



The Encourager

November 2020

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

November 1: Joint Virtual Zoom Annual Charge Conference: Sunday, 1:30 p.m. Don't forget to join the zoom meeting if you registered.

November 1: Daylight Saving Time Ends: Set your clocks/watches back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday., October 31st.



November 1: All Saints' Sunday: 10:30 a.m. Will be celebrated during the Worship Service.

November 3: General Election Voting: Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

November 4, 11, 18: Worship Singers Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

November 5: Christmas Party Planning Meeting: Thursday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

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

November 9, 16, 23, 30: TOPS Club Meeting: Mondays, 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

November 9, 16, 23, 30: Aerobics: Mondays, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

November 10: Trustees Committee Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

November 11: Livestock Legends & Leaders Group: Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. in the FH.

November 15: Veterans Day Observed: Sunday: Will be celebrated during the Worship Service. Bring a military picture of you or family member to church on the 15th to place on our display table in the Sanctuary. The Church Office will be closed Wednesday, November 11th for Veterans Day.

November 19: Church Council Meeting: Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

November 22: Decorating the Church: Sunday, 11:30 p.m. Please join us after church to help us decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season.

November 26, 27: Happy Thanksgiving: The Church Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26th and 27th for the Thanksgiving holiday. We hope you have a happy and blessed Thanksgiving.

Food, It Tastes So Good

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Psalm 34:8

“Eating, it can be habit forming,” one man used to like to tell us every time he saw us. It’s a habit most of us like.

What is your favorite dinner memory?

Is it the time when the ranch dressing cap came off and you had a bowl full of ranch? Or could it be sitting at the table surrounded by your family and friends about to partake in a delicious meal smelling all of the delicious food when you remember you forgot to get the Ambrosia out?

Food, it can have comforting memories, like your mama’s meatloaf, those jam-filled cookies, or the homemade applesauce. Food, it can taste so good!

What about the food you didn’t think you’d like and your dad insisted you taste? There the green little trees sat on your plate, you pushed them around thinking there is no way these things can taste good. So you pretend you tried them as they made their way into your pocket. One day though you finally decide (force) to try them and guess what, you like them and all it took was a taste.

What about when you talked to God even though you didn’t think it would help? There the green little trees sat on your plate, you pushed the problems around wondering how the trees would go away. Maybe you thought about giving to them God, but instead you cover it up and stuff those trees into your pocket figuring you can take care of it.

You pretend everything is going well, but there the trees sit growing in your pocket. Until one day you think, “Maybe, just maybe God will hear me and help me”. You take a taste and see that God can take care of these little trees, in fact they go away. You realize that God is good and you begin to feel the blessings and you wonder, “Why haven’t I tasted God before?”

We realized many moons ago, how good God is! He has saved us from losing our home, which is now completely ours! He has provided for us in more ways than we can count. He has comforted us when things were out-of-control.

Are you ready to take a taste? God is ready, just give Him a try.

Pastor Brian & Diana



Children's Welcome

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6:7

Dear Families,

Teaching children about God is my calling. Ever since I was young I desired to be a teacher. As I got older the way I thought I was to teach children changed. Instead of teaching in an elementary school, God helped pave a way for me to teach children about Him at my home day care and at church.

I started attending First UMC of Seffner when I was 12. I began in Darryl and Zoila Walter's Junior High Sunday School class. We met where the youth room is now, actually one side of it because there was once a wall and there were two classes there. When my family began attending we were still in the old sanctuary. I also remember Wayne Allen as my High School Sunday School teacher who shared with us a book about positive thinking. I believe this has helped me see the glass as half full and not half empty.

After I graduated from high school I worked at Younger Years Day Care teaching preschoolers. I also helped on Wednesday nights at church with Pioneer Club. After this dissolved I stepped back from helping out at church until I had kids of my own.

Slowly, I began directing the children's plays and helping out at Vacation Bible Schools. I even was able to bring my day care kids to participate.

After my Walk to Emmaus in 2000, I realized that God was calling me to be a Children's Minister. I coordinated and served in Children's church and ministered to the kids here (one of them being Daniel Williams). I was able to serve as Seffner's Children's Minister until 2006 when Brian accepted his call as a pastor over at Port Tampa UMC where I served as Children's Minister there. I was excited to come back and prayed for the opportunity to be able to serve again.

Praise God, the opportunity to serve as Children's Minister has happened! I just recently finished up a program giving me a certificate in children's ministry. I believe it is important to teach the children how much God loves each one of them which is something I strive to do daily at my home daycare. One of our favorite sayings is, "It's alright if I messed up, God still loves me."

Beginning November 1st, I plan to begin Children's church. This is a unique service for children to be able to sing songs and hear a message that is geared to their level and opening their hearts to Jesus. Of course with the concern of Covid, family siblings will be together while distanced from other families until such a time as we can just come together in the name of Jesus.

Of course, the most important people to guide your children to follow Christ is you since church is only a small part in the hours of a week, but a big part in serving God. I hope I can help you guide your children on this journey of life.

I also could use a few volunteers to rotate and to come in to be the second adult in with us.

Diana Brink
Children's Minister



WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Worship Services for November

Please join us for Worship Service in the Sanctuary each Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

If you are unable to attend worship please join us on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m. or use this link to watch the service without Facebook:
<https://first-united-methodist-church-of-seffner.freeonlinechurch.com/>.



- 11/1: Taste and See: Bread
- 11/8: Taste and See: Salt
- 11/15: Taste and See: Figs
- 11/22: Taste and See: Olives
- 11/29: God's Hope in This World



Sunday School Classes

Are you ready to get back to learning more about God and the Bible? Join us on Sunday mornings 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. for Sunday School classes.

Young Adult Sunday School Class: Meeting in the Fellowship Hall - Starting November 1st

Adult Sunday School Class: Meeting in the Good News Room - Starting November 8th

Youth Sunday School Class: Meeting in the Youth Room - Starting November 1st

Children's Church



We will begin Children's Church on Sunday, November 1st. Children ages 2 years old through 5th grade are welcome to attend. We will taste and see God's community, purpose, satisfaction, and healing. Then we will look to the Promise of Hope through Mary. Come join us we worship together.

We could also use a few volunteers to rotate and to come in to be the second adult with Diana.



All Saints' Sunday November 1st

The first Sunday of this month we will celebrate All Saints' Day during our worship celebration. We will remember and honor all those church members who have passed through death to life eternal since November 2019.

Virtual Charge Conference Sunday, November 1st

Don't forget to join the 1:30 p.m. virtual zoom meeting if you registered.

Worship Singers Rehearsals Time Change



Anyone interested in singing at Sunday Worship Service please let Sid know. We will be having socially distanced rehearsals on Wednesday nights from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



Christmas Party Planning Meeting November 5th

Would you like to help us plan a Christmas celebration to end this year with a bang? Bring your ideas as we begin planning, Thursday, November 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room.

Welcome Back to the Irene Circle November 9th



The Irene Circle will resume our meetings on the second Monday of each month starting Monday, November 9th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Good News Room. All women are invited to join us as we find ways in which to serve in the church and community.



Veterans Day will be observed at First Seffner on Sunday, November 15th during our worship celebration. Please bring a picture of yourself or family members, past or current military members to church **November 15th** and place it on our display table in the Sanctuary. You may also email your picture to Deborah at seffnerfumc@gmail.com by Tuesday, **November 10th** for the PowerPoint presentation during worship on November 15th.



Decorating the Church for Advent/Christmas November 22nd



Volunteers needed! Please join us Sunday, November 22nd after church to help us decorate the church for the Advent/Christmas season.

Florida United Methodists Children's Home Help Bring Christmas Joy



We will be collecting gift card donations for the children at the Florida UM Children's Home for Christmas through **November 22nd**. Gift card ideas from the Children's Home are Amazon, Visa, Walmart, Kohl's, Gamestop, Papa John's, and Darden Brand restaurants. Please write the gift card amount on the card and include a gift card receipt. Please give your gift cards to Nancy Gonzalez or drop off at the church office. Thank you for helping to bring Christmas joy to the children.

Florida United Methodist Children's Home Fifth Sunday Giving - November 29th

On each Fifth Sunday, please join in helping to support The Florida United Methodist Children's Home in their call to serve more children in more places and in more ways. There will be special envelopes in the Narthex for you use November 29th.

United Methodist Student Day November 29th

This is one of six Church-wide special Sunday offerings of the United Methodist Church. Your generous gift supports United Methodist Student Day scholarships, enriches ministry and helps connect students to their faith. Thank you for your gift on November 29th....your gift matters!!! There will be special giving envelopes in the Narthex for your use November 29th.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service on
Thursday, December 24th, at 7:00 p.m.

Invite your family and friends!

Giving Options

Your donations to the church may be brought to Sunday Worship Services,
mailed or made by PayPal online. Thank you so much for your support!

Mail:

P.O. Box 607
Seffner, FL 33583

PayPal:

Website:

Use our Donate Online button on our website at fmcseffner.com

Facebook:

Use blue PayPal box on our PayPal post at facebook.com/fmcseffner

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**



AMAZON ORDERS

EARN REBATES FOR OUR CHURCH

If you purchase anything from Amazon you can have 1/2 percent of your purchase price rebated to our Church. There is no extra cost to you and brings added funds to our Church. Contact Jim Blaney at jdblaney@msn.com for questions.

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”



Prayer Requests

Remember Our Homebound: Carl Brill, Charlene Cabbage, Peggy Moore

Eric Nelson: Prayers for health issues.

Anita Salay: Prayers for cousin, Rachel, for recovery from bilateral mastectomy surgery. Prayers for sister, Glenda, for breast cancer. Prayers for adopted son, for serious kidney and diabetic issues, and almost completely blind.

Sue Bunch: Prayers for healing and recovery from meniscus surgery on her right knee, she is having a slow recovery.

Martha Barbree: Prayers for her mother, Mary Barbree, for healing from a fractured hip she is not healing well from.

Rebecca Lentfoehr: Prayers for health and pregnancy concerns.

Sid Fortner: Prayers for his mother, Undine Fortner, for recovery from illness, recovering in a skilled nursing facility in GA.

Paula Eaton: Prayers for her brother-in-law, Robert Eaton, for recovery from open heart surgery.

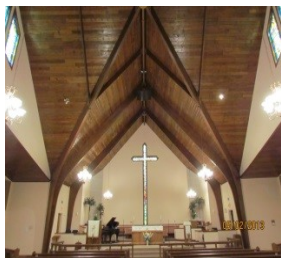
Carolann Mullins: Prayers for recovery from surgery.

Jerry Torgerson: Prayers for Jerry, Pastor Brian's friend, for recovery from shoulder replacement surgery.

Lauran Breeden: Continued prayers for healing for health issues.

Kaleb Breeden: Prayers for a Gastric Ulcer and the many complications that come with it, and for a procedure scheduled November 5.



Altar Guild Volunteers Needed



Volunteers are needed for Altar Guild for January - December 2021. We usually work in teams of two and it usually takes about a half hour each week. This includes dusting Chancel area, changing paraments when needed, water plants, etc. There is a complete list in the Sacristy. If you would like to help please contact the Church Office at 813-689-3513 or at seffnerfumc@gmail.com

Weekly Events:	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship	Morning (FH)
Monday Meals on Wheels	7:30 p.m.
Boy Scouts	

NOVEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Daylight Saving Time Ends 11/1 Set Your Clocks Back One Hour On October 31st 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship - All Saints' 1:30 p Virtual Charge Conf.	2	3 7 a - 7 p General Election Voting	4 7 p Worship Singers Rehearsal	5 7 p Christmas Party Planning Mtg.	6	7
8 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship	9 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics 7 p Irene Circle Meeting	10 7 p Trustees Meeting	11 6:30 p Livestock Legends Mtg. 7 p Worship Singers Rehearsal  Office Closed	12	13	14
15 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship - Veterans Day Observed	16 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	17	18 7 p Worship Singers Rehearsal	19 7 p Church Council Meeting	20	21
22 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship 11:30 a Decorating the Church	23 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	24	25 No Worship Singer Rehearsal	26 HAPPY THANKSGIVING  Office Closed	27	28
29 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship	30 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics				Office Closed	

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November 2020

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Email: seffnerfumc@gmail.com

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



November 7 Harry & Gail Cumber

**November 2 Amanda Lirot
November 5 Gail Cumber
November 5 Theresa Sparks
November 8 Wally Sparks
November 8 Robert Stephens
November 11 David Trayal
November 15 Janice Rogers**

**November 15 Martha Barbree
November 18 Betty Herbert
November 18 David Bast
November 19 Debbie Cash
November 20 Ryan Heffner
November 26 Renee Lebron**

**December 1 Mike & Carolann Mullins
December 6 Paul & Sue Palmer
December 21 Eric & Connie Nelson**

**December 4 Karen Sloan
December 5 Dan Rogers
December 11 Mike Mullins
December 12 Carol Sanelli
December 14 Britton White
December 19 Carolann Mullins**

**December 20 Nancy Gonzalez
December 24 Jim Blaney
December 25 Timothy White
December 28 Paul Palmer
December 28 Jorge Izazaya
December 31 Daniel Allen**