



The Grapevine



Auld Lang Syne

Reverend Edward Dunn

We sing “auld lang syne” to mark the end of the year on New Year’s Eve. The words, penned by Robert Burns who is recognized as the national poet of Scotland, are loosely translated “for the sake of old times.” A later poet, Matthew Fitt, has used the same phrase as a way to begin a retelling of fairy tales. To him, the phrase “in the days of auld lang syne” capture the words most likely known to us, “once upon a time.”

December 2023 marks the beginning of a new liturgical year with the season of Advent. These four weeks, including the morning of December 24 will focus on the preparation of God’s people for a coming Messiah. Our telling of the story of Christmas in Luke’s gospel begins with time, “In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus...” Our hearing of this story is very much “in the days of auldlang syne.”

This edition of the Grapevine celebrates much of what we have been doing and what we are continuing to do as a church. It is also an edition of auld lang syne, since in mid December we officially become United Presbyterian Church. The stories of Palma Sola and Westminster, already intertwined with one another over the past three years, will continue as the story of a new congregation. I invite you to read about our mission and ministry; to plan on joining us as you are able; and to consider how you might support us in prayer and with your financial gifts of support. Read on to learn more about us...

December 3 will be our annual Cookie Walk with proceeds from your \$5 purchase of a cookie box providing socks for the guests of Turning Points and Our Daily Bread.

December 10 will include the congregational meeting to elect officers and a celebration of Christmas and our merger.

December 21 is when we will hold our Longest Night Service at the Palma Sola Botanical Park at 6p.m.

December 24 will include a morning worship service that begins in Advent and transitions to Christmas Eve worship.

Join us as we bid auld lang syne to 2023 and “bring it on” to 2024!

Blessings
Edward

3 Cents A Meal - Dec
SUGGESTED *\$5.67*
DONATION *OR \$6*

*Collection will
take place 12/31*



Coming Soon... Mayberry Bible Study Week.
More information coming in late February

Palma Sola Session Highlights

- Approved having the Scouts sell Christmas poinsettias after worship on December 3rd.
- Approved supplemental contributions to F.E.L.T and to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to bolster member donations during October and November.
- Noted that the Elders and Deacons-elect of United church have been trained in their roles as required by the Book of Order.
- Noted that the Records and Rolls of the church were successfully reviewed and approved without exception by the Presbytery.
- Endorsed the creation of an Ad Hoc group to study the entire music program of the church.
- Endorsed holding a program on Scam Awareness for Seniors on January 25th in Fellowship Hall. This program will also be open to the community.
- Noted that the annual review of church records and financial processes was successfully completed by an in-house committee on November 18th.
- Noted that the Endowment Committee has favorably completed its semi-annual review of the church's investments with New Covenant Trust Company.

Westminster Session Highlights

- The last regular Session Meeting for Westminster Presbyterian Church was held Monday, November 20, 2023.
- We look forward to becoming United Presbyterian Church on December 10th.

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P

IN THE SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 6P

IN THE SANCTUARY





Let's get together to spread God's word.
Join the Fellowship & Worship Committee Today!

Contact Gail Dickerson at 941-224-1117 or
gaild.pspc@gmail.com for more information

Here are our current areas of need for volunteers:

USHERS NEEDED

Be a great welcomer to the house of God & get to know your congregation



Ushers: A great way to meet everyone and make them feel comfortable

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for Sunday Fellowship to keep it brewing

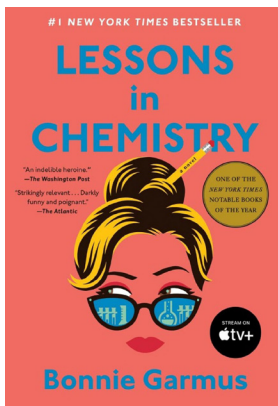
One Sunday A Month!
Set Up
Host
Clean Up

We will show you how!

NEW SINGERS NEEDED

Interested in joining the Chancel Choir? We need singers! Rehearsals are set for Wednesdays at 7 after Bell Choir Rehearsals conclude.

Palma Sola Book Club



JAN 8 | 1 - 2:30PM

Join in any second Monday at 1pm in the Media Center & Zoom for fun conversation.

2024 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

DEC 7/JAN 4 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

DEC 21/JAN 18 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

Join Us for a
Cookie Walk

Sunday, December 3rd
after the service

To benefit Turning Points



**Please bring in 2 dozen or more cookies
on Sunday December 3rd.**

We will be selling a cookie box \$5.00.

You may fill up to a dozen cookies in the box.

The proceeds will buy socks for Turning Point and
Daily Bread. See sign-up sheet.

Christmas Luncheon

Celebrating The
New United Church

December 10th

After Service

The Church will provide Ham.

Please bring your favorite side dish
or dessert to share.

A Signup sheet will be in the Narthex to
let us know how many are coming.

Last name starts with:

A to N Side dish

O to Z dessert

**Longest Night
Christmas Service**

DEC. 21ST | 6PM

**Palma Sola Botanical Park
9800 17th Avenue NW
Bradenton FL**

Also called Blue Christmas. On this day, Pastor
Edward will lead a service to help people that
have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief.

Christmas Eve

& Fourth Sunday of Advent Service

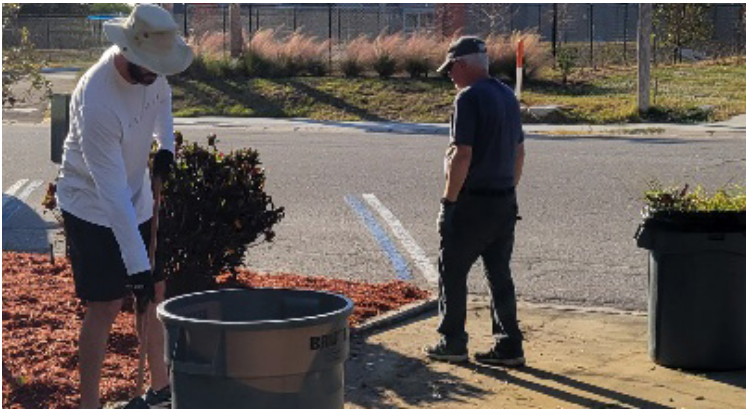
Sunday, Dec. 24th | 10am

**It's a time to come together with
friends and family to celebrate
and reflect on the true meaning of
Christmas**

Continuing our celebration with a
Christmas Fellowship
in Fellowship Hall.

*Jesus comes to bring Peace to the world and to
people's hearts.*

November Photobook



Children's Theater Productions
presents



A SAVIOR is BORN- The Christmas Story

Please Join Us!
Friday, December 15th
6:00pm

with
Live Instrumentalist and Vocalist

Casa De Dios Bradenton
4420 9th Street East Bradenton, Fl. 34203

December Outreach Update

It is hard to believe the year is almost over, but what a year it has been! You have worked together to reach out with love and service in so many ways, and we look forward with gratitude to all the things we can accomplish as **United Presbyterian Church** in the future.

November Outreach Highlights:

- You shopped for and filled over **50 wrapped shoes boxes** to help provide gifts to seniors served by **Meals on Wheels** this Christmas.
- You generously gave monetary contributions to **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**. **\$500** from budgeted funds was added to October and November collections to make an even bigger impact.
- Folks volunteered every Friday at **Our Daily Bread**.
- You contributed **\$750** from budgeted funds to support providing weekend backpacks of food for children through the **Feeding Empty Little Tummies** program.
- You made an additional **400 PB & J sandwiches** that were delivered to clients in need at **Our Daily Bread** for a total of **6400 sandwiches** since the beginning of this ministry.
- You sent extra donations of **\$300 each** to help offset day-to-day expenses at **Our Daily Bread, Salvation Army, Mision Peniel, Beth-El Farmworker Ministry, Cedarkirk Camp & Conference Center, and Christian Care Alliance**. These gifts go a long way to provide assistance to those served by these wonderful organizations.
- You helped weed, mulch, plant and trim to improve the church grounds prior to the holiday season.
- You lovingly donated to the **Salvation Army Angel Tree** to help buy Christmas gifts for those “angels” not previously selected from the tree.
- You purchased bags and gift cards for **Manatee Operation Troop Support** to provide gifts to local military families this Christmas.

December Outreach Opportunities:

- Our **DOES It (Done On Every Sunday)** project for December is making **12 Days of Christmas food gifts bags to donate to those in need**. Pick up a large fabric reusable grocery bag and place the following items in it, item by item each day as you give thanks to God for your own blessings:

Day 1 – jar of peanut butter | Day 2 – jar of jelly | Day 3 – box of pasta

Day 4 – jar of spaghetti sauce | Day 5 – can of corn | Day 6 – can of green beans

Day 7 – box of mac ‘n’ cheese | Day 8 – box of cereal | Day 9 – 2 lb. bag of rice

Day 10 – can of soup | Day 11 – can of chicken or tuna | Day 12 – roll of toilet tissue & a bar of soap

Return your bags to the Narthex or church office by **December 24th**. Filled bags will be taken to **Our Daily Bread** for distribution through the Loaves and Fishes food pantry.

December Outreach Continued

December Opportunities Continued:

- Scout Troop 22 will be selling poinsettias for \$8 each on Sunday, December 3rd after worship. Buy a beautiful poinsettia (or 3!) and help fund scout programs and events throughout the year.
- Pen Pal letters have been distributed and are **due back by Sunday, December 10th.**
- Please join members of the Outreach Team for **Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling at Brookdale Palma Sola on Thursday, December 14th from 2-3 pm.** As part of our Older Adult Ministry we will visit and share Christmas cheer with the residents there, and it would be great to have lots of extra voices and helping hands. Hope to see you there!
- You are invited to a **Christmas wrapping party on Saturday, December 16th from 10 am – noon in Fellowship Hall to prepare socks and cards for clients of Our Daily Bread.** For many years member Amy Pedon has been giving out socks and other goodies there on Christmas Eve morning, and the Outreach Team has been blessed to partner with her by purchasing some of the supplies needed. Join us for a time of fellowship and fun as we wrap, write, and enjoy beverages and light snacks. Friends and family are welcome.
- Contribute to our **3 Cents a Meal Offering on December 31st.** The month's total comes to \$5.60, but feel free to round up!



December Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for December will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Christmas Joy Offering, supporting leaders of the Church – past, present, and future. Your gifts will make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. They will also provide assistance to current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

You may donate to Christmas Joy:

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

January Outreach At a Glance

January Outreach Opportunities:

- It's Jelly January! Our **DOES It (Done On Every Sunday)** project for January will be collecting jelly to use in our **Peanut Butter & Jelly Sandwich Ministry**. Any variety of jarred or squeeze jelly will do, and it will help us in our goal of making 100 PB&J sandwiches each week to share with the clients of Our Daily Bread. Drop your jelly in the bins in the Narthex or bring it to the church office by Sunday, January 28th .
- Work on the **Habitat for Humanity Faith Build** is well under way! We have scheduled a workday for United Presbyterian Church members and friends on **Saturday, January 13th from 7:30 am to noon**. The home for Theresa and her son Brandon is located in the Poling Gardens site in Samoset. **We need 8-10 volunteers**, and all the equipment needed is provided. No experience is necessary and there will be competent leaders to guide you in any task. Please sign-up in the Narthex and fill out the waiver to reserve your spot.
- Want to learn how to avoid being the victim of a scam? Plan to attend our **Steer Clear of Senior Scammers and Swindlers seminar on Thursday, January 25th from 10 am to noon in Fellowship Hall**. Join us for presentations by the Bradenton Police Department and Suncoast Credit Union where you will hear about common scams and learn how to identify and report potential scam situations. The event is free and open to the community. Sign up in the Narthex or call the church office to attend.



January Outreach Offering

Our **Outreach Offering for January** will go to **Our Daily Bread of Bradenton** to support free meals and a food pantry for those in need. Our Daily Bread staff and regular volunteers (that's us on Fridays!) serve hearty meals seven days a week from 10-11:30 am. At Our Daily Bread's self-serve food pantry, clients can shop free once a month for fresh produce and other food items of their choice.

You may donate to Our Daily Bread of Bradenton:

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

Dec & Jan Ongoing Outreach Opportunities

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 of Bradenton. They are always in need of shelf stable items to stock the Loaves & Fishes food pantry.
- 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!
- The Holy Strollers walking group meets every Friday at 9 am at the north entrance of Robinson Preserve. You are invited to gather for exercise, conversation, and a short devotional in the great outdoors.


**HOLY STROLLERS
WALKING GROUP**



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

EVERY FRIDAY | 9AM

**ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)**



PRAYER GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday | 11a | Room 14

December & January Birthdays & Anniversaries

DEC 2 Richard Haynes
Jean Scott

DEC 3 Richard Bergman

DEC 4 Jeanette Lindo

DEC 7 Eugene Adams

DEC 8 Katie Scott (Haas)
Betty Butler

DEC 9 Lois & Norman Lee

DEC 11 Zan Mustaine

DEC 12 Tekla McClimon

DEC 16 Beverly Zimmer

DEC 21 Lynne Smith
Robert & Myrna Felix

DEC 22 Peter White

DEC 24 Sherri Kramer

DEC 30 Jim & Darlene Haas
Chris Felix

DEC 31 Jack & Nancy Slocum

JAN 1 Sherril Scannell
Roy Williams
John Progar
Frank Jenkins

JAN 3 George Clark
Don Townsend

JAN 4 Diane Clark

JAN 5 Valerie Beechy

JAN 6 Andrea Harmon

JAN 11 Emmett Scott

JAN 13 Cindy Perez

JAN 14 Woody Johnson

JAN 17 Karen Jones

JAN 19 Elenita Musgrove
Betty Wolfe

JAN 21 Mary Morse
Nancy Atherton

JAN 22 Mary Jane Shiplett

JAN 23 Gerald Jones

JAN 27 Vicki Elzer

JAN 28 Chuck Elzer
Dennis Schooley

Palma Sola & Westminter Presbyterian Churches
- December 2023 / January 2024 Newsletter -

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



Steer Clear of Senior Scammers and Swindlers Seminar

United Presbyterian Church

6510 3rd Ave W, Bradenton, FL

Thursday, January 25, 2024 - 10:00 am to Noon

Presentations by Bradenton Police Department & Suncoast Credit Union

Public Event - Refreshments Provided

RSVP to United Presbyterian Church at (941) 792-3141 after January 7th

Brookdale Senior Living Solutions

Assisted Living & Alzheimer's/Dementia Care

Brookdale Palma Sola, Brookdale Pointe West, Brookdale Bradenton Gardens

AL# 4712, AL#8527, AL#6528

Bringing New Life to Senior Living®



brookdale.com

December

2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	2
3 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Communion Fellowship @ 11 Cookie Walk 11a Poinsetta Sale 11a	4	5 <i>Outreach / 3p</i>	6 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	7 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	8 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	9
10 Worship Service + United Presb. Church Installation 10a Christmas & Installation Celebration	11	12 PRAYER GROUP 11a	13 <i>Finance / 3:30p</i> Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	14 Cookies, Caroling & Cocoa at Brookdale Palma Sola 2p	15 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a <i>Creative Arts Academy A Christmas Story / 6p</i>	16 GIFT WRAPPING FOR OUR DAILY BREAD 10a
17 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	18 SESSION MTG	19	20 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	21 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE 6P	22 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	23
24 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Christmas Eve Service 10a Fellowship	25 CHRISTMAS Church Office Closed	26 PRAYER GROUP 11a	27 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	28	29	30
31 Worship Service 10a Fellowship 3 Cents A Meal Collection	Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9am - 4pm View the online church Calendar for latest information about Sunday worship services, Bible study, outreach and other events. Livestreamed and recorded worship services may be viewed at Online Worship .					

January

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 New Years Day Church Office Closed	2 <i>Outreach / 3p</i>	3 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	4 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a <i>Renewal 6:30p</i>	5 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	6 EPIPHANY
7 Baptism of the Lord Sunday Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Communion Fellowship @ 11	8 <i>Palma Sola Book Club / 12p</i>	9 PRAYER GROUP 11A Deacons 6:30p	10 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	11 <i>Finance / 3:30p</i>	12 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	13 Habtat For Humanity Work Day 7:30a
14 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	15 SESSION MTG	16	17 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	18 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	19 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a Feb Grapevine Deadline	20
21 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	22	23 PRAYER GROUP 11A	24 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	25 STEER CLEAR OF SENIOR SCAMMERS SEMINAR 10A	26 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	27
28 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	29	30	31 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p			

Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday | 9am - 4pm

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