February 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

February 4: Souper Bowl Sunday: Please plan to bring in cans of soup to be donated to ECHO, a local food pantry. A challenge from Pastor Terry: He will match each donation of soup, can for can.

February 4: Cuban Sandwich Sale on Super Bowl Sunday: Sunday, II:30 a.m. Don't forget to pick up your delicious homemade Cuban sandwiches after the Worship Service if you placed an order.

February 4, 11, 18 & 25: Youth Group Meetings: Sundays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the FH and GNR.

February 6: Legend Dairy 4H Group Meeting: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Good News Room.

February 6, 13, 20 & 27: Country Western Music Group: 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall.

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

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

February II: Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser: Sunday, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a \$5.00 Pancake Breakfast (all you can eat pancakes), eggs, bacon, milk or juice.

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

February 13: Trustees Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

February 14: Ash Wednesday Service: 7:00 p.m. Join us in the Sanctuary for a special service of scripture, prayer, song and the imposition of ashes.

February 21: 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.

Dear Friends in Christ,

TWO SPECIAL DAYS---ONE DATE

February 14th is Valentine's Day and the day that we celebrate love—romantic—friendship—family—and give into the retailers' push to buy flowers, candy, and cards spending thousands of dollars for these material expressions of love for each other.

On this same day of the calendar this year we Christians observe Ash Wednesday which is the beginning of the season of Lent and another expression of love—God's love for us through his forgiveness of our sinfulness and separation from him and each other. It's that time we are intentional with expressing our love for God through the desire to repent of those sins and turn back to him as an expression of our faith in Christ. There are no cards, candy, or flowers here but instead a smudge of black ashes on our foreheads in the form of a cross to remind us of God's gracious and forgiving love that lead his son to giving up his life for us, so we would have eternal life.

On Valentine's Day we give up big money to express our love of others. On Ash Wednesday we enter a season of a different kind of giving up and that is of self out of our love for God and drawing closer to him. The traditional purpose of Lent is to prepare us for the experience of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. During Lent many Christians commit to fasting or giving up some favorite thing, either as a form of penitence or in imitation of the forty days that Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry.

You cannot fast as you do today
and expect your voice to be heard on high.
Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for people to humble themselves?
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?
Isaiah 58:4b-5

It's in the spirit of Isaiah that I wonder, of all the penitent actions that we might take, which of our actions would make the days of this season of Lent most acceptable to God? What is that we could choose to give up that might bring a season of holiness to our lives, strength to our church, increase our faith, and even bring peace to our world.

Some might say that Ash Wednesday falling on the same day as Valentine's Day is a strange coincidence. I disagree. I believe that it's a "God thing" that calls us to be as intentional—even more intentional--about our expressions of love for God and all he's done for us through the gift of forgiveness and new life as we are with celebrating the love of Valentine's Day.

I propose that during this season of Lent that the choices we make for our Lenten fast—or giving up whatever we choose to give up—would enable us to grow in holiness, strength, closer to God, and manifest peace not only during Lent but throughout the year. Let's try it together, even if it's only for the next forty days. If we do, we might just be surprised to discover the glory that awaits us on Easter morning.

Peace and grace! Pastor Terry

New Church Office Email



Please use the new Church Office email to reach the church secretary, Deborah at seffnerfumc@gmail.com. Church emails being sent from the office will come this email from now on. Thank you!



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY....

Sunday, February 4th!

Souper Bowl Sunday on Super Bowl Sunday

The challenge is on again!!! For every can of soup that lines the altar rail on Sunday February 4th, Pastor Terry will match each one with another can of soup!

Once again this year's canned soup will be donated to ECHO for their food distribution ministry to the needy and hungry of our community! BRING IT ON!!!! THE SOUP THAT IS!!!



Cuban Sandwich Sale On Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th

Don't forget to pick up your delicious homemade Cuban sandwiches Sunday, February 4th following the Worship Service if you placed an order.

SOMETHING NEW IS HAPPENING AT FIRST SEFFNER ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM!!!

Beginning IMMEDIATELY our Children's and Youth Sunday School classes will no longer be meeting!

INSTEAD

We're trying something NEW and EXCITING.....our children, youth, and their parents (and other young adults) will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30AM on Sunday mornings for an intergenerational time of fellowship and learning all about God's Word and how it applies to our lives today. It'll be a great opportunity for both young and almost young folks to learn and share with each other under the leadership of Joyce Allen. INVITE A FRIEND AND JOIN US!!!!



Boy Scouts Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser Sunday, February 11th

The Boy Scouts, Troop 797, is having a Pancake Breakfast fundraiser next Sunday, February 11th at 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 in the Fellowship Hall. The breakfast for \$5.00 will include pancakes (all you can eat for pancakes only), eggs, bacon, milk or juice. Come join us and help support the Boy Scouts. Who's hungry?

ASH WEDNESDAY......Wednesday, February 14th.....SERVICE AT 7PM

We invite you in the name of Christ to this year's Ash Wednesday service, February 14th, when we will begin the season of Lent 2018 together. This year we are introducing Taiz'e for Ash Wednesday, a meditative worship service to begin our Lenten journey. The service is inspired by the Ecumenical Community of Taize, France, which strives to be a "parable of reconciliation and community" for the world by bringing people from various Christian traditions together through work, worship and prayer. This special worship service will focus on scripture, prayer, and the singing of simple words sung over and over to underscore the meditation quality of prayer and to express the presence of the Holy Spirit in worship. An important part of our worship experience will be the traditional imposition of ashes.

During Lent we remember that Jesus Christ loved us and gave himself for us so we can live liberated lives. "Lent is a time of spiritual retreat for the whole church. In communion with Jesus in the desert, we are invited to forty days of purification, of stripping down to bare essentials, of discipline, meditation and prayer before the Festival of Easter. These forty days are a celebration of our joy in God's forgiveness." (from Praise in All our days: Common Prayer at Taize)

So, assured of God's forgiveness, we examine our lives, confess our sins, and rejoice in God's grace. We hope that by this simple service of scripture, prayer, silence, meditative singing of simple melodies of Taize music, and the imposition of ashes that you will become more aware of the Presence of the Living God in your life. Plan to join us for this very special night of worship!

Wednesday Night Dinner February21, 2018 @ 6pm

Please join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner on February 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Dine in or Take Out

Menu: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THREE BIG EVENTS COMING THIS SPRING...

Back by popular demand....ALL Church Birthday Party, coming in March. More information to come.

Easter Extravaganza Saturday, March 31st.

Church Anniversary.....Heritage Sunday.....130th year of ministry at First United Methodist Church of Seffner.



April 29, 2018 ~ Heritage Sunday

We will be celebrating our heritage and "telling the story".

Plan to join a time of worship, celebration and breaking bread together.

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!

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed for Altar Guild for March 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.

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW.....

.....Donations made through the Post Office Ministry at Christmas to a number of agencies, both local and regional, whose ministries help those in need, made a HUGE impact on the lives of many children and adults this past Christmas season! Herein are a few of the "thank you" letters that we have received so far:

METROPOLITAN MINISTRIES:

Dear Rev. Terry,

We are grateful for your generous support this year. Your gift will help us provide over 510 meals to our poor and homeless neighbors. Thank you! May God's many precious gifts continue to bless you and your congregation in the New Year! Wishing you a Merry Christmas.

Grace and peace,

Alma Royster, Senior Manager of Donor Relations

Dear Terry,

Families and children we serve were not looking forward to an empty Christmas. Then your first time of \$1,000 from First United Methodist Church of Seffner came along and filled them with HOPE! Once afraid they were going to go hungry and without gifts under the tree, if they even had a tree, poor and homeless families had a Christmas they will never forget. We hope your own holiday will be extra special this year—knowing you've blessed a family in desperate need.

With gratitude,

Tim Marks, President/CEO God bless! Thank you so much!

NOTE: This gift was given during a "gift match campaign" which means that our donations of \$1000 was DOUBLED to \$2000 and helped twice as many people! PRAISE GOD!!!

SHRINERS HOSPITALS FOR CHILDREN:

A line from their letter to the church:

Dear First United Methodist Church of Seffner,

We have received your kind contribution of \$1,000 to Shriner's Hospitals for Children—Tampa. Please accept our sincere gratitude for your gift. Your concern for the hospital and the many children we serve is appreciated. Allow me to assure you that your gift plays a meaningful role in fulfilling the hospital's mission of quality care.

Sincerely,

Fleury Yelvington, Administrator

NOTE: The church also received a certificate for our donation and the church is permanently inscribed in the "Gold Book." Frank Dyer, Chairman of the Board

ECHO:

Dear First United Methodist Church of Seffner,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,000! Your generosity will provide emergency food to families in need as well as opportunities for them to change their future. Your donation provided shelf stable food as well as produce, eggs, meat and cheese to over 100 families every week. On behalf of all we serve, thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Looking Forward,

Eleanor Saunders, Executive Director "Thank you SO MUCH!

FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME:

Dear Friends:

I hope that your Thanksgiving holiday was filled with the warmth of family and friends, as well as wonderful food and fellowship. As we approach Christmas, many of our thoughts turn to helping others as you have done. Your generous gift is most appreciated, and will help to provide a joyous Christmas for our children here at the Florida United Methodist Children's Home. We are very appreciative of your congregation's recent gift of \$1,000 as well as assorted items. Your generosity is making an impact in the lives of our children. From our children and staff, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Elisabeth Gadd, Chief Development Officer

FAMILY MINISTRIES OF FLORIDA, INC. SEFFNER:

(Cookson Hills Christian Home)

Dear First United Methodist Church of Seffner,

We appreciate your special gift of \$1,000. Your continued support is a great encouragement to us. The staff and children here at Family Ministries want to sincerely thank you for your support.

In His Service.

Robert V. Sharp, Executive Director

TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the U.S. Marine Corps and the Maine Toys for Tots Foundation, I would like to thank you for your recent generous gift of \$1,000. Your commitment to helping the Marine Corps provide the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to our nation's less fortunate children is sincerely appreciated. Each year, the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation redoubles its effort to accomplish our mission, and frankly, this would not be possible without donor such as you. You are truly making a difference in the lives of America's less fortunate children.

Sincerely, H.P.Osman, Lieutenant General, USMC (Ret),

President and CEO

(My personal thanks for your church's very generous donation.)

\$1,000 donation was also made to the Salvation Army unit of Hillsborough County.

Additionally, twenty Winn Dixie (Seffner) gift cards for \$25 and twenty Walgreens (Seffner) gift cards for \$25 were randomly given out on Saturday, December 16th, to help brighten the Christmas holiday for some of our Seffner neighbors. These, too, were made possible by the Post Office Ministry.

NOTE: I am also aware of some anonymous gifts that were made within the church family!

And, I don't want to forget that through the Post Office Ministry funds, twenty-one children from Puerto Rico attending Burnett Middle School because they were displaced from their homes because of the devastating hurricanes that ravished that island were also given a variety of Christmas gifts including clothes and toys and games so that they, too, would have a brighter Christmas!

Our "backpack" weekend food ministry provided two weeks of food for children selected by the schools who are in need of food/sustenance on a regular basis. We also helped one family who needed a little more help to get through the Christmas vacation.

Once again, a number of children were helped at Christmas through our annual support of the Guardian Ad Litem "angel" (this year dove) tree!

GOD IS DOING GREAT THINGS THROUGH THE MINISTRIES OF FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SEFFNER!!! THANKS BE TO GOD FOR ALL WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY TO HELP THESE NEEDS AND I'M SURE MANY MORE!

BUT

As the television advertisement currently running in our market reminds us as it shows people of all ages being helped at a homeless shelter, offering a hot cup of coffee on a cold night and a meal to fill an empty stomach: THE SEASON OF GIVING MIGHT BE OVER.....BUT THE NEEDS CONTINUE!

PRAYERFULLY, MAY WE BE ALWAYS OPEN TO MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE NEEDY IN OUR COMMUNITY AND BEYOND.....YEAR ROUND! Pastor Terry

MORE GOOD WORKS....IN RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATING HURRICANES THIS PAST SEASON.....

\$3,000 was given to the United Methodist Committee On Relief to support their disaster relief work as result of the hurricanes that caused so much devastation this past hurricane season. 100% of our gift supported the missionary community aiding people in need. This generous donation was made possible through the church's Post Office Ministries Fund. Add to this \$1905 donated to UMCOR for the same relief work from our individual contributions and that makes \$4,905 to help with hurricane relief through the United Methodist Church.

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING.....

\$660 was given through our Christmas Eve offering. This offering was designated for the Florida Conference Disaster Relief Fund to help people still displaced from their homes because of the hurricanes that devastated parts of Florida and will go to help with both repairs to damaged homes and United Methodist churches as well as to help with living expenses for those folks not yet able to return to their homes. Thank you to all who gave!

Take a daily SPA moment! 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. February's scripture to **Study** and **Pray** through is:

Proverbs 3:9 "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops."

Now, put this scripture in <u>Action</u>. How are we going to honor the Lord with all that we have? Stewardship, to some, can have a negative connotation. It raises our eyebrows to "oh no, the church is asking for more of -my money". However, we are all called to be good stewards of our time, talents and gifts. So, begin your daily **SPA** moment and discover where God is leading you.

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

Our Giving for January 2018: \$11,319.00 Our Monthly Need for Ministry: \$13,398.00

COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENTS.... TIME TO APPLY FOR THE SINCLAIR SCHOLARSHIP

The Florida United Methodist Foundation is now accepting applications from first year, college-bound UM students for the 2018 Sinclair Scholarships. Applicants must be full and active members of a Florida UM church, have a record of church and community service, and have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher or academic performance that indicates ability to succeed in college. They must also be planning to attend a Florida or UM college or university this fall.

Scholarships range from \$2000 to \$3000 and are renewable for up to three additional years for students who remain in good standing. The deadline to apply is March 15th. For more information, contact Pastor Terry.

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:

- I. 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 <u>open in Smile.Amazon.com</u>. 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 coworker 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.

New 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







Praver

Works

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

PRAYERS Jim & Dot Blaney: Continued healing prayers for niece, Dagmar Blaney, for health issues. Prayers for John Kolibab, brother-in-law, for a cure from liver and pancreas cancer.

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.

Inge Davis: Continued prayers for healing and strength, still at Brandon Health and Rehab.

Pam Hill: Continued healing prayers for son, Chip Hill, for severe spinal stenosis and multiple ruptured discs. Healing prayers for Phil, fighting cancer in his bones. Healing prayers for Camille Ramos, taking chemo for cancer and very ill.

Daniel Allen: 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.

Bobbie Hawkins: Continued healing prayers for my mother, Jean Hawkins, for recovery from partial hip replacement.

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

Pam Hoyos: Healing prayers for Tim Hoffmeister, surgery to remove his left lung, and for salvation.

Mike Coy: Healing prayers for Penny Thompson for breast cancer.

Yvonne Morgan: Healing prayers for Yvonne, one of our MOW drivers, for recovery from heart surgery Friday.

Paul Palmer: Please keep Paul and Sue Palmer and family in your prayers in the loss of Paul's brother, Bill Palmer, January 30, 2018. Condolences may be sent to Paul and Sue Palmer - 4706 Presidential St. Seffner, FL 33584.

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.

Weekly Events:
Sunday Worship
Sunday Small Groups
Monday Meals on Wheels
Boy Scouts
Tuesday Cub Scouts

10:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. Morning (FH) 7:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2018

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MON		5 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	12 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Irene Circle Meeting	19 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	26 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics
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CURRENTRESIDENTOR

Time sensitive material—Please deliver promptly.

1310 South Kingsway Rd.
PO Box 607
Setfner, Florida 33383
Phone: 813-689-3513
Fax: 813-654-4460
Email: staff@fumcsetfner.org

The Encourager

First United Methodist Church of Settner

Please let the office know if your special date is not





Birthday's

Anniversaries

February I Kayla Allen
February 4 Bobbie Hawkins
February 8 Ed Hoyos
February I I Les Hanna

February 18 Bethany Allen

February 22 Ken Conklin February 23 Felix Lebron February 23 Micah Allen February 25 Pete Gilley February 27 Ardie Paetz

February 8 Larry & Susan White

March 8	Daniel &	Dawn	Allen
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March 2	Charlene Cabbage	March 27 Antonio Lebron
March 3	Nancy Montgomery	March 28 Carol Dudinetz
March 14	Sue Palmer	