



# SEFFNER HEART BEAT

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 10  
DECEMBER 2022/JANUARY 2023



## A BLESSING FOR THE SEEKERS

*Blessed are you who turn your face up to the sky,  
who open your arms to feel the wind,  
who notice all the things that we should notice.  
Blessed are you who are fluent in wonder and familiar with awe.  
Blessed are you who, even now, dream dreams,  
who have not lost hope,  
who swear the glass is still half-full.  
Blessed are you who plant trees and sing the harmony,  
Who tell the children how this world can be magic.  
Blessed are you who walk and seek and turn over every stone,  
pointing out all the corners and colors that God lives in.  
Blessed are you.  
Amen.*

Poem by  
Rev. Sara (Are) Speed

This poem is from the advent devotional we invite you to follow on our journey this season. As the Church Year begins with Advent and the world turns a new page in January, may we be the SEEKERS pointing out all the corners and colors that God lives in. God bless you!

### 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

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

**Pastor: Lolimarta R. Reiter**

Kara Rutherford, Admin. Assist.

-----, Music Director

Sheila Donohue, Organist

TJ Childs, Worship Leader

-----, Youth Leader

Carmen Lapham, Nursery

Telephone: (813) 689-4412

FAX: (813) 689-3840

E-mail: [kara@seffnerpres.org](mailto:kara@seffnerpres.org)

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

**Office Hours:**

**Monday - Thursday**

**9:00 am-2:00 pm**

### Session Members

**Christina Boyd**

*Administration*

**Carol Dolphin**

*Stewardship*

**Bob Friskney**

*Fellowship*

**Jay Heidt**

*Facilities*

**Joy Lavazza**

*Congregational Care*

**Madelyn McClellan**

*Youth*

**Carol Shick**

*Worship*

**Deborah Thatcher**

*Mission*

**Melissa Triebwasser**

*Christian Education*

**Cammie Williams,**

**Clerk of Session**

Newsletter items for  
**February 2023**  
**due by January 15, 2023.**  
Please submit items to  
[kara@seffnerpres.org](mailto:kara@seffnerpres.org)

## Worshiping Together

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

**2nd Sunday of Advent**  
Bike Dedication & Cookie Swap  
**December 4th**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**  
Baskets for Beth-el  
Casserole Youth Fundraiser  
**December 11th**

**4th Sunday of Advent**  
"Our Noël Advent"  
Joy Luncheon  
**December 18th**

**Christmas Eve**  
Worship at 7pm  
Communion  
Candlelight  
**December 24th**

**Christmas Day**  
Combined Worship at 10am  
**December 25th**

**1st Sunday of Christmas**  
Combined Worship at 10am  
**January 1st**

**Epiphany of the Lord**  
and **Baptism of the Lord**  
Communion  
**January 8th**

**3rd Sunday after Epiphany**  
New Elder Ordination  
and Installation  
**January 22nd**

**4th Sunday after Epiphany**  
Blood Drive & Luncheon  
**January 29th**

Children's Care  
available during worship  
services each Sunday.  
Join us for Worship at  
[www.seffnerpres.org](http://www.seffnerpres.org)  
click on **Worship**  
or go to

[www.facebook.com/seffnerpres](http://www.facebook.com/seffnerpres)

## MISSION HAPPENINGS

Lots of opportunities to serve this month. We will begin the month making cookies to give to **Family Promise for their Yearly Cookie sale**. The sale will be on the **4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of December** at the **New Hope Methodist Church in Brandon**. If you are a baker please consider making 2 batches of cookies and you can take them to Deb Thatcher's house on Friday or take them directly to the Methodist Church **Friday, December 2nd, evening from 5-7** For more information talk to **Carrie Childs or Deb Thatcher**.

Another opportunity to serve is by **signing up to buy a gift for one of our Beth El Adopted families**. Sign up sheets are in the church narthex. We have **3 families** and will buy **gifts for all the family members**. We will have a **wrapping party Dec 11<sup>th</sup> in the fellowship hall after the 11:00 service**. We will serve a light lunch, wrap gifts, listen to Christmas music and if the spirit moves us we might even sing. Come see what the Lord can do through us. It creates great endorphins seeing all the good we can do.

**Bikes for Jesus** has been quite successful. We are able to give **60 bikes, helmets and Bible Story books to children in the Foster**

## ADVENT and CHRISTMAS CALENDAR of EVENTS (Please mark your calendar and note times)

**1st Sunday of Advent, Nov. 27th**  
**Hanging of the Greens, 9:30 & 11am**  
**Crafts and Soup Luncheon 12pm**

**2nd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 4th**  
**Bike Dedication, 9:30 & 11am**  
**Cookie Exchange, 12pm**

**3rd Sunday of Advent, Dec. 11th**  
**9:30 & 11am**  
**Youth Casserole Fundraiser**  
**and Baskets for Beth-el Families, 12pm**

**4th Sunday of Advent, Dec. 18th**  
**"Our Noël Advent" Celebration, 10am**  
**Joy Luncheon 11am**

**Christmas Eve**  
**7pm**  
**Communion, Candlelight**  
**Cookie Reception, 8pm**

**Christmas Day, Dec. 25th**  
**Worship, 10am in Fellowship Hall**

**1st Sunday of Christmas, Jan. 1st, 2023**  
**Carols and Scriptures, 10am**

**Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord, Jan. 8th**  
**Communion, 9:30 & 11am**  
**Epiphany Reception, 12pm**

Care System and those involved in the Beth El Migrant Mission. Come **Saturday Dec 4<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am** to the fellowship hall to help put bikes together and enjoy some wonderful fellowship. You might even learn how to build a bike, or tear down boxes and tie on bows.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE NEWS



Thank you for the continued **Support of the Falkenburg Pet Resource Center**. The newspapers, blankets, towels and t-shirts are valuable gifts that are needed continuously.

On the **First Sunday of Advent, November 27th**, the **Christmas Card Exchange Box** will be made available to our congregation in the **fellowship hall**. This is a great way to send someone in the congregation a Christmas card without having to go to the post office and saving on the cost of stamps! A directory, pens, and extra cards in a basket will be available for your use if you forget your cards at home. Sign the card with a small message, write the receiver's name on the envelope and insert it in the folder under the first initial of their last name. It's that easy! Do not forget to see if someone left you a card! We would appreciate any unused cards you may have to be placed in the basket for others to use. We will also have an **Advent Activity table** we hope you will visit. In addition, we will again have a **cookie decorating table** to eat them or take them home. The children have great fun with this project.

Wondering what we did with all those paper rolls? Our group had a marvelous time making them into delightful surprises that you will find at the **Joy Pot-luck Luncheon on December 18th**. Thank you to the Fellowship Committee for letting us be a part of the festivities.

Please do not forget our **Youth** with their **fundraisers**. This is very important for them as it is for **their mission and Montreat trips** and to the growth of our church.

Remember to take time to savor every moment as **Christ guides our church and our lives**.

## COOKIE EXCHANGE



**Sunday, December 4**, we will hold a Cookie Exchange and

Swap, **12:15 to 1:15pm**. There will also be refreshments & cocoa. This will be a fun way to have an assortment of **homemade Christmas cookies** to share with family and friends. Bring in **two dozen homemade cookies** with the recipe if you want to share, and you get to **take home two dozen assorted cookies**. Just be sure to have a container to use to store them to take them home.

## FELLOWSHIP

You are invited to celebrate the joy of the Advent season with all the following events, so be sure to mark your calendars!

**Sunday, November 27th**, following the Hanging of the Greens service will be a Soup & Sliders lunch prepared by the Fellowship Committee during the craft workshop.

**Sunday, December 18**, the Joy Pot-luck luncheon will be following the combined worship service. Come celebrate and share a favorite holiday casserole or dessert. Our traditional 12 days of Christmas songs are always a hit!

**Christmas Eve**, 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**, and thank you ahead of time!

**January 8th, 2023**, come **celebrate Epiphany**, and the blessings of the New Year, we will gather with our church family after the 11 o'clock service, with a coffee, cocoa and sweet roll reception. So bring your sweet tooth and gratitude for all that God has provided for us.



ALL Youth entering 6th through exiting 12th are welcome to join us **Wednesdays @ 6pm** for Fun, Fellowship and Bible Study!

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

- 12/3 - Bike assembly day
- 12/10 - Youth Progressive Dinner
- 12/11 - Youth Casserole Fundraiser
- 12/18 - Wreath Fundraiser Ends
- 12/21 & 28 & Jan 4 - No Youth

**Opportunities to serve:**

We are in need of **Nursery Volunteers** - please reach out to Melissa Triebwasser if you are interested.

**Youth casserole fundraiser is December 11<sup>th</sup>** in the church Fellowship Hall. We are having our now 'annual' Casserole Auction. Casseroles will sell for a flat fee of \$10 for a 9x9 or \$15 for a 9x13. If you are interested in donating a casserole, you can sign up and pick up a pan in the fellowship hall. It can be a side dish, main dish, dessert, breakfast...anything that freezes well. Questions? Contact Christy at [elidenmayf@gmail.com](mailto:elidenmayf@gmail.com).

**Welcome New Member**

**Olive Crawford**  
32 Oakwood Drive  
Thonotosassa, FL 33592  
Email - [olivecrawford711@gmail.com](mailto:olivecrawford711@gmail.com)  
(813)-335-7382

**Welcome New Elders to the Session**

**Joy Griffin**  
**Greg Uebel**  
**Dewey Walklin**

**We thank our Elders going off the session for their time and dedication.**

**Bob Friskney**  
**Madelyn McClellan**  
**Carol Shick**  
**Deborah Thatcher**



**WE ARE LOOKING FOR A:**

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES**

\*Both positions are part-time



Interested candidates should send their resumes to [kara@seffnerpres.org](mailto:kara@seffnerpres.org)



**MEN'S GROUP**

**Men's Grill Night**  
**No Grilling in December**  
**See you in 2023!**

**January 17** (3rd Tuesday of the month)  
**7pm (Rain or Shine!)**

Men are invited to meet at the grill in the back parking lot of the church; bring a meat to cook and a leftover covered dish to share. Rev. Ramiro Ros will have a devotional to share.

**SPECIAL OFFERING**

Jesus came to us as a helpless baby — destined to lead us and bring joy, peace and salvation for all people. The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us in Jesus with generous support of leaders among us — past, present and future. 50% of your gifts open doors which lead to relief for church workers and their families when critical needs arise. 50% of your gifts open doors of opportunity which lead to hopeful futures for young people at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. For more information, click on the link: [pcusa.org/christmasjoy](http://pcusa.org/christmasjoy)

## DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

**Gate Keepers: Open** - Greg Uebel  
**Close** - Bruce Derenthal

**Liturgist:**

### December 4 2nd Sunday of Advent

Usher 9:30am: Jackie Winter  
 Head Usher 11:00: Jay Heidt  
 Greeter/Usher 11:00: Anne Heidt, Carina Brushwood  
 Sunday School: Melissa Triebwasser  
 Little Lambs: Joy Lavazza  
 Elementary: Joy Griffin  
 Acolyte: Finley Heidt  
 Lemonade: Cindy Doyle  
 Flowers: Anne Heidt  
 Office: Sara High (12/1)

### December 11 3rd Sunday of Advent

Usher 9:30 am: Carol Dolphin  
 Head Usher 11:00: Jim High  
 Greeter/Usher 11:00: Dewey Walklin, Sara High  
 Sunday School: Karen Childs  
 Little Lambs: Olivia Boyd  
 Elementary: Christina Boyd  
 Acolyte: Caroline Boyd  
 Lemonade: Jackie Winter  
 Flowers: Carol Dolphin  
 Office: Jim High (12/8)

### December 18 4th Sunday of Advent

Head Usher 10:00: Jeff Mason  
 Greeter/Usher 10:00: Lydia Padovano, Nancy Mason  
 Acolyte: Lotte Triebwasser  
 Lemonade: Need Host  
 Flowers: Poinsettias  
 Office: Joy Griffin (12/15)

### December 24 Christmas Eve

Head Usher: Dewey Walklin  
 Ushers and Greeters: Youth  
 Acolyte: Noah Boyd

### December 25 Christmas Day

Head Usher 10:00: Dewey Walklin  
 Greeter/Usher 10:00: Youth  
 Acolyte: Penny Childs  
 Lemonade: Bubba  
 Flowers: Poinsettias  
 Office: Sara High (1/5)

## TEMPLE KEEPERS

**Jay Heidt**  
 on or before 12/3

**Ed Holzman**  
 on or before 12/10

**Jim High**  
 on or before 12/17

**Mark Williams**  
 on or before 12/23

**Greg Uebel**  
 on or before 12/31

**Come to Jesus' birthday celebration!**

**Sunday, Dec. 25th at 10 am.**

**Dress Code: Pajamas  
 Menu: Cedarkirk  
 Cinnamon Rolls**

**See You There!**

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



Simply give a gift for however many years you will be!

### December Birthdays

Sara High	12/4
Kaylee Rogers	12/4
Anne Abe	12/6
Anne Abe	12/6
Gabrielle Friebolin	12/6
Michael Paynter	12/6
Patricia Hudson	12/9
Tammy Wooster	12/9
Kathryn Doucette	12/10
Olivia Reiter	12/11
Paul Crawford	12/15
Anne Heidt	12/16
Marvin Calvert	12/20
Anthony Hudson	12/21
Christy Mayfield	12/22
Jeanette Sampson	12/31
Kathryn Shick	12/31

### December Anniversaries

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

## Meals On Wheels

A multi-church yard sale to benefit Meals on Wheels of Brandon is planned for January 2023. All **donated items** may begin to be brought to the church on **January 3rd during office hours.**



We extend our love and sympathy to the Taylor -Harris family and friends. John Taylor went to his heavenly home on

October 28th, 2022. We continue to pray for family and friends to be comforted and to find hope in the promise of the resurrection. For when Christ conquered death he opened the way for eternal life for us.



**Thank you** to everyone who baked, shopped, cooked and funded the MOW Thanksgiving meals for 84 recipients.

**Thank you** to those who once again made our Bikes for Jesus' Birthday a success.



## JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

**Gate Keepers: Open** - Ed Moseley  
**Close** - Ron Smith

**Liturgist:** Jay Heidt

### January 1

Head Usher 10:00: Jay Heidt  
Greeter/Usher 10:00: Anne Heidt, Jackie Winter  
Acolyte: Penny Childs and Dahlia Lavazza  
Lemonade: Cindy Doyle  
Flowers: Poinsettias  
Office: Sara High (1/5)

### January 8

Usher 9:30 am: Jackie Winter  
Head Usher 11:00: Jim High  
Greeter/Usher 11:00: Joy Griffin, Sara High  
Sunday School: TBA  
Little Lambs: TBA  
Elementary: TBA  
Acolyte: Caroline Boyd  
Lemonade: Need Host  
Flowers: Cammie Williams  
Office: Jim High (1/12)

### January 15

Usher 9:30am: Joann Williams  
Head Usher 11:00: Jeff Mason  
Greeter/Usher 11:00: Lydia Padovano, Nancy Mason  
Sunday School: TBA  
Little Lambs: TBA  
Elementary: TBA  
Acolyte: Lotte Triebwasser  
Lemonade: Need Host  
Flowers: Joy Griffin  
Office: Joy Griffin (1/19)

### January 22

Usher 9:30am: Ed Moseley  
Head Usher 11:00: Dave MacEwen  
Greeter/Usher 11:00: Patty MacEwen, Chris Spangler  
Sunday School: TBA  
Little Lambs: TBA  
Elementary: TBA  
Acolyte: Noah Boyd  
Lemonade: Need Host  
Flowers: Deborah Thatcher  
Office: Cammie Williams (1/26)

### January 29

Usher 9:30am: Carol Schick  
Head Usher 11:00: James Boyd  
Greeter/Usher 11:00: Dewey Walklin, Deborah Thacher  
Sunday School: TBA  
Little Lambs: TBA  
Elementary: TBA  
Acolyte: Finley Heidt  
Lemonade: Pot-Luck Luncheon  
Flowers: Carol Shick  
Office: Sara High (2/2)

## TEMPLE KEEPERS

**Jay Heidt**  
on or before 1/3

**Ed Holzman**  
on or before 1/8

**Jim High**  
on or before 1/15

**Mark Williams**  
on or before 1/22

**Greg Uebel**  
on or before 1/29



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



Simply give a gift for however many years you will be!

### January Birthdays

Mark Williams	1/4
Rebecca Hudson	1/7
Robert Braxton	1/8
Tricia Lavazza	1/8
Isabel Reiter	1/10
Maxwell Forsyth	1/11
Cade 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
Mackenzie Sampson	1/28
John Harp	1/30
Kathryn Forsyth	1/31

### 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	Actual	Budget
October 2022		
Income	\$ 230,670	\$ 219,423
Expense	\$ 209,214	\$ 219,423
Net (+/-)	\$ 21,456	

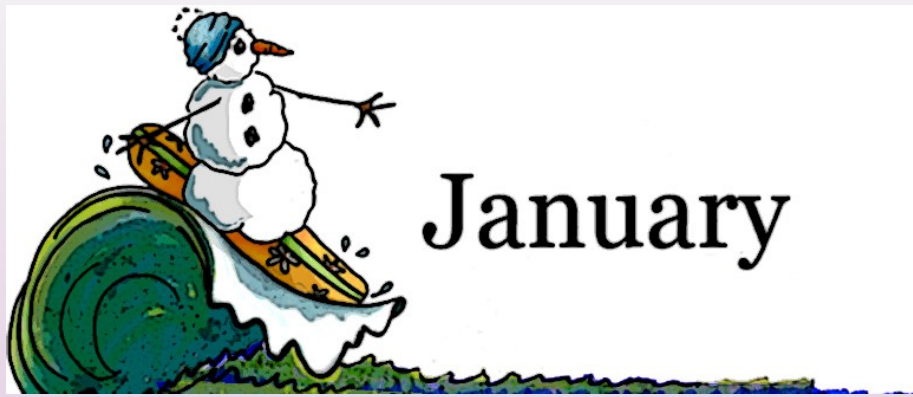
**BLOOD DONATIONS**



**Sunday, January 29th**  
8:30 am -1:00 pm

# December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 5pm Cookies for Family Promise Sale - delivered to New Hope Life Center	3 8 am Bikes for Jesus Assembly Cookie sale for Family Promise
4 Bike Dedication 9:30 am Contemporary 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Traditional	5 Bike Delivery	6	7 8:30 am Meals on Wheels  6pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	8	9	10 TOPS Christmas Luncheon
11 9:30 am Contemporary 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Traditional Youth Casserole Fundraiser Baskets for Beth-el	12	13	14 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 12 noon Holy Grazers 4 pm Staff Meets  6pm Youth 7:30pm Choir	15	16	17
18 10 am Our Noël Advent Celebration and Worship Joy Luncheon	19	20	21 8:30 am Meals on Wheels  7:30pm Choir	22	23	24  7pm Worship Service with Communion
25  10 am Worship Service 11am Bubba's Rolls	26	27	28 8:30 am Meals on Wheels	29	30	31
Church Office Closed						



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10 am Combined Worship Service Carols and Scriptures	<b>Committees meet            throughout the week</b>		<b>4</b> 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 7:30 pm Choir		<b>6</b> Epiphany of the Lord 6pm Staff Gathering	
<b>8</b> Epiphany and Baptism of the Lord 9:30 am Contemporary Service w/Communion 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Traditional Service w/ Communion			<b>11</b> 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 12 noon Holy Grazers 4:30 pm Staff Meets 6pm Youth 7:30pm Choir			
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Contemporary 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Traditional 12:30 pm Session Meet Newsletter Items Due for February		<b>17</b> 7pm Men's Grill Night and Devotion	<b>18</b> 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6pm Youth 7:30pm Choir			
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Contemporary 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Traditional New Elder Ordination and Installation			<b>25</b> 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6pm Youth 7:30pm Choir		<b>27</b> 8:00 am -2 pm Benefit Greater on Wheels	<b>28</b> YARD SALE Brandon Meals Session Retreat
<b>29</b> 8:30 Blood Drive 9:30am Contemporary 9:30 am Sunday School 11 am Traditional 12:00 pm Luncheon	<b>30</b>  		<b>30</b> 8:30 am Meals on Wheels 6pm Youth 7:30pm Choir			