

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.**



**BLESSINGS &
Happy New Year!**

Potpourri of Happenings

January 1: Happy New Year's: The Church Office will be closed Tuesday for the holiday.

January 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: Country Western Music Group: 6:30 p.m. Every Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall.

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

January 6: Take Down Christmas/Advent Decorations: Sunday, 11:30 a.m. Please join us to help take down the decorations in the Sanctuary and Narthex following the service.

January 6, 13, 20 & 27: Youth Group Meeting: Sundays, 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

January 7, 14 & 28: Praise Team Rehearsals: Mondays, 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

January 8: Legend Dairy 4H Group: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary, Old Sanctuary and Youth Room.

January 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.

January 9 & 23: Family Support Group: Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall or Good News Room.

January 14: Irene Circle Meeting: 7:00 p.m. Meets the 2nd Monday every month in the Good News Room.

January 15: Foster Angels Meeting: Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. in the Youth Room.

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

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

January 19: Budget Finance Meeting: Saturday, 9:30 a.m. in the Good News Room.

January 21: Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance: Monday. The Church office will be closed for the holiday.

January 27: First Seffner Cuban Sandwich Sale: Sunday, 11:30 a.m. Following Worship Service. Sign up in the Narthex to place your order.



Hello friends!

Merry Christmas to all! What a wonderful time in the life of the church! I hope that you are all feeling the spirit of Christmas and sharing it with everyone you encounter!

As we look toward the New Year, we will spend the first 6 weeks of the year focusing on the Gospel of Matthew 2: 1-12 – the story of the Wisemen. Take some time to read up on this – see where you can spot characteristics and actions that depict the “Way of the Wise” to prepare yourself for this meaningful series.

Matthew 2:1-12 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

As the New Year approaches, this year will also come to a close. How was 2018 a good year for you? How was it a not-so-good year? How can you reach out to God to discover how 2019 can be different or even better than this year? As your pastor, I am interested in how I can be of service to you going forward. Know that my door is an open one. I will cherish each moment I get to spend with you. Let’s navigate the New Year together!

On a business note, at the end of the year, many people consider making extra donations to non-profit organizations for income tax purposes. If you are one of those folks, I ask that you not forget your church! Or if you have not pledged for 2019, it’s never too late. The finance team will be getting together in January to create a budget for the year, and we need as much information as possible to be as accurate as possible. Thanks in advance for your help!

Also, thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed on my family and myself since my arrival in July. I am looking forward to an awesome 2019 with expectant hope and joy in my heart. I hope you are too!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Kathi

Guardian Ad Litem Gifts



Thanks to everyone for your generosity and caring in helping to make this Christmas time a happy memory for our Guardian ad Litem children. We received many happy hugs and thanks in delivering your gifts to the children. Again - many thanks to everyone!!

Dot and Ken Conklin

Celebration of Life Service for Les Hanna Friday - January 4th

There will be a Celebration of Life Service for Les Hanna on January 4, 2019 at Palm Lake Christian Church, 5401 22nd Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL 33710. The service will be at 11:00 a.m. and the reception (light lunch) will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.

Taking Down Our Christmas Decorations Sunday - January 6th

Please join us on Sunday, January 6th following the service to help us put the decorations in the Sanctuary and Narthex away for another year...many hands make light work!

Wednesday Night Dinner January 9th @ 6pm

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

Dine in or Take Out

Menu: Fried Chicken, Macaroni and Cheese, Collard Greens, Salad, Dessert

Advance Sign Up: \$6.00 - Adult ~ \$3.00 - Children under 12

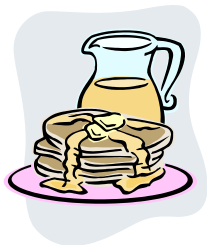
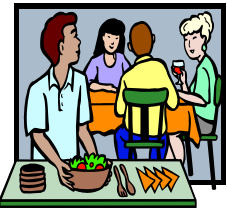
At Door: \$7.00 - Adult ~ \$4.00 - Children under 12

*Please sign up in the Narthex to reserve your seat.

Breakfast Club Saturday - January 19th

We invite all to join us for breakfast one Saturday a month in the Fellowship Hall, 8:30 - 9:30 a.m. We have a great meal, no cost...just donations. Then we have great fellowship about anything in general concerning our Church.

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





CUBANS COMING YOUR WAY JANUARY



Make your meal plans on January 27th to include Seffner Methodists world famous Cuban sandwiches. Sign up early in the Narthex to place your order. 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.

New Altar Flower Calendar For 2019



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 calendar on the door outside the sanctuary.

CARDS FOR A CAUSE



We still have hand-crafted greeting cards in the Narthex for sale. You can purchase single cards for \$2 each, or a box of 30 for \$30. Proceeds from these cards, \$17 per box, will go to Instruments of Change for the Colson Band Program. See Sherry Salamone to purchase.

COLSON BAND PROGRAM



Thank you to those who have contributed in some way, shape or form to the Colson Band Program Outreach. Because of people like you, we were able to start the band on October 23rd – way ahead of schedule! 24 students signed up for the first day, and we have room for 6 more. Our work is not finished – they will still need more funding and support in the coming months; so please continue to get the word out – we will take used instruments, financial donations, and we are also looking for mentors to be at rehearsals with the students and teachers. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2:00pm for one hour. Please let Pastor Kathi know if you would like to serve God and your community this way. No musical ability required!

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 as of December 16: \$7,400.51

Our Monthly Need for Ministry: \$13,398.00

Support Our Youth



Can you provide a snack on Sundays?

If you can please contact Joan Sampere.

Thanks and Blessings

Manna Bags

In the Narthex you will find a tub marked "Manna Bags". Take a couple and keep in your car to give to the homeless you see on street corners asking for help. These bags contain water, canned meat, nutrient bars, cookies, etc. that will provide a nice meal for those in need plus a Cross and a little card that says why I carry a Cross in my pocket. Our Church members have distributed over 3000 Manna Bags over the past 10 plus years. Sponsored and packed by the Breakfast Club.

Aluminum Cans



Please save your aluminum cans and bring to Jim Blaney Sunday mornings. They will be taken to a recycling company where we receive up to .50/lb. The funds help to support Manna Bags and ultimately the homeless.

AMAZON ORDERS EARN REBATES FOR OUR CHURCH

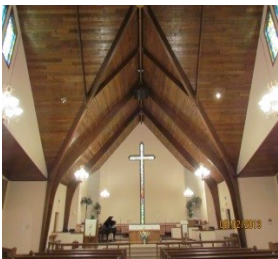
If you purchase anything from Amazon you can now have 1/2 percent of your purchase price rebated to our Church.

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. There is no extra cost to you and ordering through Amazon this way brings added funds to our Church. If you have questions see Jim Blaney.

Altar Guild Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed for Altar Guild for February through December 2019. 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 seffnerfumc@gmail.com



Prayer Requests

Remember Our Shut-Ins: Dan Rogers, Carl Brill, Charlene Cabbage.

Gail & Harry Cumber: Continued prayers for their daughter, Debra Alipaz, who has terminal cancer.

Alan & Sue Bunch: Continued healing prayers for their 15 year old nephew, Joey Johnston.

Pastor Kathi: Continued healing prayers for brother, Danny, for recovery from severe intrinsic system stenosis surgery.

Anita Salay: Healing prayers for brother, Alan Matney, for cancer that has returned and for treatments.

Nancy Gonzalez: Healing prayers for her friend, Elena, for a brain tumor.

Pat Turner: Healing prayers for infection in both legs.

Jim Blaney: Continued healing prayers for Jim's brother, John Blaney, for recovery from health issues, in rehab.

Maryse Lamour: Continued healing prayers for recovery from knee surgery to clear up infection and for pain relief.

Larry Stone: Continued healing prayers for serious health issues, still in Florida Hospital. He is doing better but still recovering, and hoping to be moved to rehab soon.

Dan Rogers: Continued healing prayers for recovery from surgery on his leg to clear up infection. He is home from the hospital and doing better.

Daryl Allen: Continued healing prayers for Daryl, Joyce Allen's son, that they will be able to restore his eyesight in his left eye.

Larry Carter: Continued healing prayers for recovery from unexpected heart bypass surgery last week. He is doing better and hoping to be moved to rehab soon.

Jordan Family: Healing prayers for Jamie Jordan, Micah and family in the loss of Jamie and Micah's mother, Frances Jordan, December 27, 2018. Condolences may be sent to: The Jordan Family at 5419 Trail Dr. Seffner, FL 33584.

Prayer Station

Feel free to leave your prayer requests at the Prayer Station in the Narthex after the service.

*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 Fellowship Hall. 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	6:30 p.m.
Venture Crew	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts	



JANUARY 2019

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

		1 6:30 p Country Western Music Happy New Year! Office Closed	2 7 p Choir Practice	3	4	5
6 Epiphany Sunday 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Take Down Decorations 3 p Youth Group Meeting	7 10 a Prayer Group 5 p Praise Team Rehearsals 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	8 6:30 p Country Western Music 6:30 p Legend Dairy 4H Group	9 6 p Wednesday Night Dinner 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	10	11	12
13 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting	14 10 a Prayer Group 5 p Praise Team Rehearsals 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Irene Circle Meeting	15 6:30 p Country Western Music 6:30 p Foster Angels Meeting 7 p Trustees Meeting	16 7 p Choir Practice	17	18	19 8:30 a Breakfast Club Meeting 9:30 a Budget Finance Meeting
20 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 3 p Youth Group Meeting	21 10 a Prayer Group 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Office Closed	22 6:30 p Country Western Music	23 6 p Family Support Group 7 p Choir Practice	24	25	26
27 9:30 a Sunday School Class 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Cuban Sandwich Sale 3 p Youth Group Meeting	28 10 a Prayer Group 5 p Praise Team Rehearsals 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	29 6:30 p Country Western Music	30 7 p Choir Practice	31		

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

Time sensitive material—Please deliver promptly.

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Seffner, Florida 33583

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1310 South Kingsway Rd.

First United Methodist Church of Seffner

January 2019

The Encourager

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



Anniversaries

January 5 Wally & Theresa Sparks
January 19 Robert & Marty Davis

February 8 Larry & Susan White



Birthday's

January 1 Peggy Moore	January 19 Gladys Ray
January 1 Carolyn Flowers	January 19 Barbara Mafnas
January 4 Pat Eastham	January 25 Daniel Williams
January 9 Kiersteen Lentfoehr	January 25 Ruth Heffner
January 11 Cheri Champion	January 25 Marshall Grant
January 15 Dot Blaney	January 27 Pam Hoyos
January 15 Diane Molson	January 30 Sue Bunch
January 17 Dee Scianti	

February 1 Kayla Allen	February 22 Ken Conklin
February 4 Bobbie Hawkins	February 23 Felix Lebron
February 8 Ed Hoyos	February 23 Micah Allen
February 18 Bethany Allen	February 27 Ardie Paetz