30

Pastor Brian Brink will be on call for emergency pastoral care, (call 813-765-7108 or the church office at 813-689-3513). Rev. Lloyd McClelland will preach Sunday, July 1st.

DEBORAH....

....our church Administrative Assistant will be on vacation June 8th through June 22nd. The church office will remain open during normal working hours, Monday through Friday, from 9AM – 1PM. Please do not email the church during this time! Please send any email information to pastorpatch12@ymail.com.

THANKS....

.....to Joyce Allen and Sandy Naugle for ALL they did to help make our church's 130th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, April 29th a success. We were honored to have three former Seffner Church pastors present with us for worship: Rev. Lloyd McClelland, Rev. Ed McWilliams, Rev. Rodney Body. After worship an amazing and plentiful luncheon was enjoyed by more people than planned for (Thankfully there were plenty of deviled eggs...my personal favorite!) and additionally, a number of folks were the lucky winners of some great door-prizes! The picture display was a great trip down memory lane of the life and times and ministry of the church and its members past and present. Thanks again for a job well done!

CHURCH WEBSITE....



If you haven't checked it out yet, be sure to take a look at our church's new website:

Our thanks to Chris Carter for taking the time to keep our website current. Please send any announcements for upcoming church events to Chris at ccarter1225@gmail.com at least 2 to 3 weeks in advance of the event's date with all pertinent information so she has time to make the appropriate changes to the website.

ROLLING UP OUR SLEEVES TOGETHER....

We are asking everyone and all groups who use the church's kitchen to please take a few extra minutes following your event to wipe down all surfaces and put all utensils, dishes, etc., in the appropriate drawer or cupboard so that the kitchen is ready to go for those using it after you. Please wash, dry, and put used kitchen supplies away after each use and not leave them in the dish rack to dry so that someone else has to put them away.

Thank you for your cooperation.....the Board of Trustees.

YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

The Youth Group will be taking a break for the summer months, and will not be meeting in June or July. We will let you know what date the Youth Group will start back up in the Fall.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

June 7-9 in Lakeland.

This year's theme is "Remembering Who We Are".

Eric Nelson is our church's conference delegate.



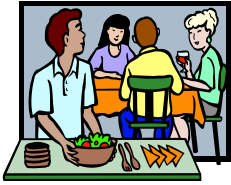
CUBANS COMING YOUR WAY JUNE 10



Make your meal plans on June 10th to include Seffner Methodists world famous Cuban sandwiches. Place your order form in the offering plate or sign up in the Narthex on June 3rd. 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.

Wednesday Night Dinner

June 13, 2018 @ 6pm



Please join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner on June 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Dine in or Take Out

Menu: Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Oreo 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.



Yard Sale - June 16th

We are having a Yard Sale on Saturday, June 16th from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the church grounds by the road to help Steven Angotti pay for medical bills related to his VHL disease.

Breakfast Club

Saturday - June 23rd



Please join us Saturday, June 23rd 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.



FAREWELL - WE LOVE YOU LUNCHEON Sunday, June 24th



Please join us at our Farewell - We Love You Luncheon on June 24th, which will be Pastor Terry's last Sunday with us. Everyone is invited! Meat will be provided. Please bring your favorite side dish. Please sign up in the Narthex to let us know how many will be coming and what you would like to bring.

Calling All Graduates!



Are you, or a family member graduating this year? If so, please notify the Church Office so we can honor our graduates at the Graduation Recognition Service (date to be determined) and in our monthly newsletter. This will include anyone graduating from High School, College, Grad School and/or Technical School. Also, please send your senior picture (or suitable “head shot”) and a short autobiographical sketch to be used in the Graduation Recognition program to Deborah at: seffnerfumc@gmail.com.

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 May: \$12,586.00

Our Monthly Need for Ministry: \$13,398.00

SUMMERTIME AT FIRST SEFFNER CHURCH

With the Memorial Day weekend being the “unofficial” start of summer, many of you will be taking long weekends and vacations through the summer season! PLEASE....DON'T FORGET THE CHURCH is still here and doing ministry. Worship when you can and keep up with your stewardship and commitment to support the church with your tithes and offerings. The church needs our financial support through every season of the year! Thank You on behalf of God's Church!

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

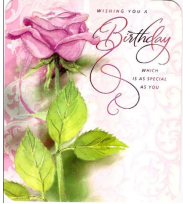


Volunteers are needed for Altar Guild for **August through December 2018**. We usually work in teams of two and it usually takes about an hour each week. This includes dusting Chancel area, replacing offering envelopes and pencils, checking hymnals and Bibles in the racks, changing paraments when needed, 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 seffnerfumc@gmail.com or at 813-689-3513.



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.



Need To Send a Card?

There is a basket of free cards in the Narthex for church members who are unable to make a trip to pick one up. We have an assortment of cards, including Birthday, Get Well and Sympathy. Sherry Salamone will have stamps to purchase if needed.

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

Meals on Wheels is looking for substitute volunteers to be on call to help deliver the Monday meals when our regular drivers can't be here, as well as ride along delivery helpers and kitchen helpers. Please give the office a call if you would like to help or see Connie Nelson.



Prayer Requests

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

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

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.

Gail & Harry Cumber: Healing prayers for their daughter, Debbie.

Jerrie McClamma: Healing prayers for Miriam Marreo for cancer and blood clots. She just started chemo and is very ill.

Bobbie Hawkins: Healing prayers for dad, Duke Hawkins, for heart problems and that his procedure lasts.

Pam Hill: Healing prayers for health issues and test results.

Nancy Facenda: Healing prayers for issues with diabetes and treatment and recovery for a hole in the bottom of her left heel.

Gladys Ray: My brother, Thomas Blanchett, is recovering well from heart surgery. Thank you to everyone for your prayers.

Les & Elaine Hanna: Continued healing prayers for Les for health issues. Healing prayers for Elaine for health issues.

Larry & Susan White: Healing prayers for son, Jonathan, for recovery from gallbladder surgery. Please keep Larry's sister-in-law's family in your prayers as her sister, Debbie, is facing a losing battle with cancer.

*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.

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Time sensitive material—Please deliver promptly.

Email: seffnerfumc@gmail.com

Fax: 813-654-4460

Phone: 813-689-3513

Seffner, Florida 33583

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1310 South Kingsway Rd.

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Please let the office know if your special date is not



Anniversaries

June 2 Robert & Coleen Burch-Cline
June 16 Alan & Sue Bunch
June 30 Les & Elaine Hanna

July 2 Joe & Carol Sanelli
July 12 Ronald & Nancy Montgomery



Birthday's

June 1 Lynnsey McClamma	June 17 Sarah Whitt
June 1 Pat Turner	June 23 Bill Molson
June 4 Buster Mullins	June 28 Pam Hill
June 4 Grace Greer	June 29 Paula Eaton

July 2 Joyce Price	July 21 Joe Sanelli
July 6 Susan White	July 23 Elaine Hanna
July 11 Jackie Sanelli	July 26 Joan Sampere
July 16 Lauran Breeden	July 26 Vanessa Facenda
July 18 Tom Shaffer	July 28 Wayne Allen