

The Encourager

June 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

June 4: Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation Sunday: 10:30 p.m. Join us as we celebrate Pentecost and welcome our 6 confirmands as they join the church.

June 4, 11 & 25: Youth Group Meetings: Sundays, 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and Good News Room.

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

June 8 - 10: 2017 Florida Annual Conference: Thursday through Saturday in Orlando.

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

June 14 & 28: Family Support Group: 6:00 p.m. Every other Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall or Good News Room.

June 14: 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 18: Happy Father's Day!



Dear Friends in Christ....

FATHER'S DAY...June 18, 2017...can hold many emotions for both men and women—those who had a loving father who passed away, those who never knew their dad, those expectantly waiting to become a dad soon, and literally countless other situations that surround the father-child relationship. I recently read somewhere that Hallmark gave free cards to inmates on Mother's Day and Father's Day. The article went on to say that they always ran out of cards on Mother's Day, but just a very small percentage of cards were used by inmates on Father's Day. That speaks volumes to me.

Regardless where we fall with our relationship with our father or for dads, our relationship with our kids, I believe that God can use Father's Day for His good purposes, and that is to draw each of us closer to Himself who is the one true Father who remains faithful and full of unconditional love for all his children.

The following is from an unknown writer, but I believe these words speak volumes as a contemporary metaphor as to who God is as our “Abba Father”—Jesus' affectionate words for his Heavenly Father which literally means in Aramaic “Daddy.”

“A dad is someone who wants to catch you before you fall, but instead picks you up, brushes you off, and lets you try again. A dad is someone who wants to keep you from making mistakes, but instead lets you find your own way, even though his heart breaks in silence when you get hurt. A dad is someone who holds you when you cry, scolds you when you break the rules, shines with pride when you succeed, and has faith in you even when you fail.”

These words from an anonymous writer I believe are a direct reflection of our Father's heart toward each of us...our Heavenly Father...reflected in these well known words from God's Word: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

There's no doubt here...that's a lot of love! God loves each and every one of us SO much! The sins of the world where we live have led us to places we shouldn't be going, doing things we shouldn't be doing, and certainly encouraging us to say things we shouldn't be saying. But Truth be told, God's love is SO great that no matter what the sin, no matter how far we stray from the Father, He loves us so much that He sent his Son to die for us so that we can be forgiven, so that we can have another chance to do better and be better, so that we can be made whole.

We couldn't do any of this ourselves; someone had to pay the price for our mistakes; blood had to be given as a sacrifice. So....God, our Heavenly Father, sent Jesus, the sinless One, to be the payment for our sins. He did this by giving his life as a ransom for our sins; He died; He worked so very hard to make sure that you and I have found Him as our Father, Dad, Abba-Father.

So...on this Father's Day and every Father's Day...I am profoundly grateful to our Heavenly Father and ALL He used to show his never-ending, never-failing love for me. I sincerely hope you are too! I pray that you can feel His big, big heart for you today which is the heart of our true loving, gentle, grace-filled, kind, accepting Father.

Blessings to all this Father's Day and always! Pastor Terry

WHERE WILL HE BE?

Pastor Terry will be in Pennsylvania from Wednesday, June 21st, through Wednesday, June 28th where he'll officiate his son, Dustin's wedding on June 24th, to his bride, Christine! While away Pastor Brian Brink will be on call for pastoral call emergencies and preaching on Sunday, June 25th will be Pastor Lloyd McClelland who is looking forward to returning to First Seffner Church.



WHAT IS PENTECOST?

Pentecost Sunday...June 4th...is both the commemoration and celebration of the Christian Church's "birthday" through the receiving of the Holy Spirit by the early church, realizing that God's very life, breath, and energy live in believers. The story of the first Pentecost is found in Acts 2:1-31. The gift of the Holy Spirit that was promised and given to all believers on the first Pentecost is promised for you and for all believers and provides us, the Church today, the power to be the church that God has called us to be in Christ.

PENTECOST...June 4th ...the birthday of the Christian Church !

A big part of our Pentecost celebration will be the reception of our confirmation class as members of First Seffner Church and will top off their last several weeks of study as to what it means to "claim the name"....Christian and United Methodist!

Confirmands for the 2017 class: Lynnsey McClamma
Vanessa Facenda
Antonio Lebron
Kayla Allen
Bethany Allen
Kaleb Breedon



A reception for the Confirmation Class will be held in the Narthex (gathering area) immediately following the morning worship service.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FLORIDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING

June 8-10 in Orlando.

This year's theme is "Revive Us Again."

Eric Nelson is our church's conference delegate.

PEACE WITH JUSTICE SUNDAY.....Sunday, June 11th

“Live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.” --2 Corinthians 13:1b

“This peace looks injustice in the face, cries about it for a while and then advocates—and choosing this peace is a happy business.” --Sara Altman, Member, Mississippi City UMC, Gulfport, Mississippi

Your generous gift supports Peace with Justice ministries in our annual conference, administered by our conference Peace with Justice coordinator, and Peace with Justice work in the United States and around the world, administered by the General Board of Church and Society. When you give through this special offering on Peace With Justice Sunday, you encourage people to live---not just preach---the gospel of peace. **YOUR GIFT MATTERS!** By participating in this, one of six church-wide special offerings, we are supporting the connection of the United Methodist Church!

Volunteers for Youth Group Lunches



Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to bring lunch for the Youth Group after church on Sundays for their Youth Group Meetings, for 8-10 kids. June 4, 11 and 25 are available. Please call Denise Short-Nieves at 813-618-1268 if you have any questions.



Wednesday Night Dinner

June 14 @ 6pm

Please join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner on Wednesday, June 14th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Dine in or Take Out

Menu: Spaghetti, 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.





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.

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!



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.

Odom Family: Healing prayers for the Odom family in their loss of Virginia Odom on May 3, 2017.

Daniel Williams: Healing prayers for the Williams family in their loss of Daniel's grandfather, Matthew's father, Roger Williams, May 21, 2017.

H&R Block Referral Program Reward

Thank you so much to Pam Hill! From Pam's hard work at H&R Block this tax season the church has benefited with \$420.00 from the H&R Block Referral Program.

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.

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 September 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

JUNE 2017

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	

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

				1	2	3
4 9:15 a Confirmation Class With Family & Mentors 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship - Pentecost 11:30 a Confirmation Reception 12 p Youth Group Meeting	5 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	6 6:30 p Country Western Music	7 7 p Choir Practice	8	9	10
11 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 12 p Youth Group Meeting	12 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	13 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting	14 6 p Wednesday Night Dinner 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	15	16	17
18 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship  Happy Father's Day	19 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	20 6:30 p Country Western Music	21 7 p Choir Practice Pastor Away 6/21-6/28	22	23	24
25 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 12 p Youth Group Meeting	26 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	27 6:30 p Country Western Music	28 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	28	30	

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

Anniversaries

June 1	Lynsey McClamma
June 1	Pat Turner
June 4	Buster Mullins
June 4	Grace Greer
June 17	Sarah White
June 28	Pam Hill
June 29	Paula Eaton



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

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