

SEFFNER HEART BEAT

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 10
DECEMBER 2021 * JANUARY 2022

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



From Pastor Loli ...

"Here are the two best prayers I know: 'Help me, help me, help me' and 'Thank you, thank you, thank you.'" - Anne Lamott

I lie down and sleep;
I wake again,
for the Lord sustains me.
Psalm 3:5



As the calendar year closes and a new one begins, let's think about our sleeping and our waking. How many full and peaceful night's sleep did you have? How many mornings did you wake up feeling rested and glad to be on this side of the grass? How many nights were spent awake, fretting over something? How many mornings started out with a feeling of dread or annoyance? How much of your nights are you wasting on things you know you shouldn't? How much of your morning is spent frustrated and harried?

Each day is a gift from God! ... and life is too short! What can we stop or change to make our sleeping and waking better this year?

May we remember in the darkest of nights and the harshest of mornings, that the Lord sustains us!

And don't forget to start and end the day with prayer, even if it's simply, "Lord, help me, help me, help me," in the morning, and "Lord, thank you, thank you, thank you," at night.

God bless!

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.

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
February 2022
due by January 15th.
Please submit items to
kara@seffnerpres.org

Worshiping Together
live stream and in-person
9:30 am Contemporary
9:30 am Sunday School
11:00 am Traditional

December 5th
2nd Sunday of Advent
Bike Dedication

December 12th
3rd Sunday of Advent
Combined Service 11am
Christmas Cantata

December 19th
4th Sunday of Advent

December 24th
Christmas Eve 7pm
Communion, Bells
And Candlelight

December 26th
1st Sunday of Christmas
Hymn Sing Combined
10:30am

January 9th
Epiphany
Baptism of the Lord
Communion

Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday
9am-2pm

Join us for Worship at
www.seffnerpres.org
click on **Worship**
or go to

www.facebook.com/seffnerpres



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, November 14th we received new members:

Jackie Winter
10909 Stebbing Ct.
Thonotosassa, FL 33592
(612)203-6252
Jack.3644@yahoo.com

Jackie is married to
Rev. Tony Winter,
they have a child,
Olivia.

Aubree Lapham
110 Windy Circle
Brandon, FL 33511
(813) 294-0891

Aubree is currently
attending college and
living at home.



ORDER
YOUR
POINSETTIAS

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. You may place form and payment in of-
fering plate or drop off at the church office.

Deadline for orders is Sunday, December 5th.
Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary from Dec.
12th through Christmas Eve. You may take your
poinsettia(s) home after worship Christmas Eve.

REFLECTING ON STEWARDSHIP OF OUR TIME AND TALENTS

We take this opportunity to give heartfelt
thanks to our current crew of Temple
Keepers. The annual church budget includes
paying an outside contractor on a regular
basis to mow the grass. Edging, trimming,
blowing, picking up moss/branches, and other
finishing chores are done by church
volunteers, scheduled on a weekly rotation.
We are grateful for the years, sometimes
decades, of dedication given by Jim High,
Mark Williams, Ed Holzman, Jay Heidt, and
Greg Uebel. *We give special thanks to Ed
Kelsey, who has recently announced his
retirement from 30-plus years taking care of
our church!*

It would be great to add some new (and
perhaps younger!) folks to this group of
Temple Keepers! Please contact Jay Heidt.

CHURCH WIDE REBURBISHING

The facilities committee celebrates
with everyone in our congregation
the return to togetherness!

The Covid Shutdown allowed for
time to complete major refurbishing
of our sanctuary and fellowship hall;
this work was possible only because
of the generosity of the folks in our
church family. Our hope is for
renewed excitement and
involvement in the life of
Presbyterian Church of Seffner.
Merry Christmas and Happy New
Year! God bless us, everyone.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BELLS AND CHOIR!

This season as we prepare to make a joyful noise, we wanted to share with you the history of the cantatas name's sake "Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus". Charles Wesley, a very famous hymn writer wrote this prayer in 1744. He lived in a time where England was in a slump; there were a lot of homeless people, religion and beliefs were in flux. Set as a prayer it reads:

*"Born Your people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now Your gracious kingdom bring.
By Your own eternal Spirit, rule in all our hearts alone;
by Your all sufficient merit, raise us to Your glorious throne.
Amen."*



Quickly after writing this, he began to adapt the text to song. By Christmas 1745, this hymn and about 17 others had been published in a small hymn book and were being sung in churches across England. Over the next few years this hymn would be published in hymn collections called "Festival Hymns" and would begin its transition into core church repertoire.

As we prepare to share the cantata with you, we hope that you will read the text and find a moment of prayer. We hope that you find comfort in the text and in knowing that though we are all longing this season-for those without homes or loved ones, for our own beliefs and our hope in the world, that Christ will deliver and will raise us to His glorious throne.

EPIPHANY SONGS

Commercial Christmas ends on December 25. But the Christian celebration of the season continues to Epiphany on January 6th. These are the 12 days of Christmas which we sing about in the jolly song about the boatload of useless presents which are delivered every day from the singer's true love. Indeed, in some cultures gifts are not exchanged until Epiphany, or Three Kings Day, as it is also known.

The name comes from the Greek word meaning a sudden revelation. The visit of the Magi from the East signifies that the gift of Christ is for all the world, as they return to their distant homes with the news.

Most familiar to us is an American song written by John Hopkins in 1847. We have all heard it many times and everyone knows the lilting refrain which begins with the long "O-h-h, star of wonder" which guides us by its "perfect light." (P.H. # 66)

Less well known is an American hymn from the Appalachian tradition "Brightest and Best." It sings of the Christmas star, "the horizon adorning... Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid." After all the costly gifts and "gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean" are given the poignant ending assures us that "dearer to God are the prayers of the poor." (P.H. #67)



Also from America is the Puerto Rican carol "De Tierra Vejana Venimos" or "From A Distant Home" in English. It has a cheerful Latin rhythm and tells of the three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh brought by the three noble visitors from the distant shore who were guided by that "lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning." (P.H. #64)

One way to extend the special joy of Christmas is to explore in the hymnal or on YouTube for Epiphany hymns and find new favorites. Enjoy!

Mission Happenings

Dates to Remember...

Dec 4th Bikes for Jesus Assembly in the Fellowship Hall, families are invited to help.

Bikes for Jesus will have close to 60 bikes to give to Beth El Ministries and Foster Angels. It's not too late to donate money or buy a larger bike. We will be giving the bikes out Monday Dec. 6th. Please plan to come to church Saturday the 4th of December to assemble the bikes. We will start at 8 AM and should be finished by noon. You don't need to be good with tools to help. We need people to unwrap boxes, put on bows, Bibles and helmets. It's a great time to fellowship with one another and serve the Lord.

Dec 4th and 5th Family Promise Cookie Sale at New Hope Methodist Church Recreational Hall.

(The Old Boys and Girls Building.) Buy the cookies by the pound help Family Promise and take home some wonderful home made cookies. Crafts and other items from Presbyterian Church of Seffner Missions will also be available. Our Mission Committee will also have small crafts and gifts for sale. All proceeds will be donated to Family Promise.

Dec. 12th Auction Baskets will be put out in Fellowship Hall for Bids.

Proceeds will go to help fund the **Deep Well Project**. There will also be items you can buy with the proceeds going to The Deep Well Project.

Dec 19th Last day to bid on the Auction baskets.

Dec 19th Beth El Christmas Gifts needed to be brought to church.

Help bring a blessed Christmas to a few families at **Beth-El Mission**. We have a list of families and their wishes of a few gifts. The lists and sign-up sheets are in the narthex and may be viewed before and after church services, or you may call Carrie Childs at 813-695-4581. All gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 12th. Gifts need to be wrapped individually, have a name tag on it, and sticky note with what is in the package.

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Offering will go to Beth El Ministries as it has in the past 10 years.

The Mission Committee has had booths at the three craft shows, selling small crafts and gifts. More that \$2100 was made! Proceeds will be used to help further the outreach missions of Presbyterian Church of Seffner.

Again, I give **thanks to God that our little church has a big heart** and we are able to give to our brothers and sisters in need. **We are blessed.**



Congregational Care

The Committee would like to **thank everyone who wrote devotionals for the Advent Devotional Booklet!** It is wonderful to read all the beautiful devotionals and especially moving and personal to know the authors! You are an amazing congregation and our prayer is that you will enjoy getting to prepare for the birth of our Savior by reading each other's thoughts and stories. Let the love that flows through those pages unite us, inspire us and energize us to share the good news of Christmas!



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SEFFNER YOUTH

***Have family coming into town for the Holidays and don't know how you'll keep them all fed?
Looking for that perfect new side dish for Christmas Eve Dinner?
Running out of time?***

Let Seffner Pres Youth Group help!

THE YOUTH are hosting a casserole sale on **Sunday, December 12th** so you have one less dish to prepare during the busy holidays! There are TWO ways to participate!

First, on **November 21st**, we will have **casserole pans available for pick up** in the fellowship hall. We would LOVE for our congregation to donate their favorite casseroles - breakfast, side, dinner or dessert and donate your casserole for purchase at the youth casserole sale. Your pre-made dish with recipe card attached is due back to the Fellowship Kitchen by December 12! You can A. Donate a casserole to help us have a variety to sell and/or B. Purchase casseroles on December 12th during the fundraiser! Anyone can purchase a casserole on December 12th. All proceeds will go toward the Youth trip to Montreat.

Reminder: **Youth will not meet Wednesday December 1st, but will resume on December 8th.**

On **December 11th at 6pm**, Youth is planning to have a **progressive dinner** to celebrate the holiday season, and Miss Olivia Reiter's birthday. We will be dressing up in our fanciest attire, meeting at the church, and then progressing through the evening to different Youth families' houses for each course of the meal. We will finish with dessert and sing Happy Birthday to the birthday girl! Please let Mrs. Lauren know if you plan to attend so we can have enough food!

We are excited to look ahead to the New Year, and the kids have expressed interest in having a **Lock-Out Saturday January 1st**, which would begin at the church that evening. We'd also like to do a **local Mission January 29th! On the 29th**, Youth group members would love to serve anyone in our church who might need some extra help around the yard/outside of the home. We can rake leaves, mow grass, clean gutters, pull weeds, trim hedges, etc. If you are interested in us coming by to do some yard work, please email Kara (kara@seffnerpres.org) or Lauren Sorey (lauren@seffnerpres.org) with your address and tasks so we can begin to prepare a "honey-do" list! :)

**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**

A Convenient Option...

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.

Generosity
changes everything

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

YTD October 2021	Actual	Budget
Income	\$ 195,754	\$ 213,290
Expense	\$ 199,986	\$ 213,290
Net (+/-)	\$ (4,232)	



THERMOSTATS

The thermostats are **PRESET**, please **DO NOT RESET** or put on hold. If you need to cool or heat, simply use the **UP** and **DOWN** arrows; when you leave, hit **RUN** and it will reset to original setting.

FAN should always remain on **AUTO**.



Resource Pet Center

We continue to collect old towels, and blankets and newspapers for the Pet Resource Center on Falkenburg. Your donations are making a difference!



Blessing Bags are still being created and will now be placed in the fellowship hall for pick up. Please pick up a few and hand them out. We are in need of gently used or new ball caps and t-shirts.

WORSHIP TOGETHER!

COVID Guideline Update

Following the recommendation of the Transition Taskforce and CDC Guidelines, starting December 12th, the session voted to make the whole campus mask optional but strongly recommended. We ask that you please wear a mask if you are not vaccinated, for your protection and others. With this action, the Transition Taskforce concluded its work. We are so grateful for their time, their study and prayer, and their creativity in guiding us through this unprecedented and difficult time. We realize that the COVID situation may change, in which case the session will be able to make decisions based on the Phase Plan put together by our initial COVID TASK FORCE and the precedent set by the TRANSITION TASK FORCE. Thank you for your forbearance and patience during this difficult time and please continue to pray for those who are still fighting COVID and its effects.



Thank you for all your help for making Bikes for Jesus a success again.

Thank you to all who have volunteered for the various ministries throughout the year. You are a blessing to our church!



You are invited to celebrate the joy of the advent season with all the following events, so mark your busy calendars to safely gather and celebrate together.

The Second Annual **Gingerbread House** contest will be the first Sunday of Advent, **November 28**, following the 11 o'clock service. **All Gingerbread House entries must be taken home on same Sunday, November 28th, because of the tenting of the church, and so you may enjoy them at home.**

The **Joy Pot-luck luncheon** will follow the Christmas **Cantata Sunday, December 12**. Come celebrate and share a favorite holiday casserole or dessert.

Share your **Christmas cookies** for a cookie and punch reception after the **7 PM Christmas Eve** service. Please drop off your cookies in the fellowship hall prior to the service.

Looking forward to a **New Year** that will be here before we know it, we will celebrate the **Epiphany** with a coffee and hot cocoa and sweet rolls reception.

Hope to see all of our church family return in anticipation of a wonderful, blessed and joyous Christmas season!

We remind everyone to be mindful to please keep food and beverages in the courtyard. Trash receptacles are available to dispose of cups and napkins prior to entering the Sanctuary.

No Food or Drink
Allowed in Sanctuary



DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Gate Keyers: Open, Ed Moseley
Close, Bruce Derenthal

December 5th

Usher 9:30am: Jay Heidt
Head Usher: Jay Heidt
Usher: Dewey Walklin
Greeters: Anne Heidt, Joy Griffin
Acolyte: Finley Heidt
Office: Sara High (12/2)

December 12th Cantata

Head Usher: Jim High
Usher: Janet Holzman
Greeters: Deb Thatcher, Sara High
Acolyte: Caroline Boyd
Office: Jim High (12/1)

December 19th

Usher 9:30am: Joann Williams
Head Usher: Jeff Mason
Usher: Carol Dolphin
Greeter: Lydia Padovano,
Nancy Mason
Acolyte: Lotte Triebwasser
Office: Joy Griffin (12/16)

December 24th

Usher/Greeter: Youth TBA; Acolyte: Noah Boyd

December 26th

Usher 9:30am: Joann Williams
Head Usher: Dave MacEwen
Usher: James Boyd
Greeter: Patty MacEwen
Acolyte: Penny Childs, Dahlia Lavazza
Office: Cammie Williams (12/23)

TEMPLE KEEPERS

TBD on or before 12/4

Greg Uebel
on or before 12/11

Jay Heidt
on or before 12/18

Ed Holzman
on or before 12/25

Jim High
on or before 1/1

Mark Williams
on or before 1/8

Greg Uebel
on or before 1/15

Jay Heidt
on or before 1/22

Ed Holzman
on or before 1/29



Anniversaries

Joann & Mark Williams
12/6

Jennifer & Erik Friebolin
12/6

Bill & Heather McClellan
12/8



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

JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

Gate Keyers: Open, Greg Uebel
Close, Ron Smith

January 2nd

Usher 9:30am: Jackie Winter
Head Usher: Jay Heidt
Usher: Dewey Walklin
Greeters: Anne Heidt, Joy Griffin
Acolyte: Finley Heidt
Office: Sara High (1/6)

January 9th

Usher 9:30am: Deborah Thatcher
Head Usher: Jim High
Usher: Janet Holzman
Greeters: Carol Shick, Sara High
Acolyte: Caroline Boyd
Office: Jim High (1/13)

January 16th

Usher 9:30am: Cammie Williams
Head Usher: Jeff Mason
Usher: Carol Dolphin
Greeters: Lydia Padovano,
Nancy Mason
Acolyte: Lotte Triebwasser
Office: Joy Griffin (1/20)

January 23rd

Usher 9:30am: Joann Williams
Head Usher: Dave MacEwen
Usher: James Boyd
Greeters: Cammie Williams,
Patty MacEwen
Acolyte: Noah Boyd
Office: Cammie Williams (1/27)

January 30th

Usher 9:30am: Ed Moseley
Head Usher: Carol Shick
Usher: Dewey Walklin
Greeters: Chris Spangler,
Carina Brushwood
Acolyte: Penny Childs, Dahlia Lavazza

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
Tammy Wooster	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
Andy Hudson	12/21
Christy Mayfield	12/22
Cherriann Ramkarran	12/22
John Hehn	12/30
Ann Myers	12/31
Jeanette Sampson	12/31
Kathryn Shick	12/31

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 Shambach	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

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<i>1 Buildings Closed for Termite Treatment</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4 8am-12pm Bike Assembly</i>
<i>5 Bike Dedication 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Worship</i>	<i>6 Bike Pick up</i> <i>Committees Meet Throughout the Week if Needed</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 4:30 Staff Meeting 6 pm Youth Meeting 6pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>10 11am Women's Bible Study</i>	<i>11 6pm Youth Progressive Dinner</i>
<i>12 Cantata 11 am Combined Worship Service 12 noon Casserole Sale by Youth Joy Pot-luck Luncheon</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14 7pm Session Gathering</i>	<i>15 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6 pm Youth Meeting 6pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19 9:30 am Worship 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Worship</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6 pm Youth Meeting 6pm Bells 7:30 pm Choir</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24 Christmas Eve 7pm Communion Bells Candlelight</i>	<i>25 Merry Christmas</i>
<i>26 Hymn Sing 11 am Combined Worship service</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29 8:30 am Meals on Wheels</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31 Happy New Year!</i>	
	<i>Office Closed</i>					



JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<i>1 Youth Lock-out</i>
2 <i>9:30 am Worship</i> <i>9:30 am Sunday School</i> <i>11 am Worship</i>	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4	5 <i>8:30 am Meals on Wheels</i> <i>4:30 Staff Meeting</i> <i>6 pm Youth Meeting</i> <i>6pm Bells</i> <i>7:30 pm Choir</i>	6	7 <i>6pm Epiphany Gathering for Staff</i>	8
	Committees Meet Throughout the Week					
9 <i>Epiphany of the Lord - Communion</i> <i>9:30 am Worship</i> <i>9:30 am Sun School</i> <i>11 am Worship</i> <i>Committee Reports Due</i>	10	11 <i>7pm Session Meeting</i>	12 <i>8:30 am Meals on Wheels</i> <i>6 pm Youth Meeting</i> <i>6pm Bells</i> <i>7:30 pm Choir</i>	13	14 <i>11am Women's Bible Study</i>	15
16 <i>9:30 am Worship</i> <i>9:30 am Sunday School</i> <i>11 am Worship</i>	17	18	19 <i>8:30 am Meals on Wheels</i> <i>6 pm Youth Meeting</i> <i>6pm Bells</i> <i>7:30 pm Choir</i>	20	21	22
23 <i>9:30 am Worship</i> <i>9:30 am Sun School</i> <i>11 am Worship</i>	24	25	26 <i>8:30 am Meals on Wheels</i> <i>1-3pm Meals on Wheels Meeting</i> <i>6 pm Youth /Bells</i> <i>7:30 pm Choir</i>	27	28 <i>11am Women's Bible Study</i>	29 <i>Youth Yardwork for Congregation Members</i>
30 <i>9:30 am Worship</i> <i>9:30 am Sun School</i> <i>11 am Worship</i>	31					