

SEFFNER HEART BEAT

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2

MARCH 2021

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



From the pastor Loli ...

***"Be thou comforted, little dog,
thou too in resurrection
shall have a little golden tail."***

You'll never guess who said this?!
Martin Luther! ...As in Martin Luther the
monk who began the protestant reformation!
Heavenly Brownie points if you
are asking yourself, "but Loli, why are we
talking about him now? Didn't his '95
Theses' thing happen on Halloween?
That's in October!"

Yes...but I ran into this quote about the
resurrection that I wanted to share with
you as we prepare in Lent for the
celebration of Easter:

***"Our God has written the promise of
the resurrection, not in books alone,
but in every leaf in springtime."***

I love both of these quotes! He really was
very poetic!

What about "the resurrection" do these
quotes make you think about? Where
else in creation do you see the cycle of
life, death, and new life?

As we slowly and safely crawl out of our
"COVID caves", where is God
calling you to experience, live out, and
share the promise of the resurrection?

Looking forward to our Easter Sunday
Celebration!



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

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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

***Worshiping Together
live stream and in-person
at 11 am***

***R.S.V.P. for Worship
by Thursdays***

***March 7th
3rd Sunday in Lent***

***March 14th
4th Sunday in Lent
(Daylight Saving Time Begins)***

***March 21st
5th Sunday in Lent***

***March 28th
Palm Sunday w/ Communion***

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.

***Newsletter items for
April 2021***

***due by March 15th.
Please submit items to
kara@seffnerpres.org***



Jokerst Scholarship applications will be available beginning **March 15-April 15** for the 2021-2022 year. Current and prospective recipients can apply during this window. Please contact Cindy Doyle at cegdoyle@msn.com for information on how to qualify and application. An information session through Zoom or telephone is required.

The **Facilities Committee** has continued to make improvements to the church as we continue to make plans for the congregation to return to our beautiful church buildings.

The **Youth room floor** has been completed. The new **swing set** is up and the concrete is drying. The swings and rings and bars will be added when the concrete is set.



Thanks to James Boyd, Gabe Heidt, Chad Triebwasser, and Bruce Derenthal, for taking down the old and setting-up the new. We want to thank everyone for funding our **MANY PROJECTS** and for Jay Heidt's oversight of the projects. When everyone comes back we think you will be pleased with all the work that has been done. —Jay Heidt



Hello Congregation...It's my turn to share something and I thought I'd take the opportunity to tell you about the awesome crew and technology we've been using to bring service to your devices during our lockdown. First, it should be known that none of us were experts with this software, but learned quickly - so if you're interested in being a part of the production crew, please let me know because this software is quite user friendly. In fact, I recall pitching the idea of streaming possibilities when I shared the A/V plan with the committee and session right before COVID.

Basically, we've used existing sound equipment, and added a few Apple devices that were purchased through a grant from the Presbytery. John Reiter and Logan Sorey initially came up with the design, as Logan had used this "Switcher" software with USF in his Master's program to stream their College of Music concerts. Everything you see on your Facebook stream comes from one iPad, which "controls" other (innumerable) small iPhones, for use of their cameras. Our crew (such as Olivia and Isabel Reiter) attach these iPhones to various stands and mounts positioned at the best angles for you to see our staff, then every camera is turned on and controlled by the central iPad. There is some set up needed on the iPad, which Pastor Loli does weekly, such as making the text boxes with scriptures, sermon title, hymn lyrics, etc. Then we perform a sound check and we press "Go Live". We've tried our best to keep all the cables and technology out of view of the cameras, but when we're able to be "in-person" again, you'll see the intricacy of this system.

Like I mentioned, if you're interested in learning how you can assist with this team, we'd love to show you the design, since we intend to maintain use of our streaming capabilities even when Covid-19 is far behind us. Remember, even through this difficult time period, it is important for us to continue learning- "Give instruction to the wise, and they will become wiser still; teach the righteous and they will gain in learning." Proverbs 9:9.

Take care, thanks for reading! — TJ





The **Fellowship Committee** prepared 17 bagged lunches of chili, cornbread and cookies for the blood mobile donors and workers on Sunday, January 31st. Thank you for their donations to help save a life!

The Committee continues to plan events that will bring people together and keep them engaged in fellowship.

From **Christian Education...**

"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1Timothy 4:12

Thank you everyone who supported the youth with **"Souper Bowl"**. We were able to donate almost **800 pounds of food to Echo!!**

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for the **week of June 21st**. Stay tuned for more details.

Mark your calendars for **April 3rd**, we will be hosting a Easter craft for families. Be sure to check the bulletin for time and details as it closer.

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. Wednesdays, through March 31st at 6:00pm, 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.

Can't believe it has been a year!

Our **first worship** from home because of COVID was **March 15th**. Since then, God has continued to bless us with resourceful, faithful, and creative members and staff, so that our church could continue being the church and doing its ministry!

Thanks be to God and thank YOU!

In the coming months, we will continue to prayerfully and judiciously move toward our "new normal". During the season of Lent, we will continue to worship in the Fellowship Hall, and in conversation with our families, begin to have in-person children activities and small group gatherings. During the season of Easter, we hope to begin our move into the sanctuary and to return to our 2 worship services. These and the many other things we need to consider (because I do miss our 5th Sunday luncheons!), are all contingent upon the COVID situation and numbers here in Hillsborough county. We will continue to share God's love by keeping our church family and those who use our facilities as safe as possible.

In the meantime, as you make decisions about coming to worship in person, please keep the following in mind:

- *Please **WEAR MASKS** when you are on church grounds
- *Please let the church office know you are coming by Thursday of that week
- *Please continue to practice **SOCIAL DISTANCING** when you are on church grounds
- *Please continue to be patient and gracious with one another

Thank you to our session members and the members of our COVID and Transition Task Forces who have continued to pray and research and pray to discern God's way for us during these challenging times!

God bless, Pastor Lori



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

March Birthdays

Lily Lavazza	3/1
Barbara Connell	3/3
Bob Lavazza	3/3
Carmen Tomasello	3/3
Laura Moseley	3/5
Matt Shick	3/6
Chris Doucette	3/7
Ron Smith	3/9
Kayle Sherwood	3/10
Michelle Forsyth	3/12
Patsy Combs	3/14
Myra Meredith	3/15
Betty Jo Kosan	3/19
Janet Brandt	3/24
Cindy Doyle	3/25
Deb Thatcher	3/27
George Kosan	3/28
Laura DeLeury	3/29
Charlotte Schrand	3/30
Amanda Siomiak	3/31

Anniversaries

Andy and Patricia Hudson	3/2
Anna and Chris Doucette	3/9
Kathryn and Matt Shick	3/20



CONGRATULATIONS!

Carol Shick is the new coordinator
for Meals on Wheels Brandon
AND
Janet Holzman is the new Chaplin

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Year to Date Jan. 2021	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 29,740	\$ 21,738
Expense	\$ 23,086	\$ 21,738
Net (+/-)	\$ 6,654	

Mission News...

Spring is almost here and it's time to get started on your Spring cleaning. With that in mind, if you plan to get rid of anything, bring them to room 8 at church or the Thatcher's home. WHY? You ask? We are planning another **Yard Sale March 26 and 27** and the proceeds will benefit our local missions and Developing Countries Missions. In addition, you will have the opportunity to fund your passion of giving through our Links of Love Giving Tree to Developing Countries Missions as well. In the fellowship hall you will find a tree full of leaves, and Gift Giving catalogs available for your with all the ways you can help developing countries providing self sustaining food and shelter. Pick an item you would like to purchase and fill out a leaf and put it back on the tree. Our tree will be here all year and special events will be provided for families, groups and individuals. Please check out our tree.

Look forward to ways you can help with our annual **Easter Egg Hunt**. We will be working with our Youth to put together **50 baskets for the children at Beth El** to receive on Easter Sunday. We will also be working with Christian Ed. Committee on the **EASTER FAMILY CELEBRATION, Sat. April 3rd, for our church family**. Please keep your eyes open for how you can participate and serve in these great opportunities.



We are in need of **deodorant, new or gently used T-shirts and blankets** for our **Blessing Bags**. Please leave items in the bin on the bench near room 8. We also need **deodorant, shampoo, conditioner and paper towels** for our **Gift Baskets** that we give out to families that have graduated from the **Family Promise** program.

We continue to give away **books** to the **local schools and to the teachers and media specialists in our church**. If you know of a need for books let Deb Thatcher or Carrie Childs know and we will see that we get them books.

It's always amazing to see how little items turn into great mission works. Thanks for all you do.

MARCH VOLUNTEERS

Temple Keepers:

Mark Williams on or before 3/6

Jim High on or before 3/13

Ed Kelsley on or before 3/20

Greg Uebel on or before 3/27

Jay Heidt on or before 4/3

Ushers and Greeters:

March 7th

Head Usher - Jeff Mason

Usher - Nancy Mason

Attend. Greeter - Cammie Williams

Entrance Greeter - Chris Spangler

March 14th

Head Usher - Dave MacEwen

Usher - Dewey Walklin

Attendance Greeter - Patty MacEwen

Entrance Greeter - Chris Spangler

March 21th

Head Usher - Janet Holzman

Usher - Dewey Walklin

Attendance Greeter - Deb Thatcher

Entrance Greeter - Chris Spangler

March 28th

Head Usher - Janet Holzman

Usher - Deb Thatcher

Attend. Greeter - Cammie Williams

Entrance Greeter - Chris Spangler

EASTER FLOWER ORDER



If you would like to order an **Easter flower**, you may email your order (\$8/flower) to kara@seffnerpres.org, or mail your order with your payment. Be sure to include **how many flowers, for whom (in honor of our in memory)**, and **your name**. Electronic bill pay through your bank is also an option.

Deadline for flower orders is **March 28th**.

Congregational Care Committee wants to know about your interests! We want to find ways to continue to grow and connect as a church family, even in the midst of the COVID challenge. We've noticed the many names of friends who are worshipping with us on Facebook, and we'd love to get to know you better and spend some time together!

Please mark the things you would want to participate in, send it to the church office as soon as possible. If there's something you'd like to lead, or if there's an interest you have that isn't listed, please feel free to let us know!

Would you like to participate in any of the following activities: (mark all that apply)

- ☐ Cooking lesson (on zoom)
- ☐ Bread making lesson - communion bread (on zoom)
- ☐ Karaoke night (on zoom)
- ☐ Book Club (on zoom)
- ☐ Craft time (on zoom)
- ☐ Coffee and conversation time during the week (on zoom)
- ☐ Bible Doodling Art Class (on zoom)
- ☐ Sermon discussions after church (on zoom)
- ☐ Virtual Visits/Cookie time after church (on zoom)
- ☐ Paint a picture night (on zoom)
- ☐ Drive in Movie in the Church parking lot
- ☐ Cedarkirk One Day Retreat (socially distanced, outside)
- ☐ Add your own idea here!

This survey was also sent to you by email. Thank you for participating!



Spring Forward
DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME