

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 2 & 9: Youth Group Meeting: Sundays, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

December 3 - 16: Pastor Kathi Away: Pastor Ed McWilliams will be on call for emergency pastoral care at 813-774-0817, or call the church office at 813-689-3513.

December 3, 10 & 17: Praise Team Rehearsals: Mondays, 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

December 4, 11 & 18: Country Western Music Group: 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall.

December 5, 12 & 19: Holiday Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

December 10: Irene Circle Christmas Dinner: Monday, 6:30 p.m. at Joyce Allen's home.

December 11: Legend Dairy 4H Group: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, Old Sanctuary and Youth Room.

December 12 & 26: Family Support Group: Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

December 13: Legend Dairy 4H Group: Thursday, 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

December 15: Youth Christmas Play: Saturday, 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us for the Youth Christmas Play. Refreshments to follow.

December 15 & 16: Post Office Ministry Sale: Saturday, 8:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, open to the community. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. for our church family.

December 18: Trustees Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

December 24: Christmas Eve Service: Monday, 6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us starting with special music, with the Candlelight Service beginning at 7:00 p.m. Invite family and friends.

December 24 & 25: Merry Christmas: The Church Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday. We hope you have a happy and blessed Christmas!

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



Dear Friends,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! But it's not Christmas yet!

Advent begins on December 2. Advent is a season of preparation and expectant waiting for the coming Christ child, as well as Jesus second coming. It is a season bathed in prayer, reflection and humility. In the midst of our hustle and bustle of shopping and baking and traveling, we must keep the miracle of Christmas at the forefront of our minds.

Our theme for this year's Advent season is all about experiencing the miracle that was revealed to humankind over 2,000 years ago. It is not enough to just know ABOUT the miracle of Christmas. We need to experience the miracle of Christmas in our own hearts and lives.

Week one is about experiencing the miracle of the moment - Jesus came at just the right moment, He provides at the right moment, and He says now is the right moment. Be thinking about those special moments that you have encountered in your lifetime.

Week two is about experiencing the miracle of the message - God speaks to all of us in different ways - He speaks through history, He speaks through Christ, and He speaks to transform. What messages have you received from God?

Week three is experiencing the miracle of the method - how does God do all that He does? His methods transcend us, include us and sanctify us. How have you experienced God this way?

Week four is the miracle of the manger - it is claimed that the Christ child is the Messiah - the savior of the world. Do you believe? If you do, what implications might that have for your life?

We will be using the movie, "The Miracle on 34th Street" as a "backdrop" for this series. I would highly recommend that you put on your jammies, pop some popcorn and watch this movie before December 2nd, as I will be referring to it throughout the series.

May God bless you during this time of expectant hope. May you experience the miracle of Christmas in new and different ways that intrigue your minds and refresh your souls. Remember, even though the world is showing you something different, it's not Christmas yet. Take your time and allow God to work in you this Advent season. It is so worth the wait!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Kathi

Pastor Kathi Away

Pastor Kathi will be away December 3rd - 16th. Rev. Ed McWilliams will preach Sunday, December 9th and 16th. Rev. Ed will also be on call for emergency pastoral care (call 813-774-0817 or the church office at 813-689-3513).



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped to decorate the Sanctuary and Narthex for the Advent/Christmas season. We had a good time and it was very much appreciated!



Guardian Ad Litem Gift Tree



The Guardian ad Litem gift tree for children in foster care is located in the Narthex. 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 16th, or please call the Conklins' at 689-9266 to arrange for your gift to be picked up. Thank you for caring for our kids!



Youth Christmas Play December 15th

We have been rehearsing for the past couple weeks and would love for you to join us for the Youth Christmas Play. We guarantee you will be entertained. The play will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m. Cookies and drinks to follow.

Post Office Goodies Sale

Saturday & Sunday - December 15 & 16



Post Office goodies are back! Come shop for last minute Christmas gifts with new merchandise from housewares, jewelry, makeup, electronics, books, etc. to choose from. Come see what treasures you can find. The sale will be held in the Fellowship Hall open to the community on Saturday, December 15th at 8:00 a.m. and again on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. for our church family.

CARDS FOR A CAUSE



We have hand-crafted greeting cards in the Narthex for sale. You can purchase single cards for \$2 each, or a box of 30 for \$30. These will make great Christmas gifts for those you know who love to send cards. Proceeds from these cards will go to Instruments of Change for the Colson Band Program. See Sherry Salamone to purchase.

Christmas Poinsettias



Thank you to everyone who purchased beautiful poinsettias to adorn our Sanctuary during this holy season, given in memory or honor of loved ones and friends. They will be in place for worship Sunday, December 16th. Please remember to take your plant(s) home with you after worship on Sunday, December 23rd.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service on Monday, December 24th, at 6:45 p.m. for special music, with worship beginning at 7:00 p.m....a traditional service of candlelight, scripture, and song on this holy night of remembering the birth of Christ! Hot chocolate and cookies to follow. Invite your family and friends. Let's fill the pews!

Church Office Closed for Christmas

The Church Office will be closed Monday and Tuesday, December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday. We hope you have a happy and blessed Christmas!

COLSON BAND PROGRAM



Thank you to those who have contributed in some way, shape or form to the Colson Band Program Outreach. Because of people like you, we were able to start the band on October 23rd – way ahead of schedule! 24 students signed up for the first day, and we have room for 6 more. Our work is not finished – they will still need more funding and support in the coming months; so please continue to get the word out – we will take used instruments, financial donations, and we are also looking for mentors to be at rehearsals with the students and teachers. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:00pm for one hour. Please let Pastor Kathi know if you would like to serve God and your community this way. No musical ability required!

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: \$11,927.00

Our Monthly Need for Ministry: \$13,398.00

Support Our Youth



Can you provide a snack on Sundays?
If you can please contact Joan Sampere.

Thanks and Blessings

Manna Bags

In the Narthex you will find a tub marked "Manna Bags". Take a couple and keep in your car to give to the homeless you see on street corners asking for help. These bags contain water, canned meat, nutrient bars, cookies, etc. that will provide a nice meal for those in need plus a Cross and a little card that says why I carry a Cross in my pocket. Our Church members have distributed over 3000 Manna Bags over the past 10 plus years. Sponsored and packed by the Breakfast Club.

Aluminum Cans



Please save your aluminum cans and bring to Jim Blaney Sunday mornings. They will be taken to a recycling company where we receive up to .50/lb. The funds help to support Manna Bags and ultimately the homeless.

AMAZON ORDERS EARN REBATES FOR OUR CHURCH

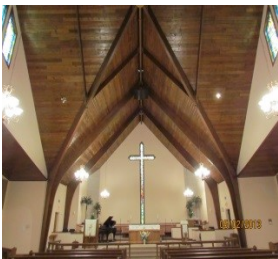
If you purchase anything from Amazon you can now have 1/2 percent of your purchase price rebated to our Church.

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. There is no extra cost to you and ordering through Amazon this way brings added funds to our Church. If you have questions see Jim Blaney.

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed for Altar Guild for February through December 2019. 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 seffnerfumc@gmail.com



Prayer Requests

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

Gail & Harry Cumber: Continued prayers for their daughter, Debra Alipaz, who has terminal cancer.

Alan & Sue Bunch: Continued healing prayers for their 15 year old nephew, Joey Johnston.

Bobbie Hawkins: Continued healing prayers for mom and dad, Duke and Jean Hawkins, for health issues.

Jenn Christiansen: Healing prayers for health issues.

Robert Stephens: Prayers for father, Robert, 86, in the beginning stages of Alzheimers.

Missy Shaffer: Continued healing prayers for recovery from a second surgery.

Pastor Kathi: Continued healing prayers for brother, Danny, for recovery from severe intrinsic system stenosis surgery.

Jim Blaney: Continued healing prayers for Jim's brother, John Blaney, for recovery from surgery, back in the hospital, and for home assistance once back at home.

Tricia Woodford: Healing prayers for friends, Mr. & Mrs. Allen.

Elaine Hanna: Healing prayers for Elaine and family in the loss of Elaine's husband, Les Hanna, November 14, 2018. Condolences may be sent to: Elaine Hanna at The Landing 1720 Parkwood Blvd. W. Apt 216 Wilson, NC 27893. A Celebration of Life Service will be held at Palm Lake Christian Church in St. Pete, FL the beginning of January, date and time to be sent out when set.

Connie Nelson: Healing prayers for the Nelson family in the loss of Connie's cousin, Lana, November 27, 2018. Condolences may be sent to: Connie & Eric Nelson at 305 Halton Cir. Seffner, FL 33584.

Chris Carter: Healing prayers for the Carter family in the loss of Chris' mother, Frances Kohlmann, November 29, 2018. Condolences may be sent to: Chris & Larry Carter at 1506 Smyrna Pl. Plant City, FL 33563.

Anita Salay: Healing prayers for brother, Alan Matney, for cancer that has returned and for treatments.

*Prayer
Works*

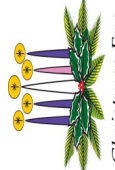



Monday Morning Prayer Group

Our Monday morning Prayer Group meets every Monday from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we pray for church members, family, friends, anyone who is in need of prayer. Everyone is welcome.

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

DECEMBER 2018

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|--|--|---|--|-----------|---|
| 2 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30 a Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Baby Shower 3 p Youth Group Meeting | 3 10 a Prayer Group 5 p Praise Team Rehearsals 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics *Pastor Away Dec 3-16 | 4 6:30 p Country Western Music | 5 7 p Choir Practice | 6 | 7 | 1 |
| 9 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting | 10 10 a Prayer Group 5 p Praise Team Rehearsals 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 6:30 p Irene Circle Christmas Dinner | 11 6:30 p Country Western Music 6:30 p Legend Dairy 4H Group | 12 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice | 13 5 p Legend Dairy 4H Group | 14 | 15 8 a Community Post Office Sale 5 p Youth Christmas Play |
| 16 3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Post Office Sale | 17 10 a Prayer Group 5 p Praise Team Rehearsals 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics | 18 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting | 19 7 p Choir Practice | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship | 24 10 a Prayer Group 6:45 p Christmas Eve Service  <i>Christmas Eve</i> Office Closed | 25 Merry Christmas  Office Closed | 26 6 p Family Support Group No Choir Practice | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship | 31 10 a Prayer Group New Year's Eve | January 1 Happy New Year Office Closed | | | | |

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Time sensitive material—Please deliver promptly.

Email: seffnerfumc@gmail.com

Fax: 813-654-4460

Phone: 813-689-3513

Seffner, Florida 33583

PO Box 607

1310 South Kingsway Rd.

First United Methodist Church of Seffner

The Encourager
December 2018

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



Anniversaries

December 1 Mike & Carolann Mullins
December 6 Paul & Sue Palmer
December 21 Eric & Connie Nelson

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



Birthday's

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| December 3 Ann Kubiet | December 19 Richard Scionti, Jr. |
| December 4 Karen Sloan | December 20 Nancy Gonzalez |
| December 5 Dan Rogers | December 24 Jim Blaney |
| December 11 Mike Mullins | December 25 Timothy White |
| December 12 Carol Sanelli | December 28 Paul Palmer |
| December 14 Britton White | December 28 Jorge Izazaya |
| December 19 Carolann Mullins | December 31 Daniel Allen |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| January 1 Peggy Moore | January 19 Gladys Ray |
| January 1 Carolyn Flowers | January 25 Daniel Williams |
| January 4 Pat Eastham | January 25 Ruth Heffner |
| January 11 Cheri Champion | January 25 Marshall Grant |
| January 15 Dot Blaney | January 27 Pam Hoyos |
| January 15 Diane Molson | January 30 Sue Bunch |
| January 17 Dee Scionti | |