



The Grapevine



Summertime at United

Reverend Edward Dunn

This month's Grapevine spans two months – July and August – when activities are somewhat slower at church. Yet that doesn't mean our work is lessened! Please check out the variety of things we will do and the plans we are making for the Fall.

- Did you know that the third Sunday in July has been designated as National Ice Cream Day? So, it is fitting that we have an Ice Cream Social that day following worship! There's more about this event in our Outreach article and an opportunity for you to make a contribution that will aid the Food Bank of Manatee.

- Are you curious about Florida's railroads? Would you like to take a train ride? If so, sign up and join us July 20.

• We're having our annual Beach picnic and walk on Tuesday, July 30. Plan to join us for fellowship and a stroll along the water's edge at Bradenton Beach.

• We hope that "mighty Casey" doesn't strike out when we go to watch the Rays baseball game on August 17. Sign up and pay for your ticket by July 17!

Our preparation for the Fall and the coming year will be focused on a Season of Possibilities. In Ecclesiastes 3 we read, "To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." We will begin considering our own season of possibilities beginning with our Ministry Fair on September 15. I invite you to join in our time of visioning and considering what the next chapter in our story will be.

In the meantime, I wish you all a continued peaceful and relaxed summer season. Don't forget that we continue to gather for worship each Sunday at 10a.m. and for our summer study, Between Sundays, at 10:30a.m. on Wednesdays.

June Session Highlights

- Approved allocation of \$2,500 to support our participation in the next Faith Build by Habitat for Humanity.
- Designated the rear three pews on the West side of the Sanctuary as a 'fragrance-free zone' to minimize the potential for exposure to perfume allergens. Worshippers in that area are asked to refrain from wearing perfume, body wash or strong after shave lotion to respect those who may be allergic to such aromas.
- Approved a request by Rev. Dunn to be away during the period July 25-30.
- Approved designating a \$5k bequest from the Atherton Family as the Virginia & Paul Atherton Fund for use in underwriting 'Possibilities Projects – to fulfil new and different ministries of this church'.
- Scheduled a Session Workshop for Saturday, September 14th to initiate a Long-Range Study of the future of United Church and linking this work to the 'Season of Possibilities' Theme for this year's Ministry Fair.
- Applauded the completion of work to replace the deteriorated wood framing around all seven windows in Fellowship Hall, as well as the elimination of all tripping hazards due to uneven sidewalk slabs on campus by grinding the slabs at the sidewalk joints.
- Noted that the church is on track to reduce its electric usage by slightly more than 15%, a target set as part of our Earth Care goals for 2024.
- Endorsed a design for new name tags for United Church members and visitors.

Summer Field Trip Series

Introducing our inaugural Summer Field Trip Series! As crowds thin during the summer, join your UPC family for a variety of field trips to celebrate local attractions.

From museums to botanical parks to baseball, there are so many fun things to do close to home. Admission cost will be paid in advance by those attending, and transportation will be arranged through carpooling of the participants. Look for more information, sign-up sheets, and deadlines in the Narthex and on the church website.

Friends and family are welcome – hope to see you there!

Remaining Summer Trips...

Saturday, July 20th 11 am

Florida Railroad Museum and train ride in Parrish
Admission: Ages 12+ \$18; children ages 3-11 \$14

Saturday, August 17th 4:10 pm

Faith Day at the Tampa Bay Rays vs. the Arizona Diamondbacks
Tickets \$39 – include lower-level seat and Rays hat

Dali Museum Tour Photos



July/August Outreach Update

As the lyrics to the song go “There’s a time in each year that we always hold dear, the good old summer time.” Even in this time of rest and relaxation, we still hold dear the ability to reach out to others in Christian love and service. As we enjoy the longer days and try to beat the heat, our church family is still hard at work in the good old summer time.

Recap of June Events and Programs:

- You made home baked cookies for Rich Wachunis to share at the Kairos Prison Ministry Reunion, showing Jesus’ love through your actions.
- You generously donated to The Food Bank of Manatee through our June Outreach Offering. We will add these funds to our July and August collections to provide support for hungry families in our local community.
- Folks volunteered every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- Proceeds from the Dreyer Trust blessed many families with the gift of assistance, helping with the costs of healthcare, utilities, and rent for a total of \$24,000 in the first 6 months of the year.
- A group of people spent a lovely Saturday at the Salvadore Dali Museum in St. Petersburg sharing fellowship and lunch as part of our Summer Fieldtrip Series.
- You supported an immediate need by purchasing \$100 worth of washcloths from budgeted funds for the shower area at Turning Points.
- As part of our PB & J Sandwich Ministry you made an additional 500 sandwiches for hungry clients at Our Daily Bread.
- You filled the yellow Food Bank barrel TWO TIMES with non-perishable food items, bringing immediate relief to the food insecure this summer.
- You donated much needed school supplies for the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry and Palma Sola Elementary as they prepare for the new school year. \$200 from budgeted funds was used to purchase backpacks for Beth-El and \$300 was sent to Mision Peniel to help with their school supply drive as well.
- You continued blessing others through your generous contributions to our 3 Cents a Meal collection.
- You supported the next Habitat for Humanity Faith Build Home through a donation of \$2,500 from budgeted funds. A matching grant doubled our contribution for a total of \$5,000 toward helping a family of five realize their dream of a forever home.

We recently received word that the 10,000 meals packed at our February Rise Against Hunger event were sent to the Philippines. Meals are being shared at education and health centers in communities in urgent need of nutrition. Thank you to all who helped support this global mission to end hunger!

July/August Outreach Opportunities:

- Our DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for July, and August will be collecting non-perishable food for The Food Bank of Manatee. The Food Bank is the leading, local source of nutrition for food-insecure babies, children, families, and the elderly in Manatee County. The need in our community is great, especially now that school is out for the summer and fewer children will be receiving food at school...

July/August Outreach Update Continued

... Canned fruits, vegetables, soups, and meats as well as boxed and bagged pasta, rice, beans, and healthy cereal and breakfast bars are always in demand. Drop your items in the yellow barrel in the Narthex or bring them to the church office all summer long!

- We also have a summer bonus DOES It to benefit children and education! In July, we are collecting school supplies for the Beth-El Farmworker Ministry in Wimauma and for our neighborhood school Palma Sola Elementary. Please see the list of needed items and drop your donations in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by July 28th. Thank you for helping students prepare for a great school year!

2024 School Supply Wish List:

1, 3, and 5 subject notebooks
Pens – blue/black/red
Composition notebooks
Pencil pouches or boxes
Loose leaf paper – wide & college ruled
Calculators – regular & scientific
Reams of white copy paper
Glue and glue sticks
Expo markers
Clorox wipes
Colored pencils and crayons – 24 count
White card stock
Colored markers – regular and washable
Scissors – regular & blunt
#2 pencils

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. Even as we pause our fellowship hour during the summer months, we will continue to gather every Sunday for this important ministry. Thank you to all who have been bringing in supplies, making sandwiches, and helping SPREAD the love of Christ to your neighbors in need!

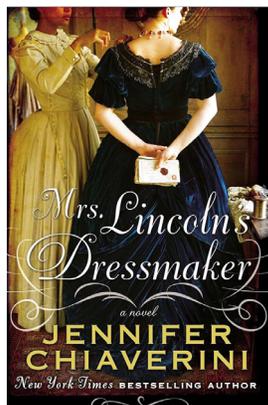
July & August Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for July & August will go to The Food Bank of Manatee, the largest hunger relief organization in Manatee County. The Food Bank provides nutritional assistance and supportive services to individuals in need by distributing food through over 65 local non-profit partner agencies and food pantries. The Food Bank has provided over 30 million pounds of food since 1985 for local children, families, and seniors.

You may donate to The Food Bank:

- during the worship service, in your offering envelope,
- by mailing a check to the church office with “Food Bank ” in the memo line, or
- through [online giving](#)

Palma Sola Book Club



JUL 8 | 1 - 2:30PM AUG 12 | 1 - 2:30PM

Join in any second Monday at 12pm 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

Jun 3/Aug 1 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

Jun 18/Aug 15 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23



THANK YOU SEW MUCH!



Dear Andrea,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of fabric, buttons, and other articles for sewing, I will be using some fabrics to make bags to carry the items for the homebound group that we serve every week at Misión Peniel, and I will also be sharing with the group of sewing women who meet on Wednesdays here in the community.

People like you and the group of ladies of United Presbyterian Church are the reason we can continue supporting this community, and we truly can't thank you enough.



Thank you again for showing such kindness to the people we serve. You make our mission possible, and we couldn't be more grateful for amazing volunteers like you.

Blessings,

Marifrans Estrada
Mission Coordinator
(239) 839-3738
www.misionpeniel.com



In summer...

We all Scream for Ice Cream!

Gather after worship on Sunday, July 21st to celebrate National Ice Cream Day with an old-fashioned ice cream social.

Join together in Fellowship Hall where ice cream and a variety of toppings will be available for a suggested donation of \$5 to benefit The Food Bank of Manatee.

Don't miss out on this opportunity for fellowship and fun and to raise money for hunger relief in our local community. To go containers will also be available.

See you there!

ANNUAL BEACH WALK & DINNER

You are invited to celebrate the mid-point of summer with our annual Beach Walk and Dinner at Manatee Public Beach on Tuesday, July 30th at 5:30 pm.

Gather on the south side at the tables under the trees for chicken, watermelon, chips, and fun, then we will walk the beach and watch the sunset. The event is free, just bring your own beverage and an extra chair if you want. Friends and family are welcome! Sign-up in the Narthex or call the church office so we know how many to plan for.

Contact Andrea Harmon 941-518-1287 with questions.

July Birthdays & Anniversaries

JUL 3	George Saile Burt Tupper	JUL 15	Millicent Riley
JUL 5	Lois Lee	JUL 17	Vicki Schooley
JUL 11	Gene & Myrna Adams	JUL 23	Ron & Marilyn Mcleod
JUL 14	Marilyn Mcleod Rodger Smith	JUL 25	Sandra Atherton
		JUL 26	Reverend Edward Dunn

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

AUG 2	Gilbert Smith	AUG 14	Rev. Peter MacFarlane
AUG 5	Beth Stone	AUG 15	Nancy Shimandle
AUG 6	Liz Brackmann	AUG 17	Gail Dickerson
AUG 8	Tammy Barr	AUG 18	John & Linda Progar
AUG 10	Rich Wachunis	AUG 19	Jean & Emmett Scott
AUG 11	Don & Georgie Townsend	AUG 22	Peter & Carol MacFarlane
AUG 12	Nancy Slocum Jan McGowan Marilyn Gillette Barbara Harris	AUG 24	Roy & Jo Williams
		AUG 25	Suzanne Tyrrell
		AUG 31	Ron McLeod

- United Presbyterian Church | July & August 2024 Newsletter -

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July

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Poppi's <i>Between Sundays Disc. 10:30a</i>	4 Independence Day (Office Closed)	5 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	6
7 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Communion	8 <i>Palma Sola Book Club 1p</i>	9 PRAYER GROUP 11A	10 <i>Between Sundays Disc. 10:30a</i>	11	12 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	13
14 Present Word 8:45a Worship 10a	15	16	17 <i>Between Sundays Disc. 10:30a</i>	18 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Finance - 3:30P	19 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	20 Summer Field Trip Series - Florida Railroad Museum & Train Ride 10a 9a
21 Present Word 8:45a Worship 10a <i>Ice Cream Social 11a</i>	22	23 PRAYER GROUP 11A	24 <i>Between Sundays Disc. 10:30a</i>	25	26 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	27
28 Present Word 8:45a Worship 10a	29	30	31			

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](#).

August

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a <i>Renewal 6:30p</i>	2 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	3
4 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Communion	5	6 <i>Outreach / 3p</i>	7 <i>Between Sundays Disc. 10:30a</i>	8	9 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	10
11 Present Word 8:45a Worship 10a	12 <i>Palma Sola Book Club / 1p</i>	13 PRAYER GROUP 11A	14 <i>Between Sundays Disc. 10:30a</i>	15 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Finance - 3:30P	16 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	17 Summer Field Trip Series - Faith Day w/ The Rays 4:10p
18 Present Word 8:45a Worship 10a	19 UPC SESSION 1p	20	21 <i>Between Sundays Disc. 10:30a</i>	22	23 Sept Grapevine Deadline Our Daily Bread 9:30a	24
25 Present Word 8:45a Worship 10a	26	27 PRAYER GROUP 11A	28	29	30 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	31

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