

SEFFNER HEART BEAT

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 1
FEBRUARY 2021

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



From the pastor...

I read this in a commentary article on the book of JONAH, by Stan Mast. In between the lines of these 2 poems by Thomas Carlisle lies a beautiful description of God's unconditional love.

"Tantrum"

The generosity of God displeased Jonah greatly,
And he slashed with angry prayer
at the graciousness of the Almighty.

"I told you so," he screamed,

"I knew what you would do,

You dirty Forgiver.

You bless your enemies and show kindness

To those who despitely use you.

I would rather die

than live in a world with a God like You.

And don't try to forgive me either!"

"Coming Around"

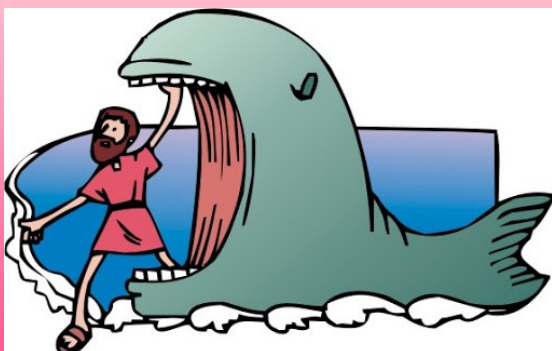
And Jonah stalked to his shaded seat
And waited for God to come around to his way
of thinking.

And God is still waiting for a host of Jonahs

In their comfortable houses to come around

To His way of LOVING.

Amen



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEFFNER

Pastor: Lolimarta R. Reiter

Kara Rutherford, Admin. Assist.

Logan Sorey, Music Director

Sheila Donohue, Organist

TJ Childs, Worship Leader

Lauren Sorey, Youth Leader

Laura DeLeury, Nursery

Telephone: **(813) 689-4412**

FAX: **(813) 689-3840**

E-mail:

kara@seffnerpres.org

Web site:

www.seffnerpres.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

9:00 am-2:00 pm

Session Members

Carina Brushwood

Congregational Care

Carol Dolphin

Stewardship

Bob Friskney

Fellowship

Jay Heidt

Facilities

Patty MacEwen

Administration

Isabel Reiter

Youth

Carol Shick

Worship

Deborah Thatcher

Mission

Melissa Triebwasser

Christian Education

Cammie Williams,

Clerk of Session

Newsletter items for
March 2021
due by **February 15th.**
Please submit items to
kara@seffnerpres.org

Worshiping Together Via Live Stream at 11 am

Ash Wednesday
February 17th

Lenten Bible Study

"The Chosen"

Wednesdays

February 24th -

March 31st

at 6:30pm,

via Zoom

(see Christian Education
article for more details)

www.seffnerpres.org

Click on **Worship** or go to

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

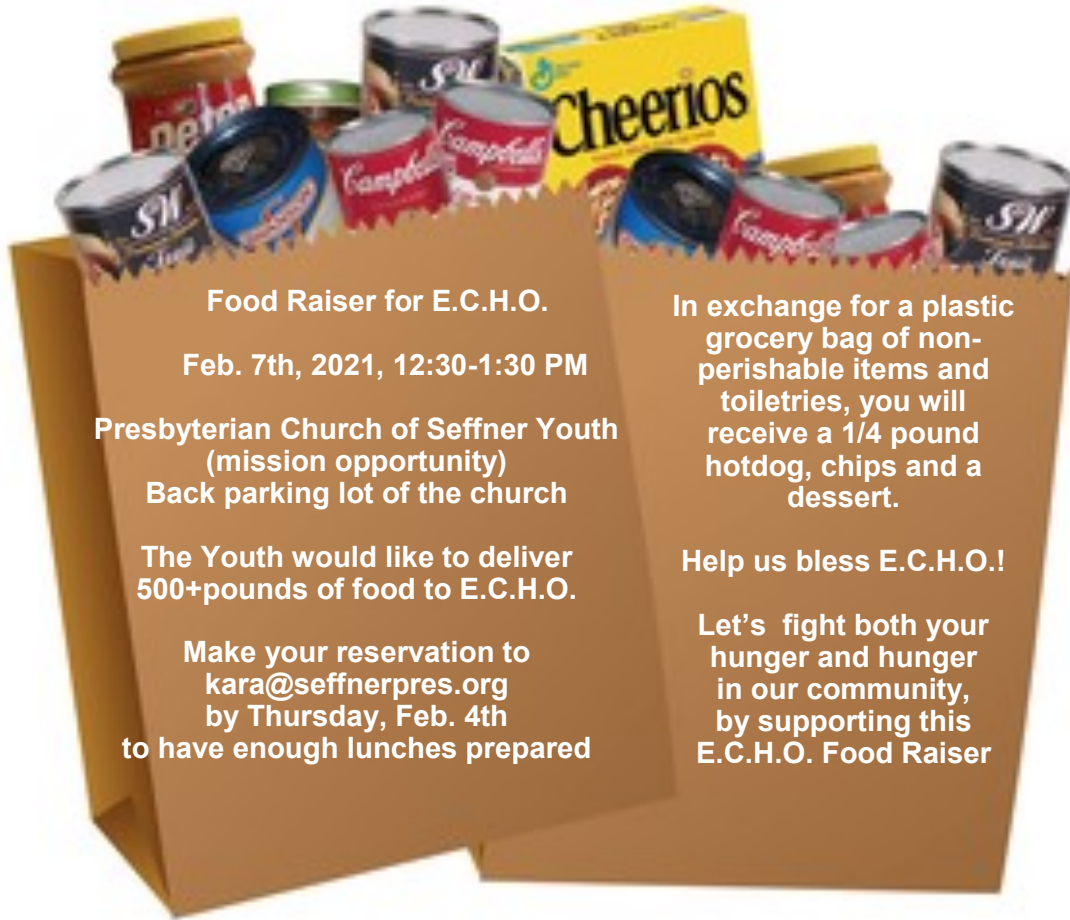
You can also set it up with your
bank as "Bill Pay", you are also
able to give your tithe/offering or
donate by making a secure gift
through our website.

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.



Food Raiser for E.C.H.O.

Feb. 7th, 2021, 12:30-1:30 PM

Presbyterian Church of Seffner Youth
(mission opportunity)
Back parking lot of the church

The Youth would like to deliver
500+pounds of food to E.C.H.O.

Make your reservation to
kara@seffnerpres.org
by Thursday, Feb. 4th
to have enough lunches prepared

In exchange for a plastic
grocery bag of non-
perishable items and
toiletries, you will
receive a 1/4 pound
hotdog, chips and a
dessert.

Help us bless E.C.H.O.!

Let's fight both your
hunger and hunger
in our community,
by supporting this
E.C.H.O. Food Raiser

Worship Committee

reminds you that Easter and Lent will be here before we know it!

Ash Wednesday
February 17th

Palm Sunday
March 28th

Holy Week
March 29th-April 2nd

Easter Sunday
April 4th

Look for your Easter flower order form in the next newsletter and future bulletins.

Stewardship Committee

Our "**Revitalization Campaign**" is on track. As you have been fulfilling your pledges, we have been able to complete most of the refurbishing projects and move some funds into the "Emergency Operating Account" per our plan. The playground equipment replacement and youth room floor completion are still on-going projects. We thank everyone for their generous contributions and for honoring their pledges during this difficult time.

The Stewardship Committee and the session will continue financial updates through Newsletter and quarterly reports.

***"...with glad and generous hearts,
praising God..."***

"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people..."

Acts 2:46-47

Congregational Care

is looking for ways to extend love, care and fellowship to our church family!

Is there something you'd like our church to do in a zoom format that would bring you joy? How about an online event that you could invite your friends to be a part of? We're on a mission to collect some ideas and find out what people are interested in doing or possibly trying. If you've got an idea, share it with one of our committee members – Joy Lavazza, Christina Boyd, Bobby Braxton, JoAnn Williams, Carmen Tomasello or Todd and Carina Brushwood. We'd LOVE to hear from you!

Also, as always, if you find yourself in a situation where one of us could help you out, please feel free to call 643-8864.

Please leave a message if no one answers and we will get back with you as soon as possible. We're here for you!



Using Our Hearts and Minds During COVID Times...

Our session and our new Transition Taskforce, which came on board when the work of the previous task force was done early fall, did a lot of praying and a lot of work in the last months of 2020. Our conversations and work revolved around listening to the needs of all our congregants while weighing the risk posed by COVID, according to the reports of healthcare and community organizations.

The Taskforce and the session came up with revised guidelines to use in making decisions about going back a phase and going forward a phase. The session decided to go back a phase as of January 7th in accordance with these new guidelines.

These are the revised guidelines for going FORWARD a phase:

The session will consider moving forward to Phase 2 when:

- The rolling average of new cases in a 7-day period is 30% or below, and
- The rolling average rate of test percent positive is 10% or below over a 14-day period, (information can be found on Hillsborough County Covid-19 dashboard), and
- The pastor feels current conditions present a safe work environment.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Year to Date Dec. 2020	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 232,964	\$ 255,522
Expense	\$ 208,482	\$ 255,522
Net (+/-)	\$ 24,482	

JOKERST SCHOLARSHIP

The application for the 2021-2022 Jokerst Scholarship will be available by Spring break. Please know that this generous legacy requires that recipients be active church members. This has been a challenging year! We can all continue to contribute to the life of the church. Below is a list of ideas:

- ◆ Support mission projects like Homeless Bags
- ◆ Attend Youth group or support Youth group fundraisers
- ◆ Participate in online or in person Bible Study
- ◆ Help with church cleanup day or grounds maintenance
- ◆ Teach Sunday School (for now online)
- ◆ Contribute to Meals on Wheels
(deliver meals/make desserts)

There are so many other ways!

Christian Education

Lenten Bible Study - "The Chosen"

This is a great video series about the lives of those who walked with Jesus and the impact Jesus made on them and the world. Starting **Wednesday, February 24th through March 31st at 6:30pm, via Zoom**. Participants will watch the episodes on their own and then gather for discussion and Bible connection. Please let the church know you are participating by **Sunday, Feb. 21st** to receive zoom invitation and instruction on how to access episodes (kara@seffnerpres.org). Hope you are able to join us for this unique and exciting experience!

Sunday school continues to be on Zoom. Participation is simple...let us know and we will make sure you receive the Zoom invitation for Sunday at 12 noon.

We need teachers! If you are interested, please contact Melissa Triebwasser.



**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.

February Birthdays

Christina Boyd	2/1
Aidan Heidt	2/1
Steve Wooster	2/1
Bob Stetler	2/8
Polly Stetler	2/8
Michael Hawkins	2/12
John Dolphin	2/13
Colin McClellan	2/15
Rich Kosan	2/17
Mary Shambach	2/18
Elias Mayfield	2/20
Jay Heidt	2/22
Dahlia Lavazza	2/26
Jensen Brushwood	2/28

Anniversaries

Robby and Tricia Lavazza	2/2
Mary and Fred Shambach	2/18

Mission Committee

For the next few months our mission focus will be on creating a **Giving Tree**. We hope to have families and individuals find an item out of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog and purchase it and make a leaf to put on our Giving Tree. The gifts will support many developing countries as well as the USA. There are over 40 items in the catalog. The items range from seeds to Community Farms Bundles. From chickens to sewing machines. You can give a share into a garden well. **Catalogs and the Giving Tree will be in the entrance hall to the Fellowship Hall.** Please take a catalog and share with your family.

This Christmas our church family assisted 4 families from Beth El Church. The families were very surprised to see all that they were given. Your gifts blessed them all. Thank you.

Foster Care Children and Youth at Beth El received 44 bikes and 77 gift cards to Old Navy and Shoe Carnival. Shoe Carnival also gave an extra 25 % off when they used the gift card. Old Navy gave us a 10% discount on the gift cards. Your gifts for **Bikes for Jesus** went a long way and gave many kids a bright Christmas, again thanks for your generous gifts. Hopefully next year we will be able to purchase larger bikes for the youth.

Our Basket Auction and sales in the fellowship hall and a yard sale held in November off campus made it possible for the mission team to give our **M.O.W.s program over \$4,000**. This with the \$3,000 budgeted will give our church the ability to be self supporting and the Brandon MOWs program can give more money to churches that cannot self support. What a blessing! Thank you again for your support!



2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 <i>7pm Committee Meetings</i>	2	3 <i>8:30 am Meals on Wheels</i> <i>4pm Staff Meeting</i> <i>6pm Youth Zoom Meet</i> <i>6:30pm Bells</i> <i>7:30pm Choir</i>	4	5	6
7 <i>Food Raiser</i> <i>5th Sunday after Epiphany</i> <i>11 am Worship</i> <i>12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch.</i> <i>12:30-1:30 Hot Dogs</i>	8	9 <i>7 pm Session Meeting</i>	10 <i>8:30 am Meals on Wheels</i> <i>6pm Youth Zoom Meet</i> <i>6:30pm Bells</i> <i>7:30pm Choir</i>	11	12	13
14 <i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i> <i>11 am Worship</i> <i>12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch.</i>	15	16	17 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> <i>8:30 am Meals on Wheels</i> <i>7:00pm Worship</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> <i>11 am Worship</i> <i>12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch</i>	22	23	24 <i>8:30 am Meals on Wheels</i> <i>6pm Youth Zoom Meet</i> <i>6:30pm Bells</i> <i>7:30pm Choir</i>	25	26	27
28 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> <i>11 am Worship</i> <i>12:30 Zoom Sun. Sch.</i>			<p style="margin: 0;">Temple Keepers for February:</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Greg Uebel on or before 2/6</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Jay Heidt on or before 2/13</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Ed Holzman on or before 2/20</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Jim High on or before 2/27</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Mark Williams on or before 3/6</p>			