OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Palma Sola Presbyterian & Westminster Presbyterian Churches





United begins with nº 1 hou will you join in?

The Season of Transition Reverend Edward Dunn

I've found that October is one of the most significant transitional months in the year. It arrives only a few days after the beginning of Autumn, and depending on the location and the weather patterns (El Nino or La Nina) marks the first change in temperatures. Air Conditioners sigh in relief following a long torturous summer season, super-heated pool temperatures begin to fall; and football, football, football is everywhere.

Throughout my ministry, October has been a significant time in the church calendar as well. You will find a number of events and activities taking place this month. I encourage you to read about them throughout this month's newsletter and add them to your calendar of things to do. Just to highlight a few things this month:

On October 21, the Administrative Commission of Peace River Presbytery will

present a motion to officially unite Palma Sola and Westminster and establish us as United Presbyterian Church of Bradenton. You might recall recently receiving a letter about membership in United. Please contact me (941-792-3141 or pastorpspc@gmail.com) if you have questions about this process.

We are preparing to hold a Trunk or Treat event on our church grounds on Friday, October 27 from 5:30-7:30p.m. for families in our community. We would like to have at least 12 cars in our parking lot with folks distributing candy to trick or treaters. We need volunteers to help with cooking and serving hotdogs and chili in the Fellowship Hall. We hope many of you will be here to welcome all who attend this event. Contact Gail Dickerson (gaildpspc@ gmail.com) or Andrea Harmon (aharmon5@tampabay.rr.com) for details or to volunteer.

Join us Sunday, October 29 at 10a.m. for our annual Scottish Sunday or Kirkin' of the Tartans event. This day is known as Reformation Sunday, an occasion in which we gather to celebrate and offer thanks to God for our heritage in faith. A luncheon will follow the service so please look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to attend this event.

And when we reach the end of October, we begin to prepare for the next season of the year. Can you guess what it is?

Blessings Edward

adult Bible Lessons - The Present Word

Every Sunday at 8:45am Location: Church Parlor

This class uses the Adult Bible Lessons curriculum The Present Word to study scripture and consider its application to today. We begin this fall with God's Law is Love, considering the role of God's law as it relates to faith in Christ. Join in on this new adventure in learning.

Ministry Fair Photos































Palma Sola Session Highlights

• Approved the transfer of Lael Wilson to the First Presbyterian Church in Franklin, NC.

• Applauded the success of the Ministry Fair held as part of worship on Sunday, September 17th and thanked all who made it such a successful event.

• Approved holding a single worship service on Sunday, December 24th to celebrate both the fourth Sunday in Advent and Christmas Eve. The service will be followed by an extended Holiday Fellowship time.

- Endorsed the establishment of a Task Group by the new Session of United Church to address campus-wide energy savings and identify ways to reduce our carbon footprint.
- Scheduled a grounds-keeping Workday for Saturday, November 4th from 8am to 12 noon to spruce up the grounds for the Holiday period.
- Endorsed a motion to the Presbytery's Merger Administrative Commission, along with necessary Supplemental Information, formalizing our request to merge our two congregations. This action will be voted on at the Presbytery meeting of October 21st.
- Rescheduled the October Stated Session Meeting to October 23rd to accommodate the Pastor's vacation absence. Melana Scruggs, the General Presbyter of Peace River Presbytery, will occupy the pulpit on Sunday, October 15th.

Westminster Session Highlights

- Member Karl Insani has died.
- Christmas Advent and Christmas Eve will be 10AM on Sunday, December 24th.
- Monies for Salvation Army Angel Tree project are due by December 3rd.
- Due to Pastor being away Session will be October 23rd.

Palma Sola Book Club



OCT 9 | 1 - 2:30PM NOV 13 | 1 - 2:30PM

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

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

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

OCT 5 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant **OCT 19** - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis <u>rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com</u>

Hope Seeds Packing

Pack a seed, fill a need!

Mark your calendar for our fall **Hope Seeds packing event on Saturday**, **October 7th from 10am-noon in Fellowship Hall**.

Join with other volunteers to assemble seed packets to be distributed all over the world. Hope Seeds is a Christian, charitable organization that seeks to improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world by providing quality garden seed and agricultural education through Christian missionaries and organizations.

All supplies are provided and work is done seated at tables. Come for an hour or stay the whole time.

Friends and family are welcome!

LET'S GET PACKING HOPE SEEDS

SATURDAY - OCTOBER 7, 2022

10am - 12pm Fellowship Hall

Join with other volunteers to assemble seed packets to be distributed all over the world.

Hope Seeds is a Christian, charitable organization that seeks to improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world by providing quality garden seed and agricultural education through Christian missionaries and organizations.

All supplies are provided and work is done seated at tables. Come for an hour or stay the whole time. Friends and family are welcome!



Earth Care Congregation Update

As we enter our third year striving to be a certified Earth Care Congregation, we continue to look for ways to make Earth Care a church-wide effort. Our main program objective is to educate and change hearts and minds about the importance of taking care of God's creation. Maintaining our certification sets an example in our community and may also connect with those seeking a church. In addition, following in the footsteps of the General Assembly, our churches have pledged to reduce our carbon footprint 25% by June 2026. As we move forward and become United Presbyterian Church, we have identified a three-prong approach to achieving and maintaining our Earth Care goals:

1) Each church committee/team has selected specific goals that they feel they can achieve and maintain. Elders will monitor the goals of their teams, discuss actions at their monthly meetings, and report progress quarterly at the meeting of session.

2) A Community Engagement Advisory Team is being formed that will meet 2-3 times a year to plan specific opportunities for the congregation to engage in earth care education and outreach.

3) Session endorsed the formation of a task group to address campus-wide energy savings and to identify ways to reduce the church's carbon footprint. As Earth Care initiatives fall under the responsibility of the new Property Management elder position for United Church, a task group will be created after the new Session of United Church is established.



We can all do our part NOW, by continuing to reduce, reuse, and

recycle whenever possible and by turning off lights and turning down the A/C when not in use.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

2024 Stewardship theme is UNITED begins with U-N-I. Consecration Sunday will be November 12, 2023. Save the Date. Please watch for information on U-N-I.

3 Cents A Meal - Oct SUGESTED \$8.19 DONATION OR \$10

Collection will take place 10/29

October Outreach Update

As we FALL into cooler weather, football games, and the migration south of our snowbirds we are very busy reaching out to share the love of Christ with the community and with each other.

September Outreach Highlights::

• Our **PB & J Sandwich Ministry** marked its one-year anniversary with a total of **5500 sandwiches** made and delivered to clients in need at Our Daily Bread. Because of your generosity, we did not have to buy peanut butter, jelly, or bags **ALL YEAR LONG!** Thank you to all who have made this ministry a success.

- You donated much needed **hygiene items** that will bless clients of the **Mission Peniel** farmworker ministry in Immokalee.
- You generously gave monetary contributions to Bible Mission USA to provide free religious materials to all in need. \$800 from budgeted funds were included with your donations.
- Folks volunteered every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- You supported local students by **signing banners and providing treats** to Oasis Middle School, Palma Sola Elementary, and the Creative Arts Academy, letting these children know we are thinking of them and wishing them well in the coming year.
- You continued helping to feed hungry children on weekends by sending **\$258 to Feeding Empty Little Tummies (FELT).**
- You supported missionaries and the important work they do through the donation of **\$500 towards the Agape Flights Thanksgiving Meal Program.** Missionaries in the Caribbean will receive everything they need to prepare (and share!) a Thanksgiving meal with those they serve, providing a piece of home to everyone involved.
- You volunteered to help with reading and writing skills by signing up to be **pen pals to over 40 second graders at Palma Sola Elementary School again this year.**
- You participated in a **Ministry Fair**, offering your time and talents to serve others and to plan for a **United** future.

October Outreach Opportunities:

Our DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for October is collecting warm wear for clients served by Turning Points. Turning Points provides a variety of free services designed to help individuals and families on their path to financial stability and independence. Clean out your closets (or purchase new!) and help us donate items to those in need as the weather turns colder this year. Gently used coats, jackets, hats, gloves/mittens, scarves, and blankets in all sizes for men, women, and children are needed. Collections bins are in the Narthex through October 29th or drop off your donations at the church office.
Pack a seed, fill a need! Please join us for our fall Hope Seeds packing event on Saturday, October 7th from 10am-noon in Fellowship Hall. Join with other volunteers to assemble seed packets to be distributed all over the world. Hope Seeds is a Christian, charitable

October Outreach Update Continued

charitable organization that seeks to improve the nutrition of the poorest in the world by providing quality garden seed and agricultural education through Christian missionaries and organizations. All supplies are provided, and work is done seated at tables. Come for an hour or stay the whole time. Friends and family are welcome!

• Contribute to our **3 Cents a Meal Offering on October 29th**. This month's total comes to \$8.19, but feel free to round up!

Ongoing Opportunities:

• Servers for Our Daily Bread on Fridays are always needed. Contact Dorothy Simes if you would like to volunteer.

• 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!

• Holy Strollers are back! 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.

October Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for October will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church USA. PDA is on the ground when a disaster or crisis begins and remains active through the entire recovery process, accompanying their partners in the area to determine long-term program needs and providing financial support for rebuilding and resilience.

You may donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

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



Friday, October 27th at 5:30 to 7:30pm

Join in on the FUN!

Decorate your car and hand out candy. Or serve Hot dogs and chili in Fellowship Hall



Sign up sheet will be in the Narthex or see Andrea or Gail

PEN PAL LETTERS

Pen Pal letters due back Sunday, October 15th

Scottish Sunday Luncheon



PER CAPITA

Thank for your Per Capita contribution.

If you have not contributed, it is not too late!

Please do so by mail or during the Sunday worship offering.

Reminder: It is \$20.00 per member.



NEW SINGERS NEEDED

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

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 others.

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!



Sunday Fellowship is Back! Every Sunday, join us for fellowship, coffee and a few goodies after service. Sign Up Sheet available to bring in goodies

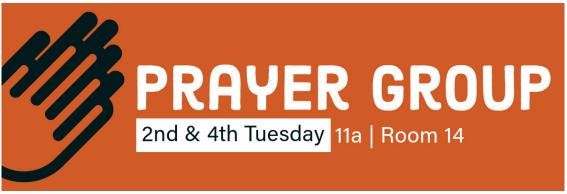
CHANCEL CHOIR NEEDS SINGERS! Please Contact Gail Dickerson

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS WEDNESDAYS AT 6P IN THE SANCTUARY

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

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCT 1	Myrna Felix	OCT 17	Vicki Sokolich
	Shirley Christian	OCT 20	Betty Bashaw
OCT 4	Debbie Grubb James Wolf	OCT 21	Walter & Roberta Rae McWhirter Julie Mumford
OCT 5	Elizabeth Dykstra	OCT 23	Amy Pedon
OCT 6	Marcia Campbell	OCT 24	Deanna Gordon
OCT 12	Douglas Johnson	OCT 25	Walter McWhirter
OCT 14	Jolanda Sirovy		Ella Schafer
OCT 15	Tracy Starcher		Lorraine Stork
OCT 14	Betty MacClinchy Roberta Rae McWhirter	OCT 27	Nancy Ball





Palma Sola & Westminter Presbyterian Churches - October Newsletter 2023 -

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

October

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5 Men's group	6	7 None Seeds
Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Communion		Outreach / 3p	Present Word At Brookdale 2p	8:30a STEWARDSHIP @ 2:30P	HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread	Hope Seeds Packing 10-12p
Fellowship @ 11			Bell Choir 6p	@ 2:30P Renewal 6;30p	9:3Óa	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Present Word 8:45a Worship Service	Palma Sola Book Club / 12p	PRAYER GROUP 11A	Present Word At Brookdale 2p		HOLY STROLLERS 9a	
10a Fellowship	1300k Cuw 7 12p		Bell Choir 6p	Finance 3:30p	Our Daily Bread 9:30a	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Present Word 8:45a Worship Service			Present Word At Brookdale 2p	MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	HOLY STROLLERS 9a	Peace River Presbytery
10a Fellowship			Bell Choir 6p	STEWARDSHIP @ 2:30P	Our Daily Bread 9:30a	Meeting - 9a
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Present Word 8:45a Worship Service		PRAYER GROUP 11A	Present Word At Brookdale 2p	STEWARDSHIP	HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread	
10a Fellowship	WPC SESSION 1p PSPC SESSION 6:30p		Bell Choir 6p		9:30a Truck or Treat - 5:30 ov Grapevine Deadli	
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Present Word 8:45a Worship Service		HALLOWEEN				
10a Fellowship Scottish Heritage Celeb.						
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 Online Worship.