



The Encourager

May 2021

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

May 1: Women's Spring Luncheon: Saturday, 11:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Thrive Praise & Worship: Sundays, 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: TOPS Club Meeting: Mondays, 5:45 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31: Aerobics: Mondays, 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

May 3, 10, 17, 24: Women's Bible Study: Mondays, 7:00 PM in the old Nursery.

May 5, 12, 19, 26: Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays, 9:00 AM in the Good News Room.

May 5, 12, 19, 26: Worship Singers Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 7:00 PM in the Sanctuary.

May 6: National Day of Prayer

May 9: Mother's Day

May 12: Livestock Legends & Leaders Group: Wednesday, 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

May 20: Church Council Meeting: Thursday, 7:00 PM in the Choir Room.

May 14, 28: Emmaus Reunion Group: Fridays, 6:30-8:30 PM in the Good News Room.

May 31: Memorial Day

Trouble in Paradise

8 And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. 9 And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:8-9

So much planning and thought into every detail. God knew exactly what He was doing when He created the earth, skies, and universe. Our Bible explains just how and when He created everything. God is amazing. He knew when the light needed to begin and the plants. He even took great care in placing the sun, moon and stars in the right place.

He even took great care in creating man. We were created in His image and breathed life into us. We are why He created this world we live in. He created us to have a relationship with Him.

Can you imagine what the Garden of Eden looked like? Plants, trees, rivers, all of God's beauty in one place. Everything we could ever need and God walked on the earth with Adam and Eve.

So much planning and thought went into every detail of our trip. We thought we had every detail down and that everything would go smoothly. Brian had one rule, don't go to the hospital again. We thought we were headed to paradise.

We took our Covid test three days before the trip and we got our negative test results and we loaded them into the Safe Travel website just like we were supposed to. We read the Hawaii traveling website over and over. We continually checked back to see if anything changed.

Oahu was beautiful, of course not quite the paradise we thought. But every beach and mountain we saw were gorgeous. We adventured out and were quite excited when we packed up and headed to the airport to enter The Big Island. We made our plans on what to do when we landed and looked forward to the next adventure.

Unfortunately, we ran into trouble in paradise. When we got off the plane we had to be screened to make sure we were safe to travel throughout the island. Soon we discovered we had trouble. All the reading, all the preparing and we never saw we still needed a negative Covid to enter each island. Now we had to quarantine. The one reason we waited until April was so we didn't have to be put in quarantine.

We could no longer rent a car, but we could stay where we reserved. We were stuck in paradise.

We scheduled our Covid test and waited for the results. We found our room and waited a bit anxiously because we weren't sure even with the negative test if we would be let out. We even began to make plans to come home, why be there when we weren't sick and we could only stay in our room.

After a restless 24 hours and continuous prayers, we uploaded our results and we were immediately freed!

Funny no matter how much planning we do, there can still be hiccups and bumps along the road.

God planned for this wonderful, beautiful place for people to live. He planned to have a relationship with us. God though gave us each a mind of our own so we can choose to have a relationship with Him. He gave Adam and Eve one rule, just one. They had to choose to obey. We know how that turned out, trouble in paradise.

We enjoyed our trip to Hawaii and saw how God can take molten rock and turn it into a tropical paradise. It was amazing to see trees growing out of the lava rocks and how over time the entire area becomes a tropical forest. We know God has good plans even when there is trouble in paradise.





Thanks to all!



God tells we need to be the body of Christ, we sure did that in preparing, having the Easter Eggstravaganza, and the clean up.

All those who donated helped us not to have to purchase too much, which helped the church's finances out. To all those who came out and helped us to prepack the eggs and crafts, and to the one who put the bikes together. To all those who helped to set up, welcome people, work a station, coordinate the petting zoo, and helped us cook and serve the food. Each of you were a part of the body of Christ. My thanks goes out to each of you.

I'm overwhelmed by how generous and helpful each of you are.

Thanks so very much,

Diana Brink



Serving with Joy

Through the Irene Circle

The year brought some challenges on how we could serve others in the church and community. However, the Irene Circle found ways to continue ministry. We will be taking our summer break May-July. Please join us August 9 at 7pm in the Good News Room as we plan our calendar for the next year. We are always looking for ways to serve others and your ideas can help us do that. Thank you to all the ladies who helped make these outreach projects a success.

We stayed busy with projects such as:

- Fruit baskets to our shut-ins for Advent and Lent
- Easter Baskets to the Dover Clinic, along with books and DVDs
- Women's Spring Luncheon and Play
- Goody boxes to local fire stations and first responders





WELCOME TO WORSHIP

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

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



5/2: Focus on the Good

5/9: Focus on Christ

5/16: Focus on your Master

5/23: Focus on your Future

5/30: Focus on your Mission



Start your Sunday Mornings off right with joining us at 9:30 - 10:15 AM. for Sunday School classes.

- Children's Sunday School: Nursery
- Youth Sunday School: Youth Room
- Adult Sunday School: Good News Room



Who is ready for a fun time singing, dancing, and learning about God and the Bible? Any child from the age of 2 to 12 can join us.

This Month, we have begun the Fruits of the Spirit continue learning about joy, peace, patience, kindness, and goodness.

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.

Altar Flower Calendar

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.



Altar Guild Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed for Altar Guild for May, August and November. 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.



Prayer Requests

Remember Our Homebound: Charlene Cabbage, Peggy Moore

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

Dee Scionti: Prayers for grandson, Chase Colwell for health issues.

Art Pletcher: Continued prayers for health.

Dot Blaney: Continued prayers for healing for severe lower back pain.

Eric Nelson: We appreciate the prayers that helped Eric through the treatments with only minor side effects. He is back at work and feeling great. Please pray for continued healing and good test results when he goes back to the doctor.

Alan Bunch: Healing prayers for Alan's sister, Sandy McKay, for a brain hemorrhage and other health issues, and for her husband, Jim, for stage four COPD.

Karen Sloan: Healing prayers for her husband, Jim Sloan, who was able to come home from the hospital but continue to pray for pain relief in his cancer treatment.

Condolences For Carl Brill's Family

Long-time Member of the Church; Carl Brill went to be with the Lord this past month, if you would like to send a condolence card, it can be sent to his sister:

Shirley Stewart
2622 Tulip Tree
Seffner, Fl. 33584



Vacation Bible School Registration

VBS is right around the corner and we hope you are as excited as we are. Any child from the age of Three to Eleven (Upcoming 6th Graders) are welcome to come!

We do have child registration set up on our website www.fumcseffner.org which can be found under the announcement tab. Please register your child so we can plan ahead accordingly.

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.



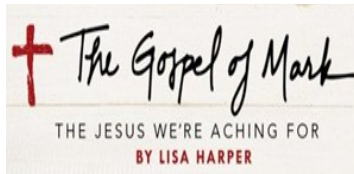
Women's Spring Lunch ~ May 1st **Seasons of Our Life**

The Women's Spring Lunch will be May 1st at 11:45am in the Fellowship Hall. To all that have sign up, get ready to come and enjoy a meal, program and fellowship. It is sure to be a great time! Cost is \$6.00 payable at the door. The Irene Circle is excited about the program and we look forward to serving you.



Praise & Worship **Beginning May 2nd** **7:00 PM**

Are you ready? We will begin an upbeat service. The music will be louder, will shake the roof. All are welcome to join us as we praise the Lord in a different way. Youth group will be restarting following service. Invite your friends, family, and neighbors.



Women's Bible Study **Monday Nights at 7PM**

All women are welcome to join us Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. in the old Nursery for Bible study. We have begun a new Bible Study "The Gospel of Mark". We will follow Jesus through His days of early ministry all the way to the cross. This is where we discover to be recipients of His compassion and discover His passion.

Men's Bible Study **Wednesday Mornings at 9AM**

Join Pastor Brian for our Men's Bible Study, on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Good News Room. We have finished "Grace is Greater" and will be starting a new study soon, in the meantime we are still meeting together. We will meet May 5, 12, 19, 26.



Mother's Day **May 9**

Mother's Day is a celebration honoring the mother of the family, as well as motherhood, maternal bonds, and the influence of mothers in society. Make sure to take some time out of your day to honor the motherly figure in your life.



God's Great Adventure Needs List

Stuffed animal alligator	Hershey Kisses	Googly eyes
Stuffed animal moose	Gum	Black Marker
Stuffed animal bighorn sheep	Tootsie rolls	Yarn
Stuffed animal eagle	Peppermint patties	Stickers
Stuffed animal bison	Sunflower seeds to plant	Hole punch
Stones	Cardboard	Large Pinecones
Paint	Flowers-dried or fake	Bouncy balls
Fleece fabric	Rubber bands	Flashlights
Large binder clips	White paper plates	Trail Mix
Bird seed	Brown Paint	Fruit Snacks
Sunflower butter	Glue	Snickers
Life savers	Shaving cream	
Starburst	Paint brushes	
Payday	Plastic forks	
Paper clips	Construction Paper	
Mounds	Brown, white, & yellow Construction paper	



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

June 16 Alan & Sue Bunch



May 1 Jerrie McClamma
May 8 Carolyn Alexander
May 13 Shalee Perez
May 20 Harry Cumber
May 21 Jim Thompson
May 24 Eric Nelson
May 29 Nancy Farkas
May 31 Don Champion
May 31 A.J. White

June 1 Lynnsey McClamma
June 1 Pat Turner
June 4 Buster Mullins
June 23 Bill Molson
June 29 Paula Eaton

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

Weekly Events:
Monday: Meals on Wheels
Venture Crew
Boy Scouts

Morning (FH)
6:30 p.m.
7:30 p.m.

MAY 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<div>2</div> 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 10:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM Thrive Praise & Worship	<div>3</div> 5:45 PM TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 PM Aerobics 7 PM Women's Bible Study	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> 9 AM Men's Bible Study 7 PM Worship Singers Rehearsal	<div>6</div> National Day of Prayer	<div>7</div>	<div>1</div> 11:45 AM Women's Spring Luncheon
<div>9</div> Mother's Day 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Trustees Meeting 7:00 PM Thrive Praise & Worship	<div>10</div> 5:45 PM TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 PM Aerobics 7 PM Irene Circle Meeting	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div> 9 AM Men's Bible Study 6:30 PM Livestock Legends Mtg. 7 PM Worship Singers Rehearsal	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div> 6:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group	<div>15</div>
<div>16</div> 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 10:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM Thrive Praise & Worship	<div>17</div> 5:45 PM TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 PM Aerobics 7 PM Women's Bible Study	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> 9 AM Men's Bible Study 7 PM Worship Singers Rehearsal	<div>20</div> 7 PM Church Council Meeting	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>
<div>23</div> 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 10:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM Thrive Praise & Worship	<div>24</div> 5:45 PM TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 PM Aerobics 7 PM Women's Bible Study	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div> 9 AM Men's Bible Study 7 PM Worship Singers Rehearsal	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> 6:30 PM Emmaus Reunion Group	<div>29</div>
<div>30</div> 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 10:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM Thrive Praise & Worship	<div>31</div> Memorial Day 5:45 PM TOPS Club Meeting 6:30 PM Aerobics					

First United Methodist Church of Seffner

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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 April: \$ 16,081.17

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



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