

# SEFFNER HEART BEAT

VOLUME 20, ISSUE 10  
DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021

1906 S. Lenna Avenue  
P.O. Box 545  
Seffner, FL 33583



*And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.*

*By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

Luke 1:78-79

"Listen to the mustn'ts, child.

Listen to the don'ts.

Listen to the shouldn'ts,  
the impossibles, the won'ts.

Listen to the never haves,  
then listen close to me...

Anything can happen,  
child. Anything can be."

— **Shel Silverstein**

**I think Shel Silverstein  
and Zachariah  
were on the same page!  
May the promises of  
Advent wake up  
the power of hope  
as we tap  
into the amazingly  
resilient child in each of us!  
Have a Hope-filled  
Christmas  
and a Peace-filled  
New Year!**

**God bless!**

## **PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEFFNER**

### Pastor: Lolimarta R. Reiter

Kara Rutherford, Secretary  
Logan Sorey, Music Director  
Sheila Donohue, Organist  
TJ Childs, Worship Leader  
Lauren Sorey, Youth Leader  
Laura DeLeury, Nursery  
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Web site:

[www.seffnerpres.org](http://www.seffnerpres.org)

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 am-2:00 pm

### Session Members

**Carina Brushwood**  
Congregational Care  
**Cindy Doyle**

Christian Education  
**Bob Friskney**  
Fellowship

Facilities

**Patty MacEwen**

Administration

**Nancy Mason**

Worship

**Matt Shick**

Stewardship

**Carol Shick**

Worship

**Deborah Thatcher**

Mission

**Cammie Williams,**  
Clerk of Session

Newsletter items for  
**February 2021**

**due by January 15th.**  
Please submit items to  
[kara@seffnerpres.org](mailto:kara@seffnerpres.org)

## **Hanging of the Greens December 6th**

**Cantata  
December 20th**

**Christmas Eve  
5:00pm & 7:00pm**

**Worshipping Together  
Via Live Stream  
and by  
Reservation in the  
Fellowship Hall in person  
at 11 am**

[www.seffnerpres.org](http://www.seffnerpres.org)  
Click on Worship or go to  
[www.facebook.com/seffnerpres](https://www.facebook.com/seffnerpres)

Thank you for your  
**FAITHFUL Support**  
of our **MINISTRY!**

You can put your tithe/offering  
in the mail and send it to:

**Presbyterian Church of  
Seffner**

**P.O. Box 545  
Seffner, FL 33583**

You can also set it up with your  
bank as "Bill Pay", you are also  
able to give your tithe/offering or  
donate by making a secure gift  
through our website.

### **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.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

We look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord during this Advent Season!

If you are **looking for a way to serve** our Lord and our church, we are in **need** of some **Ushers and Greeters** for in person worship. Please email [kara@seffnerpres.org](mailto:kara@seffnerpres.org) to sign-up.



**Communion-** the **Elements** for Communion (The juice and wafer) are **available** to anyone who wants them. **Pickup during normal office hours.** Of course you can continue to use what you have available at home.

### VOLUNTEERS IN MINISTRY DECEMBER/JANUARY

- 12/6** Temple Keeper: Mark Williams (on or before 12/12)  
Ushers: Cammie Williams, Carrie Childs, Dewey Walklin  
Greeters: Janet Holzman, Chris Spangler
- 12/13** Temple Keeper: Ed Kelsey (on or before 12/19)  
Ushers: Jeff Mason, Nancy Mason, Dewey Walklin  
Greeters: Deb Thatcher, Chris Spangler
- 12/20** Temple Keeper:  
Ushers: Dave MacEwen, Patty MacEwen, Bobby Braxton  
Greeters: Janet Holzman, Chris Spangler
- 12/24** Ushers: Dave MacEwen, Patty MacEwen, Carrie Childs  
Greeters: Cammie Williams, Chris Spangler
- 12/27** Temple Keeper: Greg Uebel (on or before 12/26)  
Ushers: Jeff Mason, Nancy Mason, Bobby Braxton  
Greeters: Deb Thatcher, Chris Spangler
- 1/3** Temple Keeper: Jay Heidt (on or before 1/2)  
Ushers: Cammie Williams, Carrie Childs, Dewey Walklin  
Greeters: Janet Holzman, Chris Spangler
- 1/10** Temple Keeper: Ed Holzman (on or before 1/9)  
Ushers: Jeff Mason, Nancy Mason, Dewey Walklin  
Greeters: Deb Thatcher, Chris Spangler
- 1/17** Temple Keeper: Jim High (on or before 1/16)  
Ushers: Dave MacEwen, Patty MacEwen, Bobby Braxton  
Greeters: Janet Holzman, Chris Spangler
- 1/24** Temple Keeper: Mark Williams (on or before 1/23)  
Ushers: Dave MacEwen, Patty MacEwen, Carrie Childs  
Greeters: Cammie Williams, Chris Spangler
- 1/31** Temple Keeper: Ed Kelsey (on or before 1/30)  
Ushers: Jeff Mason, Nancy Mason, Bobby Braxton  
Greeters: Deb Thatcher, Chris Spangler



**Sunday, December 20th,** following the Christmas Cantata, we will

hold a Cookie Exchange & Swap, 12:15pm-12:30pm. This will be a fun way to have an assortment of homemade cookies to share with your family & friends. Bring in your 3 dozen cookies (packaged 3-4 cookies in a baggie) after the service.



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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

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 the offering plate or **mail payment to the church P.O. Box 545, Seffner, FL. 33583.**

### DATES TO REMEMBER!

- Nov. 29th Silent Auction Begins
- Dec. 10th Beth-El Gifts deadline
- Dec. 12th Bike Assembly
- Dec. 13th Silent Auction Ends
- Dec. 24th Beth-El Offering

JOY  
NOEL  
ANGEL  
JESUS  
PEACE HOPE  
WISEMEN  
CHRISTMAS  
BELIEVE FAITH  
PRINCE OF PEACE  
THANK YOU



***"O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!"  
(Psalm 95:1)***

Imagine how amazed the Psalmist would be to know that we can *"make a joyful noise"* both online and at church! We continue to be grateful for both of these worship opportunities, realizing that not everyone is able to gather at church right now. As you prayerfully think about your worship options, please consider the following:

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** from the **Congregational Care Committee!** God has been good to us this year even through all the difficulties that 2020 has thrown our way. We **celebrate God's love and provision** for this church and for all the beautiful people that make up the Presbyterian Church of Seffner! We **celebrate our church's online presence** that has kept us all worshipping together even when the world seemed to shut down. We **celebrate the love** we have for one another and the joy that Christmas brings. We **celebrate the wonderful cooks and drivers** who have delivered meals this year to our members in need, and we **thank you for your kindness and generosity!** We **celebrate the prayers** that you have prayed on behalf of each other and our world. You are what gives us our identity - the **Little Church with a Big Heart!** Thank you!

Please know that if you need assistance, a meal, or prayers lifted on your behalf, the Congregational Care Committee is here for you. Just call Carina Brushwood or email the church to let us know, and may God continue to bless you as we welcome 2021!

Am I at a higher risk for COVID-19?

(Adults over 65 and those with underlying medical conditions)

Do I work in close proximity with someone who has been sick or diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 2 weeks?

Do I currently have, or within the past 14 days have experienced, any of the following symptoms: Fever, cough, difficulty breathing, sore throat, muscle or chest pain, congestion, headache, fatigue, loss of smell or taste?

Do I have an issue with wearing a mask during the entire time I am at church and socially distancing from others?

Do I have questions and concerns about the safety precautions the church is taking?

Do I have concerns about gathering with others for worship at this time?

If you answered "yes" to any of these, it may NOT be time for you to come back just yet. If you have any questions or concerns or have decided you will be worshipping in person, please contact the church office...and please keep praying for the day when we are all able to *"make a joyful noise"* under the same roof. God bless!

#### FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Year to Date Oct. 2020	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 184,335	\$ 213,500
Expense	\$ 161,830	\$ 213,500
Net (+/-)	\$ 22,505	

# give. go. pray.

# MISSIONS

The Mission Team continues to be very busy. We had an off site yard sale for the church's **Meals on Wheels** program, making \$1,700! In addition, the Missions team also participated in a craft sale and made an extra \$500.



And that's not all...

Plans are in the works for another silent auction for Meals on Wheels beginning the end of November. Starting on **Sunday, November 29th** at the Advent Family Celebration and continuing until **Sunday, December 13th**. Think wonderful Christmas gifts for your loved ones; included are smaller items you may buy as well. Come! Shop!

## MEALS ON WHEELS AUCTION ITEMS

- ♦ Crepe Erase and other Spa items
- ♦ Fishing Basket
- ♦ Car Care
- ♦ Dr. Suess and Disney Books
- ♦ Cindy Crawford Beauty Basket
- ♦ Gardening
- ♦ Baking
- ♦ Kitchen
- ♦ ...and more!

All proceeds are for our Meals on Wheels program. Our hope is to completely fund our Meals on Wheels program without having to take money from The Greater Brandon Meals on Wheels Program, leaving more money for churches who are struggling to fund their lunches.

## Beth-El

### Farmworker Ministry, Inc.

Missions has adopted **four (4) families from Beth-El Church** for Christmas. A wish list is available for anyone interested in helping acquire items requested by the families. Please contact Carrie Childs by calling 813-695-4581 to find out what items are still needed. All items need to be wrapped and ready to go to Beth-El by **Thursday, December 10th**. Please consider shopping for these families, and make their Christmas special.

The **Christmas Eve offering** will go to **Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry, Inc.**, as it has been for at least 20 years.

## BIKES FOR JESUS' BIRTHDAY



Bike assembly is **Saturday, December 12th, 8am** until finished. There are about 40 bikes to put together, 20" bikes. Teenagers in foster care will receive gift cards this year, since 26" bikes are not available to buy.

Our **December Mission Focus** is National **Presbyterian Joy Gift Offering**, which helps retired church workers with emergency funds and young adults going into the ministry.

**THANK YOU** church family for caring and sharing your gifts with the community. We **ARE** the **Little Church with a BIG Heart**.



# Congratulations!

We give thanks to God for the gifts and abilities we are given and the opportunities to use them. We want to share in celebrating our members who recently received recognition for how they use their God-given gifts!

Earlier this year, our very own **Chris Doucette** received **TEACHER OF THE YEAR at Purcell Elementary** in Polk County. This honor is given to teachers who have demonstrated a superior capacity to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Our very own **Melissa Triebwasser** was awarded the **National Science Teacher Association's DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD**, an award given to teachers who have made extraordinary contributions to the field of science teaching. She used her award to take her family to see the most recent rocket launch at Kennedy Space Center.

Our very own **Alex Sink** was recognized for using her gifts for the common good by being named **2020 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR by the Bob Graham Center for Public Service**. Attorney and FL Rep. Ben Diamond said Alex exemplifies the Graham Center's ideals of service, leadership, and civic engagement, adding, *"Alex is one of the few people who is well-respected across partisan lines and across industries...a consummate connector and volunteer – always trying to bring organizations and people together to better serve their communities."*

We are so proud of all of you! We love to have reasons to celebrate, so don't hesitate to share your celebrations with the church office. God bless!



**CELEBRATE YOUR BIRTHDAY !  
GIVE A FINANCIAL GIFT  
TO THE CHURCH**

Make check payable to the Presbyterian Church of Seffner in the amount of your age. You are very special to all of us. Thank you for your generosity.

## December Birthdays

Sara High	12/4
Anne Abe	12/6
Kobe Abe	12/6
Gabrielle Friebolin	12/6
Michael Paynter	12/6
Melissa Siomiak/thompson	12/6
Patricia Hudson	12/9
Kathryn Doucette	12/10
Olivia Reiter	12/11
Nate Childs	12/12
Paula Crawford	12/15
Anne Heidt	12/16
MO Calvert	12/20
Anthony Hudson	12/21
Christy Mayfield	12/22
Cherriann Ramakarran	12/22
John Hehn	12/30
Ann Myers	12/31
Jeanette Sampson	12/31
Kathryn Shick	12/31

## Anniversaries

Joann and Mark Williams	12/6
Jennifer and Erik Friebolin	12/6
Bill and Heather McClellan	12/28

## January Birthdays

Mark Williams	1/4
Rebecca Hudson	1/7
Bobby Braxton	1/8
Tricia Lavazza	1/8
Isabel Reiter	1/10
Maxwell Forsyth	1/11
Caden Mayfield	1/11
Ethan Hudson	1/12
Heather McClellan	1/16
Bruce Derenthal	1/17
Olivia Boyd	1/18
Ryan Brushwood	1/19
Fred Shambauch	1/19
Robert Lapham	1/21
Maddy McClellan	1/22
Greg Orlosky	1/22
Peg Johnston	1/23
Penny Childs	1/24
Natalie Doucette	1/27
John Hodgson	1/28
Mackenzie Sampson	1/28
John Harp	1/30
Kathryn Forsyth	1/31



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 4pm Staff Meeting  6pm Youth Meet 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	3	4	5
6 2nd Sunday of Advent 11 am Worship 12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch.	7 7pm Committee Meetings	8 7 pm Session Meeting/Gathering	8 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6pm Youth Meet 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	10	11	12
13 3rd Sunday of Advent 11 am Worship 12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch. Auction Ends	14	15	16 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6pm Youth Meet 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	17	18	19
20 CANTATA 4th Sunday of Advent/Joy Offering 11 am Worship Cookie Exchange 12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch.	21 Blue Christmas	22	23 8:30 am Meals on Wheels	24 Christmas Eve Worship 5pm & 7pm Communion	25 	26
27 1st Sunday of Christmas 11 am Worship 12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch.	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		
OFFICE CLOSED						

# Happy New Year!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2
3 2nd Sunday Of Christmas 11 am Worship 12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch. (Daylight Saving)	4  7pm Committee Meetings	5	6 Epiphany of the Lord 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 4pm Staff Meeting	7	8  6pm Staff Epiphany Gathering	9
10 Communion Baptism of the Lord 11 am Worship 12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch.	11	12  7 pm Zoom Session Meeting	13 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6pm Youth Meet 6:30pm Bells	14	15  NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	16
17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 11 am Worship 12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch.	18	19	20 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6pm Youth Meet 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	21	22	23
24 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 11 am Worship 12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch.	25	26	27 8:30 am Meals on Wheels	28	29	30
31 4th Sunday after Epiphany 11 am Worship 12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch.						