

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20th, 2020, 11:00 A.M.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella"

SILENT PREPARATION

OPENING PRAYER

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Turn it off. Put it away. Be still. Be here.

People: Because here we find hope. Here we find truth. Here we find love.

Leader: Trust. Receive. Believe. Rejoice!

**People: For the promise is as real today as it was the day the angel spoke
it, "Immanuel, God is with us!"
Alleluia! Amen!**

HYMN # 44 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" v. 1-2

**O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, Your love is unconditional, but ours is not. We sing Your
praises when things are good, but doubt You, Your power, Your existence
when things are not going our way. Forgive us, Lord. Help our fickle hearts
remember Your faithful care. Teach our wavering wills the wisdom of
following Your ways. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

"The Candle of LOVE"

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 11:1-9
Luke 1:26-38

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

“Candles and Carols”

*Festival Chorus

Prelude

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Light of Hope

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Light of Peace

“Hark, The Herald Angels Sing”

Light of Joy

“While By the Sheep We Watched at Night”

Light of Love

“Love Came Down at Christmas”

Light of Christ

“Silent Night”

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 - “God’s Love is...”

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.

**How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still The dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

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

"Once in Royal David's City"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE ARE GRATEFUL TO GOD for the gift of music and thank the Festival Chorus, the Accompanists, and Choir Director, all who have been faithful in making the Cantata possible. We are also grateful to God and thank the technical support, John and Olivia Reiter.

VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE THIS WEEK

Temple Keeper: Greg Uebel (on or before 12/26)

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**. You may mail them to **P.O. Box 545, Seffner, FL 33583**, donations must be received by **December 30th**.

OUR CHRISTMAS CANTATA, "CANDLES AND CAROLS", will be performed LIVE on **Sunday, December 20th**. We invite **EVERYONE TO WORSHIP FROM HOME**.

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 and for safe distribution, 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.

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**.

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

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

Monday, December 21, 2020

7:00 - 8:00 pm Blue Christmas Prayer Space

Wednesday, December 23, 2020

8:30 am Meals on Wheels
6:00 pm No Youth Meeting
6:15 pm No Bells
7:30 pm No Choir

Thursday December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
On-line Live and in-person in the Courtyard
6:00 pm Joy Cookie and Refreshment Take-out
7:00 pm Reprise of Cantata "Candles and Carols" On-line

Friday, December 25, 2020 Christmas Day

Merry Christmas!

Sunday, December 27, 2020 First Sunday of Christmas

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

A HOPEFUL LOOK AHEAD

Dec. 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 in Courtyard and 7pm Cantata On-line

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.

Betty Lou

George Kosan

Jim Barfield

Joy Lavazza

Bill Worth

John Harp

Tammy Wooster

Bonnie Taylor

Beverley Field

Karen Martin

Terry Cooney

John Taylor

Anne Wheeler

Robert Lavazza

Bob Stetler

Rob Bargo

Charles Brandt

Healthcare Workers

Mazen Al-Alawi

Allie Abrams Downey

Cheryl High Sawyer

Waleska Alvarado

Maggie Hehn

Joelle Vlahakis

Jenny Carswell

Patricia Hudson

Lexi Crawford

Kristen Doyle

College

Kai Abe

Michael Hawkins

Elias Mayfield

Elizabeth Banks

Christian Jaimungal

Alex Messina

Michaela Brushwood

Rachel Kosan

Amber Todd

Danh Cooney

Peter Lapham

Jenny Todd

Military

Justin Ernul

Michael Paynter

Wyatt Harris

Sherryn Ramkarran

Jeff Mason Jr.

Aaron Sampson

Diego Rincon



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEFFNER
2020
CHRISTMAS GARDEN



*The Christmas Garden is
dedicated to the Glory of God*

In Honor of:

Our grandgirls, Angela, Rachel,
Alexandra, Elizabeth, and Gabby

Our children and their Husbands:

Lauren, David, Katie & Nate

Our grandchildren: Connor, Peter, Emily & Talitha

Military Families

Bob Lavazza in his miraculous fight with cancer

Family, Friends and church

Charles E. Spangler

Mike & Karlene Gollnick

Pastor Loli and in gratitude to this congregation

Carmen Ann Tomasello

In Memory of:

Parents, Jim, Mary, Tammy, and Teresa

Emily MacEwen,

Our parents; Evan MacEwen, Harold and

Katherine Hauser

Chuck Spangler & Mark Steven Fahl

Harold & Lavona Walklin

Parents Ernie and Isabelle Diehl

Parents John & Mary Donohue

Given by:

George & Betty Jo Kosan

Patty and David MacEwen

Joy Lavazza

Patsy & Bill Combs

Christine Spangler

Dewey Walklin

Sheila Donohue

“La Familia”

Given by:

George & Betty Jo Kosan

Patty and David MacEwen

Christine Spangler

Dewey Walklin

Al Diehl

Sheila Donohue

Parents

Carol Shick

Parents Ruth & Lee Chambliss

Julia's paternal grandparents: Lillian & Ed Williams

Julia's dad: Mike Williams

Cammie Williams

Carmen C. Medina; Annie Medina; Eugene Valdez;
Anthony Joseph Tomasello

"La Familia"

Josephine Kelly, Dale Brushwood

"La Familia"

Byron & Gene Getzoff, Bill & Alma Voelpel
Charles Thorndike

John Voelpel



Thank you for helping make our Christmas Garden beautiful this year. Please be sure to pick up your poinsettias on Christmas Eve so you may be able to enjoy them at home.



"Candles and Carols"

*Festival Chorus

Bruce Derenthal

Eric Forsyth

Bob Friskney

Jay Heidt

Ed Holzman

Betty Jo Kosan

Joy Lavazza

Loli Reiter

Lauren Sorey

Greg Uebel

Tammy Wooster

Narrators

Carrie Childs

T.J. Childs

Director

Logan Sorey

Pianist

Sheila Donohue