



The Grapevine

HE IS RISEN

CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR

Odds and Ends

Reverend Edward Dunn

I - Easter

Would you describe yourself as an early bird or a night owl? Some people are early risers and function best in the morning while others find energy late in the day and stay awake long into the night. I can identify with the early bird group. Most days I'm out the door to run at 6:30a.m. and a couch potato at 9p.m. The hours in between are busy with the most productive time being 9a.m. to 4p.m.

Much of the gospel narrative doesn't refer to times of the day, except the stories of Jesus' resurrection. John writes that it was "Early on the first day of the week while it was still dark" when Mary discovers the empty tomb. Then John tells us that "it was evening on that day, the first day of the week" when Jesus came and stood among them.

We have a tradition of gathering for a Sunrise Easter morning service at 7a.m. at the Palma Sola Botanical Garden and a Sanctuary service at 10a.m.

Both services are occasions to acknowledge that Christ is risen and the news is for all the world to hear and proclaim. Those who encounter Jesus are told to go and share the news of his resurrection.

I hope you will plan to join us for one or both services this year.

II - Merger

The Joint Merger Committee members have been at work for more than a month discerning and working toward the future of a new church. Peace River Presbytery has joined us through the election of an Administrative Commission, including Roy Williams and John Progar who are members of both groups.

Thank you to all who submitted name suggestions for the new church. In the next few weeks you will learn about the next step of determining the final name. Please keep these individuals in prayer as they also consider other important merger matters.

III - Milestones

At the end of April I will be away to join with family in celebration of the 100th birthday of a cousin. It's actually the second centennial celebration for our family as another cousin turned 100 back in January. These and many other milestones are important to celebrate and offer thanks to God.

May you have a blessed and joyous Easter season.

Blessings,
Edward

Merger Listening Opportunity

You are invited to share thoughts, concerns, issues, and opportunities with representatives of the Administrative Commission from Peace River Presbytery regarding our plan to merge Palma Sola and Westminster. A Listening Opportunity will be held Sunday, April 16 following worship in the Parlor (between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall).

Palma Sola Session Highlights

- Approved vacation for Pastor Edward during April 24 through May 1.
- Scheduled a joint meeting of both Sessions of Palma Sola and Westminster in-person for April 17th at 3:30 pm to discuss items of mutual interest.
- Endorsed plans for holding an Earth Day event with the theme of “Investing in our Future” on Saturday, April 22nd from 10-Noon in Fellowship Hall.
- Approved plans to plant a sizeable shade tree by the Fellowship Hall portico in honor of our forthcoming merger and celebration of Arbor Day.
- Approved appointment of an Ad Hoc Task Group to obtain a new FPL energy audit and to use the data to better manage our heating/cooling zones to reduce energy usage and our carbon footprint.
- Approved the use of Fellowship Hall by the Creative Arts Academy on May 26th beginning at 6:00 pm for a musical program, for which they will charge \$10 per person.
- Approved negotiations with DEX Imaging for a new copier lease contract that will provide all needed copier features at a considerably reduced cost.
- Noted that the process for submitting names for our new church has been completed and the Joint Merger Committee will begin preparing a Ballot for voting on the name.
- Approved a goal for the church to reduce our carbon footprint (energy usage) 15% by January 2025, and 25% by June 2026, to comply with targets set by the Presbyterian General Assembly. Specific actions will be defined at a later date.

Westmintser Session Highlights

- \$500 toward the purchase of a tree honoring the merger of our congregations.
- Agreed to send FELT a 50.00 check.
- Received an update of restricted and memorial funds from Richard Haynes.

April Outreach Update

Spring has sprung and you definitely sprang into action in March, reaching out in service and love to your community.

Recap of recent events:

- As a result of our January, February, and March Outreach Offerings, you generously donated **\$786 for Our Daily Bread**.
- Volunteers packed **3000 packets of beet seeds** at our **Hope Seeds** packing event on 3/18. These seeds will go all over the world, spreading the Gospel and teaching others to grow food for their communities.
- Folks volunteered every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- **Hundreds of packages of food were donated to FELT.** Over 1500 children will be fed on the weekends thanks to you!
- As part of our **PB & J Sandwich Ministry**, you made **400 additional sandwiches** to donate to Our Daily Bread, for a total of 2800 since September.
- We **supported children's safety** through the West Manatee Fire Department's **Help Kids Now** program by using budgeted funds to purchase books to share with families on home safety.
- You baked dozens of cookies for Rich Wachunis to share with inmates and volunteers at a **Kairos Prison Ministry** weekend retreat.

April Outreach Opportunities:

- April brings **BABY showers!** Our **DOES It (Done On Every Sunday)** project for April is **collecting baby wipes for the food pantry at Our Daily Bread.** Loaves & Fishes is a self-serve food pantry where clients can shop free once a month for fresh produce, personal care, and other food items of their choice. They are always in need of baby supplies. The Outreach Team plans to purchase diapers and formula with budgeted funds, and your donations of baby wipes will complete our baby shower theme. Drop packages and containers of **baby wipes only** (not Clorox wipes or other anti-bacterial wipes) in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by April 30th and help families in need in our local community.
- You are invited to an **Earth Day program and celebration on Saturday, April 22nd from 10 am – noon in Fellowship Hall.** Browse our displays covering best practices to reduce our carbon footprint, FPL solar programs, Presbyterians for Earth Care information, samples and examples of locally sourced and sustainable foods, EV/hybrid car displays, and more. The program is free and open to the community, so please plan to join us and learn how you can do your part to care for God's beautiful creation.
- Pen Pals mark your calendars for **Monday, April 17th for our annual Pen Pal Party** with the 2nd graders at Palma Sola Elementary! Pen Pals should plan on arriving at the front office of the school by **10:15 am to check-in (bring your driver's license or other photo ID).**

April Outreach Update Continued

We will then move to the outdoor courtyard to meet our pen pals, take pictures, enjoy a short program by the students, and then some one-on-one time until 11:30 am. This is something the students look forward to every year, so please make plans to attend. Any questions contact Donna Lesch.

Ongoing Opportunities:

- **Servers for Our Daily Bread on Fridays** are always needed. Contact Dorothy Simes if you would like to volunteer.
- We continue to **collect non-perishable food items in the cart in the Narthex** to donate to **Our Daily Bread**. They are always in need of canned vegetables, fruits, meats, and soups as well as boxes and bags of pasta, rice, cereal and other staples to stock the Loaves & Fishes food pantry.
- Also, please keep in mind our Blessing Box by the east parking lot. **The Blessing Box** serves as a **mini food pantry** for our local neighborhood, and you are welcome to add to it or take from it as needed.
- Contributions of **loose change, soft money, and checks for FELT (Feeding Empty Little Tummies)** are always welcome. To donate, use the envelopes in the pews or mail a check to the church office with "FELT" in the memo line.
- Join your church family in Fellowship Hall after worship each week to make **PB & J sandwiches** to share with the **clients of Our Daily Bread**. Thank you to all who have been bringing in supplies, making sandwiches, and helping SPREAD the love of Christ to your neighbors in need!

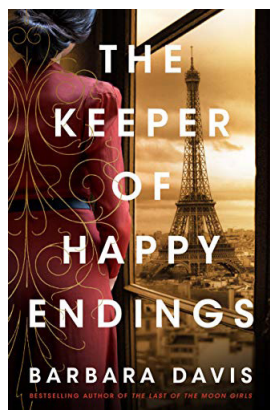
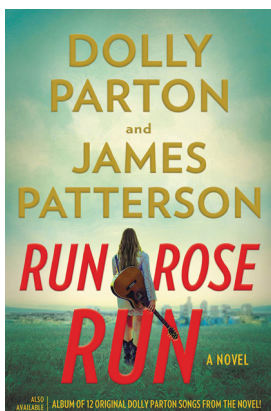
April Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for April will go to **Presbyterian Mission Agency's One Great Hour of Sharing**. Proceeds support three PC(USA) programs providing people with safety, sustenance, and hope: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. Currently, emergency relief funds from PDA are being sent to Turkey and Syria to aid in earthquake recovery.

You may donate to One Great Hour of Sharing:

- during the worship service, in your offering envelope,
- by mailing a check to the church office with "OGHS" in the memo line, or
- Palma Sola members may also contribute through [online giving](#)

Palma Sola Book Club



APR 10 | 12 - 1PM MAY 8 | 12 - 1PM

Join in any second Monday at 12pm in the library or on Zoom for fun conversation.

2023 READING LIST

For more information, call Vicki Schooley at (941) 518-2315.

Men's Group



MEN'S GROUP

You're invited to attend the Morning Men's Group. Get to know the men you see in church. Share your story. Enjoy fellowship.

MEETINGS START AT 8:30A

APR 6 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

APR 20 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

Merger Tree Planting

In honor of our Earth Day celebration and the upcoming merger of our congregations, the Session of Westminster and Palma Sola Presbyterian Churches have approved the purchase and planting of a shade tree by the Fellowship Hall portico. What a wonderful way to invest in our future and share a lasting and visual memorial of all the work that is being done. Look for details on how you can be a part of the blessing of this new addition to our campus in the coming weeks.

HOW TO ORDER CHURCH ENVELOPES

Offering Envelopes are available by calling Dina Breneman at 941-792-3141, Gregg Pead at 941-348-0773 or email Gregg at peedethree@gmail.com.

Maundy Thursday

“Jesus celebrated his final Passover with His disciples.”

We will be sharing communion together.

Join us in Fellowship Hall

April 6 | 6:30p



EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunrise Easter Service

April 9th | 7a

Palma Sola Botanical Gardens

Join us at this beautiful setting, watch the sunrise and rejoice that Christ has risen indeed!

Sunday Easter Service

April 9th | 10a

The Sanctuary

Come join us back in the Sanctuary to celebrate that Jesus has Risen.



3 Cents A Meal - Apr

**SUGGESTED
DONATION
\$8.19**

**Collection will
take place
4/30**



3 Cents A Meal

It's time to think about 3 cents a meal offering again.

It will be 91 days since we last collected on January 29 to our next 5-month Sunday, April 30. 91 days times 3 meals a day equals 273 meals. 273 meals times .03 cents equals \$8.19. Feel free to round up to \$10.00 to make your bookkeeping easier!

Remember we will collect this offering on Sunday, April 30.

Kairos - Prison Ministry Update

Many thanks to the people that baked cookies for our Kairos reunion in March.

“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ ‘He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

Matthew 25: 44-45

Many of us have helped the hungry, thirsty, sick and those needing clothes, either directly or by funding helping programs.

Kairos provides the opportunity for you to virtually visit those in prison. You can do this by baking cookies for the monthly Kairos events. Currently our congregation has a few faithful cookie bakers. But I would like to have two separate teams of cookie bakers. This way we could spread out the baking responsibilities.

This Christian ministry truly means a lot to those incarcerated men, many of who are totally isolated from the outside world, abandoned by family and friends. We become the embodiment of Christianity bringing the Word and God's promise to the incarcerated. Kairos tells these men that they are not alone. Kairos volunteers show them they are not alone by going inside the wire each month for prayer, study, fellowship, and BRINGING COOKIES. The men share how coming to Christ though Kairos has changed each of them and what has changed in how they live inside the institution.

We are always in need of men to join us going inside to share Jesus. Kairos Prison Ministry at Hardee Correctional Institution thanks you and prays for your support.

- Rich Wachunis | (941) 567-5041

THANK YOU!



FELLOWSHIP
& WORSHIP
COMMITTEE

A big thank you to all the ladies for making yummy soups and salads for the Lenten Soup Luncheon:

Andrea Harmon, Ruth Baldrige, Nancy Schmandle, Jeanine Scott, Janice Fritzmeier, Amy Pedon, Joan Carlson, Patty Dawson, Sue Corbett, Mary Montano, Linda Proger, Jan Jarrell.

And to everyone who came to enjoy some lunch and fellowship.

-Gail Dickerson

Let's get together to spread God's word. Join the Fellowship & Worship Committee Today! Reach out to Gail Dickerson for more information at 941-224-1117

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

APR 1 Chuck & Bev Danley
Andrea & Lee Harmon

APR 4 Janice Jarrell

APR 5 Mark Wolf

APR 6 John Crowell
Chris Hauser

APR 7 Carol MacFarlane

APR 10 Myrna Adams
Peter Sokolich

APR 12 Marilyn George

APR 15 Edith Onugha

APR 19 Lois Swallow
Kay Lee

APR 20 Bev Banks

APR 21 Toby Chinwuba
Aleash Hamilton
Kathy Muscatell

APR 26 Tim & Amy Pedon

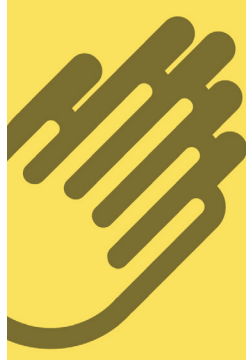
APR 27 Joan Carlson
Chris James

APR 27 Robert Felix
Russ Montano

March Photobook

Communion | Baptism
Hope Seeds
Lenten Lunch





PRAYER GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday 11a | Room 14

HOLY STROLLERS WALKING GROUP



**JOIN US ON A WEEKLY STROLL
TO GET SOME FRESH AIR**

EVERY FRIDAY | 9AM

**ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)**



CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P IN THE SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 6P IN THE SANCTUARY

**Palma Sola & Westminter Presbyterian Churches
- April Newsletter 2023 -**

6510 3rd Ave W.
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-792-3141
pspchurch.org

JOIN US



**Get Inspired. Take Action.
Be a part of the green
revolution!**

Earth Day 2023

Saturday April 22nd | 10a - 12p

- Browse displays, view videos, sample foods.
- Learn ways we can all contribute to solving climate change and other environmental issues,
-and how what we do now is the key to Our Planet's future.

Hosted by Palma Sola and Westminster Churches
Palma Sola Presbyterian Church
6510 3rd Ave West, Bradenton, FL
www.pspchurch.org 941-792-3141

April

2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 Palm Sunday Worship Service 10a Communion	3	4	5 Bell Choir 6p Chancel 7p	6 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a <i>Maundy Thurs Service 6:30p</i>	7 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	8
9 Easter Service Botanical Park 7a Easter Service Sanctuary 10a	10 <i>Palma Sola Book Club 12p</i>	11 PRAYER GROUP 11a <i>Outreach 3p</i>	12 <i>Finance 3:30p</i> Bell Choir 6p Chancel 7p	13	14 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	15
16 Worship Service 10a Fellowship Presbytery Listening Session 11a	17 PEN PALS PARTY 10:15a JOINT WPC/PSPC SESSION 3:30p	18	19 Bell Choir 6p Chancel 7p	20 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	21 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	22 <i>Earth Day Fair 10a</i>
23 Worship Service 10a Fellowship	24	25 PRAYER GROUP 11a	26 Bell Choir 6p Chancel 7p	27	28 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	29
30 Worship Service 10a Fellowship 3 CENTS A MEAL	Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9am - 4pm View the online church <u>Calendar</u> for latest information about Sunday worship services, Bible study, outreach and other events. Livestreamed and recorded worship services may be viewed at <u>Online Worship</u> .					