

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

February 3: Memorial Service for Frances Jordan: Sunday, 12:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to attend in support of the family.

February 4, 11, 18 & 25: Praise Team Rehearsals: Mondays, 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

February 5, 12, 19 & 26: Lunch Bunch Bible Study: 12:00 p.m. Every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

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

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

February 6 & 20: Family Support Group: Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

February 9: Sweet Hearts Dinner: Saturday, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for dinner hosted by the Youth Group. Call the Church Office to RSVP or by turning in your invite in the collection plate Sunday, February 3rd.

February 10, 17 & 24: Youth Group Meeting: Sundays, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in the FH.

February 11: Irene Circle Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Meets the 2nd Monday every month in the Good News Room.

February 12: SPRC Meeting: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Good News Room.

February 12: Legend Dairy 4H Group: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, Old Sanctuary and Youth Room.

February 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.

February 16: Innovation 2019 District Training Event: Saturday, 9:00 a.m. at Anona UMC. Register online by February 8th. Sign up in the Narthex to carpool.

February 17: Easter Planning Meeting: Sunday, 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up in the Narthex to let us know if you will be there to help plan this fun event and enjoy a free Cuban.

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

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

Hello friends!

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it
Psalm 24:1

Where did January go? Anyone else besides me wondering that? Well, welcome to February – the month of LOVE!!!!

I am excited about some upcoming events that are coming up, and want as many of us to be a part as possible!

We rolled out a new crusade that will be First Seffner's stewardship theme for the year: **Giving God Our Best in All Things!** We will be encouraging one another to have an attitude of gratitude, and to live in and live out the abundance that God has given us. This will be broken up into 4 subthemes:

- ***January – March:** In Our Relationships – with God, with each other and with creation
- ***April – June:** By Participating in Christ's work – experiencing the joy of serving others
- ***July – September:** By doing our best with what we have been given – each of us has our own unique gifts and resources of time, money and talent to offer
- ***October – December:** By finding a healthy balance between work, rest, play, worship and service

Make sure you read this entire newsletter so you can find out what events are coming up in the month of February. We welcome all creative ideas on things we can do together as a church family that fit into these specific categories! For example, what could we do in the first quarter to show our LOVE for the earth on Earth Day in April? How many blankets and shoes can you collect from friends and family to show LOVE to people in our community on Seffner Street Outreach day in April? We will have a special dinner in February and March to just have fun and fellowship together as a way to celebrate how much we love each other. Sign up for the Sweethearts dinner put on by the youth in February! We would LOVE to see you there!

Don't forget to register for the **Gulf Central District Training** that is designed for small to mid-size churches like ours. It will be a great day of worship, learning, fellowship and fun. You will LOVE it! Register here: <https://www.flumc.org/eventdetail/gulf-central-district-learning-event-12267401>. It is quite a trek, so you may want to sign up in the Narthex to carpool.

It's never too early to start planning for our Easter Eggstravaganza that will take place on **April 13th**! Who doesn't LOVE a great outreach event? We welcomed over 200 people at this event last year, and hope to welcome even more this year! We will have a planning session on **February 17th** right after church in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to be a part of this fun event, please be there! Free Cubans for everyone!!!! – but you need to let me know if you are going to be there so I can order one for you. We will also get together on **March 8th** at 6:30 p.m. for bag assembly – many hands make light work, and we all LOVE that! Also, we are in search of plastic eggs to stuff – you can leave them at the donation station. LOVE those plastic eggs!

Our theme Scripture for the year is a Psalm of David: *The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.* Everything we have belongs to God, and it is God Who has graciously given to us. Can we LOVE God by having an attitude of gratitude in the coming year, and live in and live out the abundance that we have been given? Let's encourage one another, and hold each other accountable!

I look forward to a great February!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Kathi

Memorial Service for Frances Jordan

There will be a Memorial Service for Frances Jordan Sunday, February 3rd at 12:00 p.m. here at First UMC of Seffner in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome to attend in support of the family.

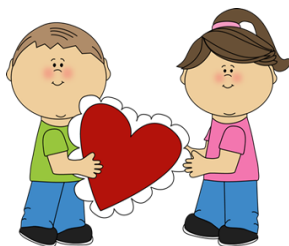


Bible Study

LUNCH BUNCH Bible Study

Join Pastor Kathi on Tuesdays at noon in the Fellowship Hall for some fun, fellowship, food and Bible study! Bring your own lunch. Let Pastor know of your desire to attend!

Sweet Hearts Dinner Saturday - February 9th



Please come and join us Saturday, February 9th at 6:00 p.m. for our Sweet Hearts Dinner hosted by the Youth Group. Just RSVP to the Church Office or by filling out and dropping the invite into the collection plate by Sunday, February 3rd. Menu will be Beef Stew, biscuits, and dessert. We will also have music trivia so bring a friend to share in the fun! If you have any questions, please contact Jerrie McClamma at 321-749-9348.

The Irene Circle



The Irene Circle meets the second Monday of every month at 7pm in the Good News Room. This group's main emphasis is serving others. Our upcoming service projects include:

- preparing and delivering baskets of goodies to our shut ins
- assembling Easter baskets for the children at the Dover Clinic
- making treats and remembrances for the children at Livingstone School
- sponsoring the annual Women's Spring Lunch on May 4
- making "thank you" goodies for our community First Responders

For more information, contact Joyce Allen at 685-0166. We would love to have you join us.

Wednesday Night Dinner February 13th @ 6pm

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

Dine in or Take Out

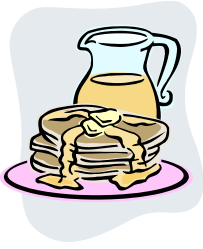
Menu: Pulled Pork, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Dessert

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 - February 23rd

We invite all to join us for breakfast one Saturday a month in the Fellowship Hall, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. We have a great meal, no cost..just donations. Then we have great fellowship about anything in general concerning our Church.

*Please sign up in the Narthex to let us know how many will be coming to help us plan for food purchasing.

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed for Altar Guild for March 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

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 January: \$11,540.00

Our Monthly Need for Ministry: \$12,562.00



Jacket Donations for Colson Elementary

We are asking for donations of jackets for the children at Colson Elementary. You can bring them to church on Sunday.

Support Our Youth



Can you provide a snack on Sundays?

If you can please contact Joan Sampere.

Thanks and Blessings



First Seffner UMC is working in conjunction with Burnett Middle School to open a food pantry at the school for students and their families who have been affected by the government shutdown. Please help by providing any items you can from this list:

Spagettios
Instant Oatmeal
Granola Bars
Cereal Bars
Fruit Juices

Rice
Mac N Chees
Spaghetti
Pop Tarts
Capri Suns

Dried Beans
Instant Mashed Potatoes
Spaghetti Sauce
Instant Grits

Thank you so much for supporting our kids!

Donations for Venezuela

Dear Friends,

Here is answered prayer right here!

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/28/us/politics/venezuela-sanctions-trump-oil.html>

Please continue to pray for the people of Venezuela. We are collecting these four items, which are the ones that are needed most, to be shipped in March:

Bags of dried beans
Bags of rice
Ibuprofen
Cough Medicine

We reported in our church profile report that goes to the Conference, that one of our goals is to expand into global missions. This is a great way to get started! Let's love on these folks and give God our best!

Praise God for all of our blessings and for the opportunity to share our abundance with those in need!

Love,
Pastor Kathi

Street Outreach - April in Seffner



The Brandon Elks are looking for items for their street outreach event which will take place in Seffner in April. We are collecting shoes and blankets - new or lightly used. You may bring them to the donation station in the Narthex. Thanks in advance for your generosity!



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 Flower Calendar For 2019



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.

Special Session of General Conference

To help prepare you for the upcoming General Conference a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church will be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis Missouri. The General Conference is made up of 864 delegates (half lay and half clergy) from around the world. Forty percent of delegates are from outside the United States. The General Conference is the highest legislative body of The United Methodist Church and the only body that can speak officially for the denomination.

The Florida Conference is represented by nine clergy and nine lay delegates. Please pray for our delegates and share your perspective with them by emailing fldelegation@flumc.org.

The purpose of this General Conference is to receive and vote on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward along with other legislation. The Commission on a Way Forward was formed by the 2016 General Conference and asked to find a way forward for the church that would move us beyond the current impasse related to human sexuality. Currently our Book of Discipline (BOD) states that all our churches are open to anyone, all people are welcome at the communion table and baptism fount, and all are persons of sacred worth and included in the ministry of Jesus. At the same time, the BOD considers homosexuality to be incompatible with Christian teaching and does not allow our clergy to perform same-sex weddings, our churches to host same-sex weddings, or for LGBTQ persons to be ordained.

The Commission's report includes three plans: 1) One Church Plan – removes the current BOD restrictions that do not allow clergy to perform same sex weddings, churches to host same sex weddings or conferences to ordain LGBTQ clergy. Adds in protective language that would ensure no one has to act against their convictions. Churches could continue to operate the same way they do now with no votes required. If churches wanted to host same-sex weddings it would require a church wide vote of approval. Bishops would work with churches to appoint pastors that match their convictions.

2) Connectional Conference Plan – restructures the church to create three smaller bodies (connectional conferences) within the denomination with their own Book of Discipline and rules around same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBTQ clergy. One part of the church would continue the current restrictions, another part would allow churches and clergy to decide , and a third part would require clergy and churches to perform or host same-sex weddings. General Agencies would be reduced, and the role of the Council of Bishops would be redefined. Churches would have an opportunity to vote to choose which part of the church they wanted to be in if they disagree with the choice of their Annual Conference. Each part of the church would have its own unique name and logo.

3) Traditional Plan – keeps the current language around homosexuality and increases accountability by streamlining the processes to enforce penalties for violations of The Book of Discipline related to marriage and ordination of homosexual persons. Those who cannot live within the current Discipline requirements could create their own self-governing church that would be connected in some way to The United Methodist Church.

Each of these plans would need a majority approval by the General Conference and the Connectional Conference Plan would require a 2/3 majority vote. It is possible that none of the plans will be passed, in which case the current Book of Discipline would remain. If a plan is passed, it would not become official church law until January 1, 2020.

If you have questions or concerns about the upcoming General Conference, please speak to your pastor or a lay leader. You may hear and read stories about the General Conference in the media. Be sure you are getting information from a reputable source. We will have time to process this General Conference as a church. And no matter what, we will continue the important ministry we do in the community.

You can follow the General Conference live stream at www.umc.org/gc2019. Bishop Carter will be preaching the opening service at 8:30 am on Sunday, February 24. For more information or to see a list of our Florida delegation go to www.flumc.org/wayforward. Send any questions to fldelegation@flumc.org. Bishop Carter will also host a webcast with Florida delegation leaders on Friday, March 1 at 11:00 am to report on the results of this General Conference (link to join the webcast will be available at www.flumc.org.)



Prayer Requests

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

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

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

Jim Blaney: Continued healing prayers for Jim's brother, John Blaney, for recovery from health issues.

Maryse Lamour: Continued healing prayers for recovery from knee surgery and for pain relief.

Dan Rogers: Continued healing prayers for recovery from surgery on his leg.

Daryl Allen: Continued healing prayers for Daryl, Joyce Allen's son, that they will be able to restore his eyesight in his left eye.

Larry Carter: Continued healing prayers for recovery from heart bypass surgery.

Nancy Facenda: Continued healing prayers for recovery from heart bypass surgery.

Dot Blaney: Continued healing prayers for recovery from eyelid surgery.

Martha Barbree: Healing prayers for Martha's sister, Robin Edwards, for recovery from throat cancer surgery.

Larry Stone: Healing prayers for serious health issues, still in the hospital struggling to overcome a secondary infection. Thank you for continued prayers and support.

Bob Sheehan: Healing prayers for Bob's sister, Kathy Meissner, in the hospital with health issues.

Gail & Harry Cumber: Healing prayers for the Cumber family for the loss of their daughter, Debra Alipaz, January 31, 2019. Condolences may be sent to Harry and Gail Cumber at 511 Lakeview Ave. Seffner, FL 33584.

Prayer Station

Feel free to leave your prayer requests at the Prayer Station in the Narthex after the service.

*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 | |

FEBRUARY 2019

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| 3 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 12 p Memorial Service for Frances Jordan | 4 10 a Prayer Group 5 p Praise Team Rehearsals 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics | 5 12 p Lunch Bunch Bible Study 6:30 p Country Western Music | 6 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice | 7 | 8 | 9 6 p Sweet Hearts Dinner | |
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| 17 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Easter Planning Meeting 3 p Youth Group Meeting | 18 10 a Prayer Group 5 p Praise Team Rehearsals 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics | 19 12 p Lunch Bunch Bible Study 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting | 20 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice | 21 | 22 | 23 8:30 a Breakfast Club Meeting | |
| 24 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting | 25 10 a Prayer Group 5 p Praise Team Rehearsals 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics | 26 12 p Lunch Bunch Bible Study 6:30 p Country Western Music | 27 7 p Choir Practice | 28 | | | |

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
February 2019

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



Anniversaries

February 8 Larry & Susan White

March 8 Daniel & Dawn Allen



Birthday's

February 1 Kayla Allen
February 4 Bobbie Hawkins
February 8 Ed Hoyos
February 18 Bethany Allen

February 22 Ken Conklin
February 23 Felix Lebron
February 23 Micah Allen
February 27 Ardie Paetz

March 2 Charlene Cabbage
March 3 Nancy Montgomery
March 14 Sue Palmer

March 27 Antonio Lebron
March 28 Carol Dudinetz