

Presbyterian Church of Seffner



1906 South Lenna Avenue

Seffner, FL

813-689-4412

www.seffnerpres.org

WELCOME

This morning as we join in worship, our hope for you is that you will find renewed life, health and strength in God. We are glad that you have heard God's call to come and worship, and that you have chosen to do so with this congregation. If you do not have a church home in this area, we invite you to join with us as we seek to serve Christ and live as His disciples. You may be received into church membership by profession of faith, letter of transfer, or reaffirmation of faith. If you are interested in uniting with this church, please contact the church office or any elder.

Session Members

Nancy Mason - '20 - Worship
Matt Shick - '20 - Stewardship
Patty MacEwen - '21 - Admin.
Carol Shick - '22 - Worship

Cindy Doyle - '20 - Christian Ed.
Carina Brushwood - '21 - Cong. Care
Bob Friskney - '22 - Fellowship
Deborah Thatcher - '22- Mission

Cammie Williams - Clerk of Session

Our Mission Statement

To provide opportunities for people to
discover God's love,
seek God's purpose,
and do God's will.

Our Vision Statement

Glorifying God with
mind, body, and soul.

Pastor: The Rev. Loli Reiter

Ministers: The Congregation

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,
God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts
of him who called you out of darkness into
his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9*

Music Director: Logan Sorey

Organist: Sheila Donohue

Worship Leader: TJ Childs

Youth Leader: Lauren Sorey

Nursery: Laura DeLeury

1906 S. Lenna Avenue, P.O. Box 545

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kara@seffnerpres.org

seffnerpres.org

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13th, 2020, 11:00 A.M.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Magnificat" — David Lawrence Wood

SILENT PREPARATION

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Good Christian Friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

People: We have reason: we are here! God is here, and God is good!

Leader: Now you need not fear the grave for Jesus Christ was born to save!

People: We have no reason to fear!

We have no reason to mourn for Jesus Christ was born!

Alleluia! Amen!

HYMN # 28 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!"

**Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, And we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Joy, choosing to be joyful is hard. It is easier to complain about what is wrong than to give You thanks for all that is right in our lives. It is easier to grumble than it is to speak Your truth of peace in the world. It is easier to despair about what we don't have than it is to sing about the hope we have in You. Forgive us, Lord. Give us the energy and the courage to choose to be joyful. Remind us that in You we have more than we could ever need. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

“The Candle of JOY”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 9:2-7
Luke 1:46-56

SERMON

*“You have multiplied the nation, You have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.”* Isaiah 9:3

HYMN # 57

"The Snow Lay on The Ground"

**The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
When Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.**

Refrain: Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

**'Twas gentle Mary maid, so young and strong,
Who welcomed here the Christ-child with a song.
She laid Him in a stall at Bethlehem;
The ass and oxen shared the roof with them. *Refrain***

**Saint Joseph too was by to tend the Child,
To guard Him, and protect His mother mild.
The angels hovered round and sang this song;
Venite adoremus Dominum. *Refrain***

**And thus that manger poor became a throne;
For He whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host;
To praise the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. *Refrain***

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the
Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was
crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose
again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and
the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of
saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life
everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Offering - "A Little Christmas Humor"

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN # 4 "Creator of The Stars of Night"

**Creator of the stars of night, Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all, We pray You, hear us when we call.**

**When this old world drew on toward night,
You came, but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child of Mary, blameless mother mild.**

**At Your great name, O Jesus, now All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord, Like those in heaven, shall call You Lord.**

**To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit,
Three in One, Praise, honor, might, and glory be From age to age eternally.
Amen.**

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

**The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all, be with you all.
The Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all. Amen.**

POSTLUDE "People, Look East" — French Advent Hymn

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE THIS WEEK

Temple Keeper: Ed Kelsey (on or before 12/19)

Ushers: Nancy Mason, Jeff Mason

Greeters: Deb Thatcher, Chris Spangler

AS WE BEGIN TO COME BACK TO OUR CHURCH FACILITIES, we ask that everyone be diligent about following the safety protocols that have been set after much prayer and research. When we are on church property, let us remember to wear our masks. Wearing masks truly is an act of care for our neighbors and church family. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we learn new ways of being together. And thank you for your commitment to doing all we can to keep each other as safe as possible. May God continue to bless you and yours!

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND CHURCH IN PERSON - we need to make sure we can accommodate you as safely as possible; therefore, we ask that you let us know by each Thursday by 2 pm, just email kara@seffnerpres.org with your name and the number of people to attend with you. We will continue to stream our service on Facebook Live. Prayerfully consider what will be the safest option for you and your family.

DONATIONS FOR 2020 - The last day we can accept donations for 2020 is **December 30th**.

SILENT AUCTION to benefit Meals on Wheels Program, will close on **Sunday, December 13th**. Please look for pictures and details in your email. Bid by text for those not able to worship in person (**Deb Thatcher 813 240-1751**).

CHRISTMAS WREATH YOUTH FUNDRAISER Visit LynchCreekFundraising.com/c/249233 to check out the product line of items available for purchase. 15% of the proceeds will go to the Youth! Wreaths, Centerpieces, Garland and more.

OUR CHRISTMAS CANTATA, "CANDLES AND CAROLS", will be performed LIVE on **Sunday, December 20th**. That Sunday we invite **EVERYONE TO WORSHIP FROM HOME**, and then bring your cookies.

JOY COOKIE EXCHANGE scheduled for December 20th will be substituted by a Joy Cookie and refreshment take-out following the Christmas Eve Courtyard Service. Cookies are to be brought in, bagged for safe distribution. We are asking for 2-3 cookies per bag.

BLUE CHRISTMAS PRAYER SPACE - **Monday, December 21st** is the longest night of the year. We welcome you to the sanctuary to take some quiet, personal time to pray. With all that is going on in the world today, let us lift up a prayer and light a candle to remind the world that Christ is with us in the darkness and that he is the light that will dispel it. **Sanctuary open from 7 to 8pm**. Safety protocols will be followed and it will be live streamed.

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS - Would you like to dedicate a poinsettia for a loved one? Email the information to kara@seffner.pres.org or fill out form provided. You may leave the form in the offering plate, if you are attending worship in person. If you email the information, provide your name and phone number, the person you wish to honor or memorialize, how many flowers you would like to order. **THE POINSETTIAS** will be part of the worship service on **December 20th** and

Christmas Eve, December 24th. They may be picked up after the worship service Christmas Eve. Remaining poinsettias will be placed outside around the court yard to be picked up at your convenience.



If you would like to dedicate a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone, fill out the information below. (Please print clearly.)

Your name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Quantity ____ X \$7.00 ea. = ____ check ____ cash ____

Make check payable to Presbyterian Church of Seffner. In the **memo** portion of the check write **poinsettias**.

Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 13th. You may place form and payment in offering plate or **mail payment to the church P.O. Box 545, Seffner, FL. 33583.**

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING - Because God is with us, we see the potential of students of color who will become our leaders and we seek to come alongside them, to encourage them, and to be with them. 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Because God is with us, we see church workers who have critical financial needs and we come alongside them, to assist them - we are with them. 50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. Thank you for your gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering - for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - We will worship together (in-person and live stream) at 5pm in the courtyard. This service will include communion and candle lighting. At 7pm we will live stream an encore presentation of our Cantata.

OFFICE CLOSED - Monday, December 28th-Friday, January 1st church office is closed.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Sunday, December 13, 2020 Third Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Worship Service Online Live and in-Person, Bike Dedication
12:30 pm Zoom Sunday School

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

7:00 pm Session Gathering

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

8:30 am Meals on Wheels
6:00 pm Youth Meeting
6:15 pm Bells Meet in Sanctuary
7:30 pm Choir Meets in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 20, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Advent

11:00 am Cantata Worship Service Online Live, No in-Person Worship
12:30 pm Zoom Sunday School

A HOPEFUL LOOK AHEAD

Dec. 13 3rd Sunday of Advent

15 Session Zoom Meeting

16 Meals on Wheels, Youth Meeting, Bell Choir Meets in Sanctuary,
Chancel Choir Meets in Fellowship Hall

20 4th Sunday of Advent Cantata "Candles and Carols"

21 Blue Christmas Prayer Space

23 Meals on Wheels, No Youth, No Bells, No Choir

24 Christmas Eve Worship Services 5pm Communion and 7pm Cantata Encore

25 Merry Christmas!

27 1st Sunday of Christmas

28-Jan. 1 Office Closed, Happy New Year!

PRAISES and CONCERNS

Pray at all times in the Spirit...Ephesians 6:18a

Our ministry is to pray for our members who are hospitalized, ill, home bound, attending college, and in the military; and to also encourage others to send cards, make a phone call or visit if possible. If you do not have a directory or need an address not listed, please contact the church office, we will be happy to help.

John Taylor

Karen Martin

Terry Cooney

Rob Bargo

Charles Brandt

Kitty Lowe

Robert Lavazza

Bob Stetler

Joy Lavazza

Bill Worth

Betty Lou & John Harp

George Kosan

Jim Barfield

Beverley Field

Tammy Wooster

Bonnie Taylor

Anne Wheeler

Healthcare Workers

Mazen Al-Alawi	Waleska Alvarado	Jenny Carswell	Lexi Crawford
Allie Abrams Downey	Kristen Doyle	Maggie Hehn	Patricia Hudson
Cheryl High Sawyer	Joelle Vlahakis		

College

Kai Abe	Elizabeth Banks	Michaela Brushwood	Danh Cooney
Michael Hawkins	Christian Jaimungal	Rachel Kosan	Peter Lapham
Elias Mayfield	Alex Messina	Amber Todd	Jenny Todd

Military

Justin Ernul	Wyatt Harris	Jeff Mason Jr.	Michael Paynter
Sherryn Ramkarran	Diego Rincon	Aaron Sampson	