

# The Encourager

May 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

**April 28: Boy Scouts Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser:** Saturday, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. \$5.00 per person. Proceeds go to this years summer camp.

**April 29: Heritage Sunday Celebration:** 10:30 a.m. Celebrate with us at Worship Service, followed by a covered dish luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

**May 1: Legend Dairy 4H Group Meeting:** Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Old Sanctuary & GNR.

**May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Country Western Music Group:** 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the FH.

**May 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Choir Practice:** Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.

**May 2, 16 & 30: Family Support Group:** 6:00 p.m. Every other Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall.

**May 5: Women's Spring Luncheon:** Saturday, 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**May 6, 20 & 27: Youth Group Meetings:** Sundays, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**May 7: Irene Circle Meeting:** Monday, 6:30 p.m. Dinner out at Ben's Restaurant.

**May 9: 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.

**May 12: Yard Sale:** Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the Church yard by the road.

**May 13: Happy Mother's Day!**

**May 15: Trustees Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

**May 19: Breakfast Club:** Saturday, 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome.

**May 20: Pentecost Sunday:** 10:30 p.m. Join us as we celebrate Pentecost.

**May 27: UMM Cuban Sandwich Sale:** Sunday. Following Worship Service. Sign up in the Narthex to place your order.

**May 28: Memorial Day:** Monday. The Church Office will be closed for the holiday.



Dear Friends in Christ,

As May rolls around and another word from the pastor is needed for “The Encourager” I struggle once again what to write. The month of May has much to choose from: Pentecost, Mother's Day, Festival of the Christian Home, Memorial Day just to name a few of the bigger days worthy of attention. The answer to my question as to what to write was answered for me this afternoon as I was dusting my place and one of the many pictures that I picked up to dust off was one of my mother that has a prominent place in my living room where I can see it daily. Mom left us a number of years ago as a result of the horrible disease, Alzheimer's disease, that robbed mom of all her memory and any recollection of who any of us were. Mom joined God's heavenly host August 2010 and rests at peace with God, Dad, and all her loved ones who were there to greet her when she took her last breath. As much as I miss Mom every day there's no way that I would wish her back. I have precious memories of many years with her as Mom and am so grateful for each of every one of them.

On this Mother's Day, as on every Mother's Day, I am reminded of her love and care and am so grateful that she was my mom. In honor of my mother and all mothers and all women who are like mothers to others I want to share two things: (1) a familiar poem written in the early 1900's and (2) a Mother's Day prayer that I found on the internet.

M is for the Many things she gave me.  
O means only that she's growing Old.  
T is for the Tears she shed to save me.  
H is for Heart of purest gold.  
E is for her Eyes with love light shining.  
R means Right and Right she'll always be.



Put them all together, they spell MOTHER,  
A word that means the world to me.

MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER (author unknown)

Loving God, we give thanks today for mothers!  
Thank you for mothers who gave birth to us,  
and women who have treated us as their own children.  
You teach us how to be good mothers,  
cherishing and protecting the children among us.  
Help us mother lovingly, fairly, wisely and with great joy.  
Help us raise our children to be the people they are born to be.  
We need your comfort here today, Lord,  
because some are missing mothers, some are missing children,  
some are parted by distance of death.  
Comfort those who have given up their child for adoption,  
or who chose not to give birth, and had an abortion.  
Comfort those who longed to be biological mothers, and could not.  
We pray for those here whose mothers have disappointed them;  
we ask for grace in relationships where there is pain and bitterness,  
for healing in relationships where there is abuse and violence.  
Help our congregation be a space where people can feel mothered,  
their gifts and talents appreciated and nurtured.

Finally, we pray today for mothers around the world;  
mothers who cannot feed their children,  
mothers who are homeless or without a homeland;  
mothers who must teach their children about the dangers of bombs and bullets.  
Help us create a world where mothers can raise their children in peace and plenty.  
God of mothers, who created mothers, who came as a child and had a mother,  
God our Mother, loving us with a sweeter and deeper love than we have ever known,  
hear our prayer this day. Amen.

Mothers make up a crucial part of our lives. So whether it's a Hallmark card, flowers, dinner out, a hug, or a kiss on the cheek, may God give us the grace to show we care. It's so important that we give our love and gratitude to these dedicated women in our lives and never take them for granted.

This Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We will honor all women and especially mothers in our church family during our Sunday morning worship celebration. Join us!

Peace with blessings,  
Pastor Terry

### **THANK YOU.....**

To our church's 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration organizers, Joyce Allen and Sandy Naugle, and to ALL those who helped to make our April 29<sup>th</sup> celebration the amazing day that it was! Our church has a rich past, an exciting present, and hopeful future of ministry to the community of which we are a part!

### **Thank You!**

Thank you to everyone for the cards, flowers, and gifts for Administrative Professionals' Day. Every day that week was another surprise and everything was very much appreciated! Thank you for a special week!

### **Lifeway Ministries**

Lifeway Ministries is in need of new baby clothes, newborn to 2T and any size diapers. Please bring donations to church and place in the basket in the Narthex. Thank you!

### **Colson Volunteer/Donation Opportunities**

Colson Elementary in Seffner is having another ACHIEVE Store on May 18<sup>th</sup> and they are collecting garage sale items!! They are looking for VOLUNTEERS to help set up for the sale at Colson the day before on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 2:45 - 5:00 p.m.

Please drop off donation items on Sundays through May 13<sup>th</sup>. Call Luran at 813-408-2306 with any questions.

### **Traditional Annual Boy Scouts Spaghetti Dinner April 28th**



The Boy Scouts are having their Traditional Annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The spaghetti dinner will be \$5.00 per person. Take outs are available also. The proceeds will go to this years summer camp at the Elite Bert Adams High Adventure Summer Camp in Georgia. Come out and enjoy a delicious dinner and help support the Boy Scouts.



**Heritage Sunday Celebration & Covered Dish Lunch**  
**First United Methodist Church of Seffner**  
**Time to Celebrate! ~ 130 Years ~ April 29, 2018**

We will be celebrating our heritage and “*telling the story*” Sunday, April 29th at our 130<sup>th</sup> Heritage Sunday Celebration! Invite family, friends and previous members for: worship, special music, a covered dish lunch, memory displays, door prizes.

Let’s claim this day of Celebration to fill the pews!

Please join us for a covered dish lunch in the Fellowship Hall following the service. **Everyone** is welcome.

**Women’s Spring Luncheon**  
**Fashion With a Twist**  
**Saturday, May 5th at 11:45 A.M.**



Join us as we celebrate with a unique fashion show that will surely make you a trend setter. Our “models” will give you new ideas that will prepare you for any occasion and the remarks will prepare you for life’s assurances.

We will gather at 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and enjoy a light lunch, a short program, door prizes and a great time together. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$3.00 for children 4-12 years and 3 years and under is free. Invite your family and friends, we would love to meet them! Sign up in the Narthex Sunday, April 29th or contact the church office at 689-3513.

***Wednesday Night Dinner***  
**May 9, 2018 @ 6pm**

Please join us for fellowship and a delicious dinner  
on May 9 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Dine in or Take Out

Menu: Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green 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.

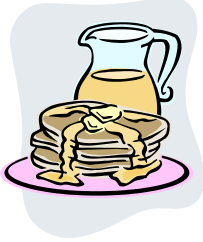


## Yard Sale - May 12th



We are having a Yard Sale on Saturday, May 12th from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to help Steven Angotti pay for medical bills related to his VHL disease. Any and all donations are appreciated. Please contact Dottie Blaney at 813-380-3412 or Beverly Angotti at 813-325-8113.

## Breakfast Club Saturday - May 19



Please join us Saturday, May 19th 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.

## PENTECOST....

### THE DAY WHEN THE SPIRIT OF GOD TAKES THE CHURCH BY STORM!



Pentecost Sunday this year is Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. It's on this day that the Christian church both commemorates and celebrates its "birthday" that came about in a dramatic way, complete with a rush of wind and tongues of fire. It's on this day when we celebrate the presence of God's Spirit in our lives individually and collectively as the church. The story of the first Pentecost is found in Acts 2:1-31 where Luke recounts how the gift of the Holy Spirit that was promised by Christ before his ascension and given to all believers then as they were huddled together in an upper room. His Holy Spirit gave them, and continues to give us today the power to be the church that God has called us to be in Christ in the world today.

As the first disciples gathered in that upper room to celebrate the feast of weeks, they were filled with uncertainty and doubt. The risen Christ had appeared to them a number of times, but then he vanished. They were left wondering. What did Jesus mean when he told them that the spirit would be upon them and that God's Spirit would empower them and guide them from that day forward? What did it all mean?

And then it happened! There was a sound like a rushing wind, a mighty wind as if the house had been completely enveloped by a terrible storm. The wind came blowing like a gale through the doors and windows and was a terrifying and mystifying thing all at the same time. Then there was something even more mysterious. A mysterious light filled the house and settled upon the heads of each of the disciples and appeared to be like tongues of fire. The sense of God's presence was overwhelming, overpowering, stunning.

It was a life-changing experience, and from that very moment on, the disciples' faith was so strong and so evident that when they left that upper room and hit the streets below, travelers in town from all around the world immediately recognized that there was something different and contagious about their new-found faith.

Today, Pentecost Sunday is that day above all days when we celebrate and give thanks for the powerful presence of God's Holy Spirit in our lives and the gifts that come with it that enable us to follow Jesus' commission to GO and make disciples for Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I'm just wondering....can we say today that God's Holy Spirit is so evident in our lives that people can recognize it instantly? Can they see that there's a difference in our lives and how we live them out each and every day as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world? Does the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives communicate God's power and love and presence?

As we approach another Pentecost Sunday celebration, I think it might be helpful to all of us if we would once again read and consider what God's Word tells us about the Holy Spirit and that day when God's Spirit took (and continues to take) the church and our lives by storm.

"Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me." On us, O God!  
Amen.



## CUBANS COMING YOUR WAY IN MAY



Make your meal plans on May 27th 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.

### **MEMORIAL DAY...Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>**

**MEMORIAL DAY** Memorial Day, as a formal holiday, is an American holiday and is celebrated across the United States to remember with gratitude military service members who have died in the line of duty. Memorial Day was originally called Decoration Day and was a holiday that was centered on decorating the graves of those soldiers who had fallen in the Civil War.

Regardless of how it originated, it's an important holiday that remembers and honors men and women who have died for our country and serves as a reminder to us of the costly price of war. All across our nation there will be many formal ceremonies that will take place in observance of this very special holiday, most of which will be held in local communities like our own. From the laying of the wreath at Arlington Cemetery Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to parades to moments of silence to decorating graves with wreaths or flowers or flags, many people will take pause for moments in memory of those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

During our worship celebration on Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, we will remember and honor those from our church family who have served our country through military service and who have died as we pause for a moment of silence and prayer.

#### **PRAYER FOR MEMORIAL DAY....**

Everlasting Lord,  
We come to bow our heads in respect to you, and thank you for our great country.

Lord, we come before you today remembering our country's heroes both dead and alive. We purpose to make this day a time to show honor to the men and women whose sacrifice has helped to keep us safe and free. We acknowledge their bravery, and we want to recognize the sacrificial contributions of each one.

Stir our hearts, Lord, with patriotism and thankfulness as we think about our country's treasures lying in graves beneath our nation's soil and the soil of lands far away. May we be inspired to be more abundant in our giving as we commemorate their lives of service to others. They gave the ultimate sacrifice, and we respectfully remember them today.

Lord, we lift up the families and friends of those who died and gave their lives for their country. We ask you to minister to the deep longing of those who grieve. We ask you to bring your peace and supernatural comfort to each one as they recall their former happy times together.

As we observe this day of remembrance, we want to again respectfully honor all the men and women who presently serve in our armed forces. May they feel appreciated, and may they be powerfully protected this day and every day.

We pray these things in the mighty name of Jesus Christ,  
Amen

(by Beth McLendon of Inspirational Prayers.com)

### **Calling All Graduates!**



Are you, or a family member graduating this year? If so, please notify the Church Office so we can honor our graduates at the Graduation Recognition Service (date to be determined) and in our monthly newsletter. This will include anyone graduating from High School, College, Grad School and/or Technical School. Also, please send your senior picture (or suitable "head shot") and a short autobiographical sketch to be used in the Graduation Recognition program to Deborah at: [seffnerfumc@gmail.com](mailto:seffnerfumc@gmail.com).

## NEW CHURCH WEBSITE



Our newly updated church website is now up and running in a brand new format. The web address for the new site is [www.fumcseffner.com](http://www.fumcseffner.com). I encourage you to take a look and see the many significant changes and updates that are a part of our new website. It has a much more contemporary look (and hopefully appeal to those searching the web for United Methodist Churches in the Seffner area) and is easily navigated. It's FULL of information about Seffner First Church, and I believe it is very invitational. My gratitude goes to Kelley Nelson for the re-design and update and to Chris Carter who is our church's website information "updater" on a day to day basis! Take a "look/see"!

## Lenten Offerings

On behalf of the United Methodist Children's Home \$546.40 was collected through this year's Lenten Offerings. Thank you to everyone who participated in this annual special offering for the Children's Home!

## 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 through April 22: \$12,452.00

Our Monthly Need for Ministry: \$13,398.00

## 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 **June 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 [seffnerfumc@gmail.com](mailto:seffnerfumc@gmail.com) or at 813-689-3513.

## Altar Flower Calendar



There are still many Sundays without flowers for worship. The price is still \$25/Sunday. Please consider signing up for a Sunday or two and place flowers on the altar in memory or honor of your loved ones. Thank you.



## Prayer Requests

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

Paula Eaton: Continued prayers for health issues for my mother, Bonnie McBurnett.

Pam Hill: Continued healing prayers for son, Chip Hill, for severe spinal stenosis and multiple ruptured discs.

Daniel Allen: Continued healing prayers for close friend, Jon Black, for chemo treatments to fight pancreatic cancer that has moved to his liver.

Dan Rogers: Prayers for healing and strength.

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

Larry White: Please keep Larry's sister-in-law's family in your prayers as her sister, Debbie, is facing a losing battle with cancer.

Alan Bunch: Healing prayers for a series of 6 cortisone steroid injections into his spine that he will be getting over the next month, prayers they relieve the pain in his back. Prayers also for healing from a severe sinus infection.

Bobbie Hawkins: Healing prayers for dad, Duke Hawkins, for heart problems and memory loss. Healing prayers for my vet, Dr. B. for cancer that has spread, going through chemo treatments the next 6 months.

Renee Lebron: Healing prayers for friend's coworker's daughter, Alyssa, who just found out she has brain tumors.

Les & Elaine Hanna: Continued healing prayers for Les for health issues, in Hawthorne Rehab of Brandon. Healing prayers for Elaine's sister-in-law, Bobbi, seriously ill with a number of health problems, in the hospital for the second time this month.

Nancy Montgomery: Prayers are requested for my daughter's best friend who had a new baby and the baby has a very serious underdeveloped heart and just had surgery. It is anticipated that she will have to have multiple more surgeries and eventually a heart transplant. The parents are Maggie and Chad and the baby is Althea Grace.

Ed Hoyos: Healing prayers for the sister of my co-worker Garion, Lena who was in a serious car wreck. Her left wrist bone broke and damage to spine after collision with dump truck and van.

*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 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:**

Sunday Worship  
 Sunday Small Groups  
 Monday Meals on Wheels  
 Cub Scouts  
 Venture Crew  
 Boy Scouts

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

# MAY 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 6:30 p Legend Dairy 4H Meeting	<b>2</b> 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice - Cancelled	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 11:45 a Women's Spring Lunch
<b>6</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>7</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 6:30 p Irene Circle Dinner Out	<b>8</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music	<b>9</b> <b>6 p Wednesday Night Dinner</b> 7 p Choir Practice	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7 a - 1 p Yard Sale Fundraiser
<b>13</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 	<b>14</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>15</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music 7 p Trustees Meeting	<b>16</b> 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>8:30 a Breakfast Club</b> 3 p Boy Scouts Eagle Court of Honor - Michael Hurd
<b>20</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes <b>10:30 a Worship - Pentecost Sunday</b> 3 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>21</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>22</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music	<b>23</b> 7 p Choir Practice	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Class <b>10:30 a Worship - Memorial Day Remembrance</b> <b>11:30 a Cubart Sandwich Sale</b> 3 p Youth Group Meeting	<b>28</b> 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 	<b>29</b> 6:30 p Country Western Music	<b>30</b> 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	<b>31</b>		

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Time sensitive material—Please deliver promptly.

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First United Methodist Church of Seffner

May 2018

The Encourager

Please let the office know if your special date is not



Anniversaries

May 22 Ken & Dot Conklin  
May 31 Chris & Luran Breeden

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



Birthday's

May 1 Jerrie McClamma	May 24 Eric Nelson
May 8 Carolyn Alexander	May 25 Gary Bryant
May 19 Carl Brill	May 25 Chris Greer
May 20 Harry Cumber	May 31 Anthony White
May 22 Eric Heffner	

June 1 Lynnsey McClamma	June 17 Sarah Whitt
June 1 Pat Turner	June 23 Bill Molson
June 4 Buster Mullins	June 28 Pam Hill
June 4 Grace Greer	June 29 Paula Eaton