



# The Encourager

December 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

**December 2, 9, 16, 30: Worship Singers Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**December 5: Post Office Sale:** Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in the old Chapel.

**December 5: Livestock Legends & Leaders Group Party:** Saturday, 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**December 7, 14, 21, 28: TOPS Club Meeting:** Mondays, 5:45 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Will meet in the Good News Room on December 14.

**December 7, 21, 28: Aerobics:** Mondays, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**December 8: Trustees Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**December 9: Livestock Legends & Leaders Group:** Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. in the FH.

**December 13: Jesus' Birthday Party:** Sunday, 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for food, crafts, games and music. Reservations and masks required due to Covid. Sign up in the Narthex or call the office by the December 6th deadline.

**December 14: Irene Circle Christmas Party:** Monday, 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

**December 18: E.H.C.B. Holiday Concert:** Friday, 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Everyone is welcome.

**December 24: Christmas Eve Service:** Thursday, 6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us starting with special music, with the Candlelight Service beginning at 7:00 p.m. Birthday cake for Jesus to follow. Invite family and friends.

**December 24 & 25: Merry Christmas:** The Church Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 24th and 25th for the Christmas holiday. We hope you have a happy and blessed Christmas!

**January 1: Happy New Year:** The Church Office will be closed Friday for the holiday.

**January 3: Take Down Decorations:** Sunday, 11:30 a.m. Please join us to help take down the decorations in the Sanctuary and Narthex following the service.



### It's Time to Celebrate

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be on his shoulder, and he shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9: 6*

We don't know about you, but we are ready to celebrate! We are even rejoicing when someone decorates before Thanksgiving; this year it just seems alright. We don't need to tell you, but this year hasn't really gone very well.

The good news is it's time to celebrate! Christmas is coming!

This is one of our favorite times of year, we love decorating our house for Christmas. Diana gets out all of her Christmas' bears! Brian sets up his Charlie Brown Christmas tree and decorates the outside. We enjoy looking at our nativity set and the one given to us by Diana's grandma.

What do you hope for this Christmas season? Are you hoping to travel to see family or is family coming in? Do you plan to have a party?

Ever since the creation of the world, God has known our need for a Savior. He knew we would mess up and that would separate us from Him. He promised to send His son Jesus. From the time He told his prophets of His plans to send the Messiah, every year they waited in anticipation.

What are you waiting in anticipation for? A new year, a new job, a new baby, no virus...all good reasons to celebrate!

Christ is the anointed one. The child born to us that we celebrate this time of year! He has already come, our Messiah was born over 2000 years ago in the town of Bethlehem. We believe we need to celebrate Him more than anything this year.

God has been at the center of it all! No matter how bad things have been, He is there. He is the one who gives us hope, shows us His love, and brings us joy and peace. Take time this Christmas to celebrate. Trust God to take care of you, know the peace of God. Have a Merry Christmas!

Pastor Brian & Diana





## **Worship Services for December**

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/>.



- 12/6: God's Love in This World
- 12/13: God's Joy in This World
- 12/20: God's Peace in This World
- 12/24: Christ to the World
- 12/27: Twas the Sunday After Christmas



## **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

Adult Sunday School Class: Meeting in the Good News Room

Youth Sunday School Class: Meeting in the Youth Room

Children's Sunday School Class: Meeting in the Nursery



## **Children's Church**

Children's church is ready, ready for children to worship God. This month we will learn about Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, and of course baby Jesus. If you aren't able to join us for worship then check out the link on our First United Methodist of Seffner Facebook page. Ms. Diana is sharing the message there.



### **Worship Singers Rehearsals**

Anyone interested in singing at Sunday Worship Service please let Sid know. We will be having socially distanced rehearsals on Wednesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



### **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.

Dot and Ken Conklin



### **Florida United Methodists Children's Home Gifts**

Thank you to everyone for your gifts for the United Methodist Children's Home to help bring Christmas joy to the children.

Nancy Gonzalez

### **Post Office Ministry Sale Saturday - December 5th**



Come join us at our Post Office Sale Saturday from 8:00 - 12:00 p.m. in the Old Chapel building. New merchandise from housewares, jewelry, makeup, electronics, books, etc. Come see what treasures you can find. Please wear your mask. Gloves will be provided.

Volunteers are needed to help out with the sale. Please call or text Susan White at 813-598-8386 if you would like to help.



## **Jesus' Birthday Party Sunday - December 13th**

Join us December 13th at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate. Wear your festive attire, it will make Santa jolly. Join us for food, crafts, games and music.

Reservations are required due to Covid. Masks are required. Reservation deadline is December 6th. There are two spots left, don't miss out. Sign up in the Narthex or call the office at 813-689-3513.

We would love to have you as our guest as we celebrate and honor Jesus!

## **Irene Circle Christmas Celebration**



The annual Christmas Party will be Monday, December 14, at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a gift for the exchange and if you would like, a monetary donation for the Guardian Ad Litem Christmas ministry. Even though we are doing things a little different this year, we want to gather safely and celebrate the season. If you will be attending, please contact me at 685-0166.

To keep safety measures in place, we will:

- Have the meal catered
- Practice social distancing, especially when eating
- Wear masks before and after eating
- Bring your single wrapped snack items for the First Responders Christmas baskets

Blessings, Joyce Allen

## **Eastern Hillsborough Community Band Holiday Concert Friday, December 18th**



Please join the Eastern Hillsborough Community Band for their Holiday Concert here at First UMC of Seffner Friday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



Donations Requested at the Door  
Proceeds to Benefit the E.H.C.B.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Please join us for our Christmas Eve Service on Thursday, December 24th, at 6:45 p.m. for special music, with worship beginning at 7:00 p.m....a traditional service of candlelight, scripture, and song on this holy night of remembering the birth of Christ! Birthday cake for Jesus to follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. Invite your family and friends.



## **Taking Down Our Christmas Decorations Sunday - January 3rd**

Volunteers needed! Please join us Sunday, January 3rd after church to help us put the decorations in the Sanctuary and Narthex away for another year...many hands make light work!



## **Women's Bible Study Coming January 2021**



Have you wanted to learn more about being a woman after God's own heart? Studying God's word with other women who encourage each other on this journey of life can help us get through the difficult times. Diana Brink is planning to begin a Women's Bible Study the first week of January. We are just trying to figure out a time which would work, please let her know if Mondays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays at 7 or even Saturday mornings at 9 would work out best for you.

## **Post Office Ministry**

As we enter into the holiday season, if you would like to volunteer with the post office ministry, please make sure to text Susan at 598-8386. We will be practicing social distancing and must limit the number of volunteers each week.

Thank you for understanding and working with us during this time.



## **Feeding Ministries Global Free Food Pantry**

Feeding Ministries Global is a ministry that is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays that gives away free food boxes of shelf and canned food as well as clothing and shoes. There is no income check and no proof of anything needed. Use this link for more information:

<https://feedingministries.org>.

### **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 [fumcseffner.com](http://fumcseffner.com)

Facebook:

Use blue PayPal box on our PayPal post at [facebook.com/fumcseffner](https://facebook.com/fumcseffner)



### **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](mailto: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.

Sid Fortner: Prayers for his mother, Undine Fortner, for poor health.

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

Carolann Mullins: Continued prayers for recovery from surgery.

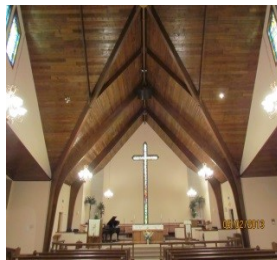
Breeden Family: Prayers for Kaleb for recovery from health issues.

Dee Scionti: Healing prayers for family members for recovery from Covid.

Nancy Farkas: Prayers for Nancy's brother Mike Long, back in the hospital with undiagnosed, ongoing symptoms and depression. Prayers for Mike's wife Debbie and son Phillip also.

Tricia Woodford: Prayers for Tricia's niece, Laura Beth Herron, for stage 1 breast cancer, and for good results from upcoming biopsy.

Dot Conklin: Healing prayers for Dot's sister, Jo Reeves, 87, for a quick recovery from Covid, in a nursing home up north.



## **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](mailto:seffnerfumc@gmail.com)



## **Pictures for Website**

We are looking for current pictures to add to our church website. If you have pictures of events at the church from the last year or two that you would like to share please email them to the church office at [seffnerfumc@gmail.com](mailto:seffnerfumc@gmail.com).



<b>Weekly Events:</b>	
<b>Sunday Worship</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>
<b>Monday Meals on Wheels</b>	<b>Morning (FH)</b>
<b>Boy Scouts</b>	<b>7:30 p.m.</b>
<b>Venture Crew</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>

# DECEMBER 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7 p Worship Singers Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 8 a Post Office Sale 10 a Livestock Legends and Leaders Party
<b>6</b> <b>2nd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship	<b>7</b> 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>8</b> 7 p Trustees Meeting	<b>9</b> 6:30 p Livestock Legends Mtg. 7 p Worship Singers Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 6:30 p District SPR On-Line Training	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>3rd Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship <b>3 p Jesus' Birthday Party</b>	<b>14</b> 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting <b>6:30 p Irene Circle Christmas Party</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7 p Worship Singers Rehearsal	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7 p EHCBB Holiday Concert	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>4th Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship	<b>21</b> 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> No Worship Singer Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 6:45 p Christmas Eve Service  Office Closed	<b>25</b> <b>Merry Christmas</b>  Office Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:30 a Sunday School Classes 10:30 a Worship	<b>28</b> 5:45 p TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 p Aerobics	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7 p Worship Singers Rehearsal	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve	January 1 Happy New Year! Office Closed	

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## First United Methodist Church of Seffner

1310 South Kingsway Rd.

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Seffner, Florida 33583

Phone: 813-689-3513

Fax: 813-654-4460

Email: seffnerfumc@gmail.com

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



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

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

December 4	Karen Sloan
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

January 1	Peggy Moore
January 4	Pat Eastham
January 9	Kiersteen Lentfoehr
January 11	Cheri Champion
January 15	Dot Blaney
January 15	Diane Molson

January 17	Dee Scionti
January 19	Gladys Ray
January 25	Daniel Williams
January 25	Marshall Grant
January 27	Pam Hoyos
January 30	Sue Bunch