

The Encourager

July 2017

First United Methodist Church of Seffner

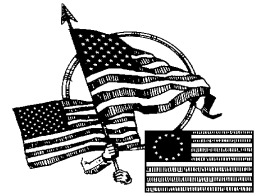
Open Hearts Open Minds Open Doors

Our mission at First Seffner is to GO into
the world to make disciples for Jesus Christ.

Potpourri of Happenings

July 4: Happy Independence Day: Tuesday. The Office will be closed for the holiday.

July 5, 11, 18, 25: Country Western Music Group: 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall.



July 11: Trustees Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

July 12: 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.

July 12 & 26: Family Support Group: 6:00 p.m. Every other Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall or Good News Room.

July 16: Post Office Ministry Sale: Sunday, 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

July 21-22: Boy Scouts Lock In: Friday - Saturday, 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

July 23: UMM Cuban Sandwich Sale: Sunday. Following Worship Service. Sign up in the Narthex.

July 25: Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

July 27: Vacation Bible School: Thursday, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at First Seffner.

July 28 & 29: Vacation Bible School: Friday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. with a BBQ following that Saturday at First Seffner.



Dear Friends in Christ....

HAPPY 4th OF JULY!!!!

He came back without one arm, missing fingers on the other hand, and missing one leg. Every day since his return and everywhere he goes, he carries freedom's "price tag" in his own body. He is like so many others, both men and women, among us today who have purchased and preserved our freedoms today, freedoms that we too often take for granted, at a great cost, a cost that most of us cannot relate to personally. This is a cost that those who paid it can never forget. Truth be told, they bear on their bodies and their psyches the horrors of war forever. Their lives will never be the same again. But, he came back. Too many others, literally tens of thousands of brave and selfless men and women never came back from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Viet Nam or from the deserts of the Middle East, even to this day.

As citizens of this great nation, the United States of America, we will gather with friends and family on July 4th this year and celebrate once again our country's Independence Day. We'll do this with parades and picnics and fireworks at dark. As we celebrate let us not forget the cost that has been paid to purchase the freedom to do these things and so much more without fear. This freedom that we celebrate is not just for our nation, but also for people around the world.

There was another war fought for whole human race, a war in which freedom for ALL people was purchased as well at a great cost. The symbol of that "price tag" is not rolling hillside after rolling hillside of simple white crosses, nor is it the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It's not a black wall of hundreds of names, nor is it any other monument or statue erected in memory and honor of men and women who paid the ultimate price for our freedom. As important and precious as these symbols are to the people they represent and the people who know them, not one of them compares to the symbol of the Empty Tomb of Jesus Christ. It's my belief that this symbol transcends all boundaries.

I believe that the Empty Tomb is the sign of ultimate freedom, and that is freedom of death. The Empty Tomb is the symbol of the cost of "true" freedom for all of human kind. It is the cost of Jesus leaving the security of heaven and becoming mortal (Philippians 2:5-11). It is the symbol of agonizing death on a cross, the degradation of crucifixion. It is the symbol of three days in the ground, buried in a borrowed tomb sealed with a huge stone closure. Jesus literally lay his body down, but death was not the end of the story. The tomb, the ground, could not hold him.

The Empty Tomb is the sign of ultimate freedom! The Empty Tomb is a reminder that you and I and all people no longer have to fear the power of death or any other mortal fears for that matter.

"Death is swallowed up in victory.
O death, where is your victory?
O death, where is your sting?
.....But thanks be to God! He gives
us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
I Corinthians 15: 54-55, 57

For we Christians, Independence Day doesn't come just once a year, not just on one day in July. For those who follow Jesus, Independence Day is every day, but we have come to celebrate it every Sunday. (By the end of the first century, Sunday had become the Lord's Day. On this day the early Christians remembered our Lord's death and resurrection and anticipated his return because his death had won freedom from death once and for all. Independence Day is the day of the Empty Tomb!

So....as Sunday comes around each week, let us like the early Christians meet to worship and give him thanks and praise as we remember the "price tag" on our ultimate freedom, the freedom from death and sin! Thanks be to God!

Blessings, Pastor Terry

A PRAYER FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY....

Lord God Almighty, in whose name the founders of our great country won freedom for themselves and for us, and who lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have the grace to maintain our freedoms in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Risen Savior and Lord, who paid the price for our ultimate freedom from death once and for all, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever and ever. Amen.

PASTOR TERRY...

...will be away from the pulpit Sunday, July 9th as he recovers from a heart procedure on Friday, July 7th, which requires an overnight stay in the hospital and a couple days of "light duty" recuperation at home. Rev. Lloyd McClelland will preach on the 9th and Pastor Brian Brink will be on call for pastoral care emergencies the 7th through the 9th of July. Prayers appreciated!

SPECIAL CHURCH CONFERENCE REPORT

On Sunday, June 18th, a Special Church Conference was held immediately following worship and was presided over by Rev. Lloyd McClelland. The purpose of the conference was to present a plan to exterminate the church structures due to an overrun of termites. ALL the church buildings and walkways will be tented and fumigated. The accepted quote of \$21,000 was approved by the Board of Trustees and includes a three year "warranty" with it.

The financial plan to pay for this work was presented by Pastor Terry which consists of adding \$30,000 to the current mortgage to pay for the fumigation and to have monies available for the repair of structural damage done by the termites, (The Sunday School building has some roof cross beam damage that will require replacements of the beams.) both known and yet to be discovered as the work is done. With the help of the United Methodist Foundation who holds this mortgage, our monthly payment will remain the same (\$903/month) and this is accomplished by extending the term of the mortgage for another three to four years as needed.

The vote of the Special Church Conference was unanimous to accept the financial plan to pay for the fumigation. Any questions can be directed to Pastor Terry or Daniel Allen, Trustee Chairman.

NOTE: The Board of Trustees will soon be putting a plan together for prepping the church buildings for the tenting which will most likely be scheduled for the first week or two of August.

SUMMERTIME WORSHIP AND GIVING

Summertime brings with it vacation time and time away with family and friends! Although we might not be in worship here at home at First Seffner Church, let's not forget that the church continues to carry on its ministries, including Sunday worship. That being said, please continue to give your tithes and offerings to God's church so that there's no interruption in the church's ministries this summertime.

Wednesday Night Dinner

July 12 @ 6pm

Please join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner on Wednesday,
July 12th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



Dine in or Take Out

Menu: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad

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.

Post Office Goodies Are Back!

Sunday - July 16th



Post Office goodies are back! New merchandise from housewares, jewelry, makeup, electronics, books, etc. Come see what treasures you can find. The sale will be held in the Fellowship Hall July 16th following the Worship Service.



CUBANS COMING YOUR WAY IN JULY



Make your meal plans on July 23rd to include Seffner Methodists world famous Cuban sandwiches. A sign up sheet will be available in the Narthex. 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.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

COMING IN AUGUST

SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR OUR YOUTH

YOU'LL WANT TO INVITE YOUR FRIENDS

MORE TO COME



VBS Registration

Calling all children!

First United Methodist Church of Seffner invites you to attend our Vacation Bible School Thursday, July 27th from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, July 28th and 29th from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., with a BBQ to follow that Saturday. To register please turn in a completed registration form to the Church Office or call the Church Office at 813-689-3513. Registration forms can be found in the Narthex. Register your children early so we can get an accurate count for food and crafts. Feel free to forward this information to anyone with elementary age children that would like to come. If you have any questions please contact Renee Lebron or Joan Sampere.

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed

If you would like to help out with Vacation Bible School we could use your help! Volunteers are needed to help with crafts, food, recreation, music, and walkers for the kids. The dates are July 27th through 29th with a BBQ following that Saturday. Please sign up in the Narthex if you are interested in helping. Please contact Renee Lebron or Joan Sampere for information.

Times for VBS will be:

July 27, Thursday: 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

July 28 & 29, Friday and Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. with BBQ to follow.

Pancake Fundraiser for Meals On Wheels

Saturday, August 12th - 8am - 10am

Applebee's - 829 Providence Rd, Brandon

Tickets: \$6.00 each. Breakfast includes 3 pancakes, sausage links, coffee, juice and water. Proceeds will benefit the Brandon Meals on Wheels organization and the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation program on hunger relief.

To Buy Tickets: Mail a check, payable to TBAA of AGD, for \$6/ticket to Tara Prather, 2813 Laurel Leaf Drive, Valrico, FL 33594. Or order tickets online for a .50 cent fee per ticket at www.tampabayalphagams.com. Click on Activities and then Events.



Prayer Requests

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

Jim Blaney: Healing prayers for Robin Blaney for recovery from breast and lung cancer. Prayers for John Kolibab, brother-in-law, for a cure from liver and pancreas cancer.

Bob Van Etten: Healing prayers for health issues.

Inge Davis: Healing prayers for health issues.

Debbie Cash: Continued healing prayers for recovery from back surgery.

Sid Fortner: Continued healing prayers for shoulder injury.

Paul Palmer: Continued healing prayers for recovery for right knee replacement surgery.

Marcus A: Healing prayers for Chris and Larry Carter's friend, Marcus A., for a recent diagnosis of stage 4 head and neck cancer and for treatment beginning July 11th.

Smith Family: Healing prayers for the Smith family in their loss of Frank Smith on June 19, 2017.

Chase Colwell: Baby Chase Colwell, Richard and Dee Scionti's youngest grandson, turned one on July 2nd. He is now being fitted for equipment suited to his special needs. Please follow his progress on FB at Team Chase Colwell. Please continue to pray for Chase and the amazing things God will accomplish through him.

Pastor Terry: Prayers for an upcoming heart procedure on July 7th and for a quick recovery.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers, cards and basket in the loss of my brother, Tony Wall in June. It was very appreciated and meant a lot to me.

Blessings, Deborah Gendreau

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed




Altar Guild is a very important part of keeping God's church presentable to Him and who worship. We need volunteers for October through December. It takes about an hour a week for four weeks or one month. Nothing strenuous and no heavy cleaning, just being sure God's worship area is presentable. If you need a further explanation or will volunteer please see me or contact Deborah in the Church Office. Please, you're really needed.

Blessings, Joan

Weekly Events:	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	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday Cub Scouts	

JULY 2017

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

2 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship	3 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	4  Office Closed	5 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Choir Practice	6	7	1 <hr/>
9 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship	10 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	11 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting	12 6 p Wednesday Night Dinner 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 12 p Post Office Ministry Sale	17 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	18 6:30 p Country Western Music	19	20	21	22
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30 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship	31 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics					

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

1310 South Kingsway Rd.

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



Anniversaries

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

August 5 Wayne & Joyce Allen
August 8 Drew & Paula Eaton
August 19 Chris & Darlene Greer
August 21 Dan & Janice Rogers
August 21 Kenneth & Penny Williams



Birthday's

July 2 Joyce Price
July 6 Susan White
July 9 Sarah Montgomery
July 11 Jackie Sanelli
July 16 Luran Breeden
July 18 Rosalie Carson

July 21 Joe Sanelli
July 23 Elaine Hanna
July 26 Joan Sampere
July 26 Vanessa Facenda
July 28 Wayne Allen

August 2 Penny Williams
August 6 Willie James
August 8 Harriet Stone
August 8 Sherry Salamone

August 11 Darlene Greer
August 14 Dawn Allen
August 23 Lawrence Eastham
August 24 Nancy Facenda