

The Encourager

October 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

October 1, 8, 15 & 29: Youth Group Meeting: Sundays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the FH & GNR.

October 3: Legend Dairy 4H Group: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

October 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31: Country Western Music Group: 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. They will meet in the Sanctuary on October 10th.

October 4, 11, 18 & 25: Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Weekly Choir Practice starts back October 4th.

October 4 & 18: Family Support Group: 6:00 p.m. Every other Wednesday in the FH or GNR.

October 7: Legend Dairy 4H Group: Saturday, 1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

October 9: Irene Circle Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Meets the 2nd Monday every month in the GNR.

October 9, 16, 23 & 30: Bible Study on The Holy Spirit: Mondays, 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

October 10: Special House District 58 Primary Election Voting: Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

October 10: Trustees Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

October 12-19: Pastor Terry Away: Thursday - Thursday. Pastor Brian Brink will be on call for emergency pastoral care.

October 15: Laity Sunday: The laity of First Seffner Church will be leading worship.

October 17: Foster Angels Meeting: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Good News Room.

October 18: 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.

October 21: Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat Event: Saturday, 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Church grounds.

October 28: Breakfast Club: Saturday, 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

October 31: Church Directory Pictures: Tuesday. Appointment times will be scheduled for pictures for the new Church Directory.



Dear Friends in Christ,

World Communion Sunday is Sunday, October 1st. World Communion Sunday is a day when Christians around the world gather the first Sunday in October at the Lord's table.

Christians like us will gather in churches just like our own in communities just like ours. Others will gather in huge cathedrals or in open-country churches. Other Christians will gather in mud-thatched sheds or in a lean-to to celebrate together with others all around the world. People in some places of our world today will gather in secret because to worship as a Christian is a violation of the law and punishable by imprisonment and in some cases even death. Yet...the Lord Jesus Christ invites to his table of grace ALL who claim his promises of eternal life and who serve him as his disciples and proclaim his Gospel of love to a hurting world.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands." --Psalm 19:1

Here the psalmist glorifies and praises God in the opening verse of this amazing psalm. We read these few words and can imagine him looking up into the night sky and seeing literally uncountable stars and a glowing full moon. I can also picture him in awe of the vast variety of animals and vegetation all around him, from the tiniest of creatures to the mightiest of trees.

Yet, the real glory of God and the marvel of God's handiwork I believe are in the incredible variety of people God has created. How can we not marvel at the shapes and sizes, the colors and sounds, and the talents and attributes that our creator God has lovingly created into the people near and far that God has fashioned and breathed life into? As I think of the diversity of our world, our country, our community, and our church, I believe our lives have been enriched beyond comprehension. Yes, indeed, the heavens and the sky proclaim God's handiwork, but God's people of every race and color, language and culture, location and tradition, are the ultimate proclamation of God's handiwork.

In the midst of the beauty of all this diversity, the news reminds us nearly every day that the world struggles for community and emphasizes our differences. Sadly, the world names others as outcasts, unloved, and unacceptable and is always adding to its list of enemies. It's in this world that Christians in every corner come together on World Communion Sunday to share the bread and cup with one another in the expectation of the Kingdom of God and of the great banquet in which ALL believers will participate. We look to the time in God's Kingdom when there will truly be no outcasts, none who are considered unlovable, none who are unacceptable, none who are any longer our enemies. We look to the time in God's Kingdom when our differences no longer divide us but when our diversity is celebrated as a precious and amazing gift from God. When we participate in World Communion Sunday, we as Christians are proclaiming to the whole world not only Christ's reality in the future but God's Kingdom reigning on earth here and now.

"As we gather around the table that Jesus prepared for his disciples so long ago and for us today, and as we enter into communion with Christ, and ALL who belong to Christ, the divisions among us fall away and hearts are opened to one another in unity. As we enter the pure presence of Christ and experience God's love for us anew through Christ, we are reconciled to God and to one another. In other words, as we receive the bread and cup we proclaim the power of God's love in Christ to reconcile ALL believers and bring renewal to our faith and healing to relationships." (--Rev. Fran Lane-Lawrence)

On October 1st as we gather to worship, I invite you to join in this wonderful celebration of the Lord's Supper as together the church, the body of Christ, all over this magnificent and diverse earth, proclaims Christ's death until he comes again in glory and we are ONE with him and each other. Yes, indeed, the heavens and the sky proclaim God's handiwork, and on World Communion Sunday we proclaim with them and each other God's handiwork and unity in Christ his Son! Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ, with blessings,
Pastor Terry

A PRAYER FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

(From the "Africana Worship Book, Year B")

Jesus prayed that we might be one. One in spirit. One in mission, in union and communion with each other and with You.

Today, God, we confess fumbings and failures in accomplishing unity, as we set aside yet another day to remind ourselves of the task. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of Christians everywhere. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us a heart big enough to love your children everywhere.

We thank you for setting a table with space enough us all! Amen.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY...OCTOBER 1st SPECIAL SUNDAY - SPECIAL OFFERING

One of six denomination-wide special offerings, there will be a special offering envelop in the bulletin Sunday, October 1st for your use. Your generous gifts to World Communion Sunday fund graduate racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least one-half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the United States. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs.

"My desire is to sow seeds into the lives of others, hoping that at least one will also be inspired to sow a seed into another individual." --Lena Kuffuor-Afriyie, Ethnic Scholarship recipient

PASTOR TERRY AWAY....

Pastor Terry will be visiting his son and daughter-in-law in Erie, PA from Thursday, October 12th through Thursday, October 19th. In his absence, Pastor Brian Brink will be on call for emergency pastoral care. Call Pastor Brian at 813-765-7108 or the Church Office at 813-689-3513.

NOTE: Sunday October 15th is Laity Sunday and the laity of First Seffner Church will be leading worship.

THANK YOU....

...to EVERYONE for your thoughts and prayers during my last heart procedure and hospitalization. So far things are going well. Praise God! ---Pastor Terry

...to EVERYONE who helped prepare the church for worship after our recent all-campus extermination project! ---Board of Trustees

...to two Eagle Scout candidates: project 1—rebuild the fence around the Boy Scout trailer storage area between the Fellowship Hall and former church building, and project 2 —laying of sod along the walkway connecting our buildings and other landscape projects as well as cleaning up the debris around our property which was left behind by hurricane Irma.

NEEDED....

....Pastor Terry (and the church) needs someone to update our website each month with current information from our newsletter: The Encourager.

THINGS TO SHARE....GIVE AWAY....TRADE....SELL

One way we can support one another as members of the church family is to “share” with one another items that we may not need or want anymore and that may be just the thing that someone else is looking for or needs. If you have a need or have items you'd like to share, let the Church Office know and we'll share the info through the newsletter.

Choir Practice Starts Back

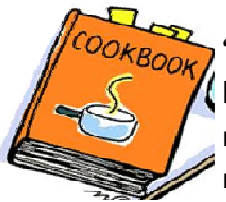


Weekly Choir Practice starts back Wednesday, October 4th at 7:00 p.m. with Sid in the Choir Room. Hope to see you there!

Irene Circle News



The Irene Circle is sponsoring a RADA Cutlery sale. There are many items available for you to purchase for yourself or as a gift. Orders will be back in time for Christmas. Check out the catalogue in the narthex beginning October 8. We will receive 40% on all sales to use for our mission projects throughout the year. Another option to support this project is that you can purchase items for the church's kitchen: paring knife (\$6.00), server spoon (\$5.00), or cook's spoon (\$9.50). Deadline to order is November 12.



We are also resurrecting the cookbooks from YEARS ago. It is dedicated to the “saints that have gone before us” since many of the recipes are from their kitchens. Fifty copies were found in storage and rather than throw them away, you now have the opportunity to get a copy for only \$5.00. They are available in the narthex on Sundays and the church office during the week.



New Bible Study Beginning

**Bible
Study**

The Bible Study on the Holy Spirit begins Monday, October 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Bring your bibles.

Wednesday Night Dinner

October 18, 2017 @ 6pm

Please join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner
on October 18th at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Dine in or Take Out

Menu: Fried Chicken, Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Coleslaw, 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.



Trunk
Treat



Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 21st

4:00 - 6:00 P.M.

Trunks Needed

The Fall Festival/Trunk or Treat event is rapidly approaching. It will be held on Saturday, October 21st from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Please sign up in the Narthex to host a trunk so the children can trick or treat. You may also call the Church Office at 813-689-3513 or email to deborahgendreau@fumcseffner.org.

Volunteers/Donations Needed

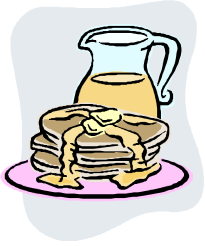
Volunteers are needed for:

Inside and outside activities, setting up, help with games, sitting at a trunk, cleaning up.

Donations are needed for:

Candy - LOTS of CANDY	Bags of Chips
Capri-Suns	Ketchup
Mustard	Cup Cake Mix
Icing - Chocolate or Vanilla	

*Please sign up in the Narthex if you would like to help.
There will be a Donation Box in the Narthex.



Breakfast Club Saturday - October 28th

Please join us Saturday, October 28th at 8:30 a.m. for fellowship and a delicious breakfast.

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

Day of Care Saturday - October 28th

On October 28th, 2017 at 7:00 a.m. Five Star Dental & Dr. Bynum will be giving FREE Dental Services to the Community. Free services to include cleanings, fillings, extractions. It will be held at 3203 Lithia Pinecrest Rd., Valrico, FL 33596. You do not have to qualify, everyone is welcome. Bring a lawn chair.

New Church Picture Directory

Church Photo Directory



The first day for pictures for our new Church Picture Directory will be on Tuesday, October 31st, times to be announced. Pictures ordered on this date will be available for Christmas. A makeup picture day will be on Tuesday, January 16th. The new Directory will be available after the makeup date. Every person who participates by getting their picture taken will receive a free Directory. Lifetouch has a special offer that will give back 5% of photography and frame sales to our church.

We need 2 volunteers, one to help schedule appointment times and one to help schedule hostesses for the appointments. Please let Jerrie McClamma or the Office know if you would like to help.

All Saints Sunday November 5, 2017



The first Sunday in November we will celebrate All Saints Day. We will honor all those church members who have passed away since November of 2016. If you have a family member that has passed since then please contact the church office by Monday, October 23rd so they can be remembered.

Annual Church Conference

First Seffner will have our Annual Church Conference on Wednesday, November 8th at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. More details to follow.



Veterans Day, November 11, 2017

Remember Veterans Day is coming. Please bring a picture of yourself or family members, past or current military members to the church office by Wednesday, November 1st to include on our display table.



YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Save the Date

Save the date, November 11 at 6:00 p.m. The Youth Group would like to invite their church family for a home cooked traditional Thanksgiving dinner. More details to come.....

Opportunities to Help

If you would like opportunities to help with the youth, please see Joan Sampere and the Youth Council.

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 September: \$9,155.00

Our Monthly Need for Ministry: \$13,455.00

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed



Altar Guild is a very important part of keeping God's church presentable to Him and who worship. We still need 2 volunteers for 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

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.

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 Flowers



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 chart on the door outside the sanctuary.

Warren Willis Camp Retreat Connect 2017

October 13-15, 2017 and November 10-12, 2017

At our new fall retreat we will learn together what it means to be a Christian and do the work of the church in this digital age. We are more connected than ever, but are we any closer? How can we use social media to make a positive impact in the world aside from just posting pictures and liking statuses? Bring your devices and chargers and join us for a weekend to learn how. Cost: \$100 per person.

If anyone is interested in attending this retreat you will need to register soon at www.warrenwilliscamp.org. Please call 352-787-4345 for more information.

34th Annual United Methodist Women's Retreats February 16-18, 2018 and March 8-10, 2018

Our theme for 2018: "Restored and Free"

The Women's Retreats are designed to provide women a time to intentionally come away from the responsibilities of their home, children, families, and jobs; to set their feet on holy ground; and to meet Jesus Christ face to face. Come and join us at one of our two weekends held annually at the Life Enrichment Center on the shores of beautiful Lake Griffin in Fruitland Park, Florida. Every weekend offers a time for Bible study, enrichment and craft sessions, music, fun, fellowship and food! Spend the weekend in a way that is meaningful to you – bring a friend, bring a group of friends or come and make new friends.

Registration is online only at www.flumc.org/floridaconferencewomensretreats and will begin Tuesday, November 1, 2017 at 6:00 am. Please contact Lori Buonasera at 352-360-9389 or at lori@lcretreats.org for questions.



Prayer Requests

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

Inge Davis: Healing prayers for health issues.

Bob Van Etten: Prayers for healing and strength.

Allen Duncan: Healing prayers for our custodian, Allen, for high blood pressure and stomach issues.

Marian Burzimat: Healing prayers for chronic back pain.

Tricia Woodford: Healing prayers for her brother, Dan Herron, for cancer on his arm and cancer invasion on his sternum.

Paul Palmer: Healing prayers for brother, Bill Palmer, to gain strength in the hospital to be able to receive throat cancer treatment.

Susan White: Prayers the doctors will find out what is causing pain in her left leg.

Pete Gilley: Healing prayers for recovery from surgery for a broken leg from a fall.

Chris Carter: Praise for friend, Marcus A. for completion of cancer treatment and significantly reduced size of tumor. Prayers for remission.

Connie Nelson: Healing prayers for father, Howard Brandenburg, for recovery from a heart stint placement after a mild heart attack. Prayers for Britney Edmondson for radiation and chemo to help heal her from cancer that is spreading into her bones that can't be removed by surgery.

Jim & Dot Blaney: Healing prayers for the Blaney family in the loss of their niece, Robin Blaney, on September 19, 2017. Healing prayers for niece, Dagmar Blaney, in the hospital for health issues. Prayers for John Kolibab, brother-in-law, for a cure from liver and pancreas cancer. Healing prayers for friend, Richard Garlitz's wife, for severe back and leg pain, Parkinson's and for upcoming back surgery for the third time.

Guy Futral: Healing prayers for Guy, Meals on Wheels helper, for knee replacement surgery on October 4 and for recovery and therapy.



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. Everyone is welcome.

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	

OCTOBER 2017

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship World Communion Sunday 3p Youth Group Meeting	2 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	3 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Legend Dairy 4H Meeting	4 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice Starts Back	5	6	7 7 p Legend Dairy 4H Meeting
8 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 3p Youth Group Meeting	9 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 7 p Irene Circle Meeting 7 p Bible Study on The Holy Spirit	10 7 a - 7 p Special House District 58 Primary Election Voting 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting	11 7 p Choir Practice	12 Pastor Away 12-19	13	14
15 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship - Laity Sunday 3p Youth Group Meeting	16 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Bible Study on The Holy Spirit	17 6:30 p Country Western Music 6:30 p Foster Angels Meeting	18 6 p Wednesday Night Dinner 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	19	20	21 4 p Trunk or Treat
22 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship	23 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Bible Study on The Holy Spirit	24 6:30 p Country Western Music	25 7 p Choir Practice	26	27	28 7 a Day of Care Free Dental Care Offsite 8:30 a Breakfast Club
29 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 3p Youth Group Meeting	30 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Bible Study on The Holy Spirit	31 *Directory Picture Appointments 6:30 p Country Western Music				

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.

First United Methodist Church of Seffner

The Encourager October 2017

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



Anniversaries

October 8 Larry & Harriet Stone
October 27 Felix & Renee Lebron

November 7 Harry & Gail Cumber



Birthday's

October 6 Pastor Terry
October 7 Chris Breeden
October 7 Jaxon Breeden
October 8 Robert Van Etten
October 20 Robert Davis

October 22 Sandy Naugle
October 23 Connie Nelson
October 29 Larry White
October 30 Alan Bunch

November 5 Gail Cumber
November 5 Theresa Sparks
November 8 Wally Sparks
November 8 Brandi Fouche
November 11 Inge Davis
November 11 David Trayal
November 15 Janice Rogers

November 18 Betty Herbert
November 20 Ryan Heffner
November 20 Matthew Whitney
November 26 Larry Stone
November 26 Renee Lebron
November 26 Nick Mullins