



The Grapevine



A Giant, Enormous Thank You!

Reverend Edward Dunn

Teresa of Avila lived during a time of reform within the church. She was instrumental in a movement of spiritual and monastic renewal in the mid 16th century. Most of us know her, not for her activity but for something she wrote:

“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has no body now on earth but yours.”

As we prepare to celebrate Easter on March 31st, we are reminded that the tomb could not contain Jesus’ body nor could the earth hold him captive. We acknowledge Christ’s resurrection and following a period of 50 days will...

commemorate his Ascension. Although Jesus is not present “in the flesh” with us, he is present through the gift of the Holy Spirit, or the Advocate, he promised to send.

The work that Christ began, he commissions us to continue...to be, as Teresa says, his body on earth. We fulfill that commission by deeds both large and small. We bless others in his name by even the simplest of kindnesses shown.

To all who have participated in the work of our church; Thank you for showing Christ’s resurrected presence! To those who lead us in worship – the musicians and choirs, our ushers and lay readers, and techs who coordinate our audio and video each week.

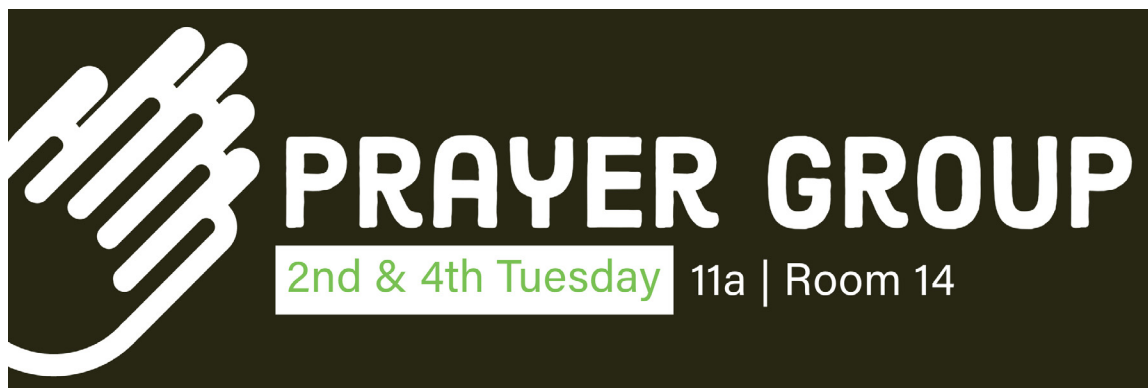
Thank you to all the volunteers who provide food for fellowship, for those who donate through our DOES It each month; to those who serve at Our Daily Bread and Turning Points; to Pen Pals and Shepherds of our congregation’s flocks.

Thank you to our elected leaders: Elders and Deacons; to those who lead discussion and study groups; to those who count offerings and help in our finance office; to all who quietly go about seeing that things get done.

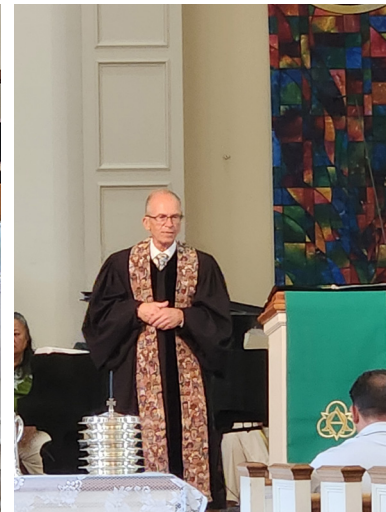
Thank you to all who attend – our members and friends – who bring life and energy to our church; and who faithfully support our work through offerings and prayers.

We are all serving as Christ’s body in various ways and as God has gifted us. This is an important part of the Easter message that Christ is risen! So thank you with a giant, enormous Thanks for showing Christ to the world.

Blessings
Edward



Scout Sunday - Pancake Breakfast



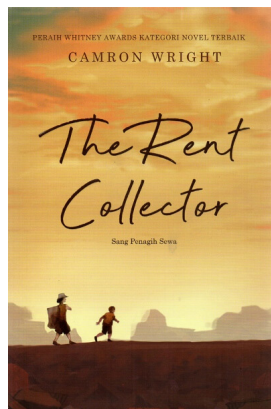
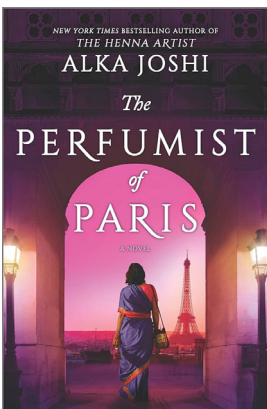
Rise Against Hunger Photos



February Session Highlights

- Affirmed with pleasure the acceptance of five new Members and one Affiliate Member into the fellowship of United Presbyterian Church. These members will be formally introduced to the congregation shortly.
- Noted the Inaugural organizational meeting of the Board of Deacons of United Church and the publication of an updated listing of the congregational Flocks. Members should look forward to being contacted by their Flock leaders and to keeping informed of church activities through these dedicated Deacons.
- Approved establishing a Grounds Enhancement Sub-group under the Property Management Resources Team. The group will be organized soon to define the scope of their interests and activity. All are invited to participate in this campus-wide initiative.
- Approved a bid to trim the campus trees.
- Noted that weekly Devotionals for the Lenten season are available at the Wednesday Lenten Luncheons and also are being posted on the church website: pspchurch.org.

Palma Sola Book Club



MAR 11 | 1 - 2:30PM APR 8 | 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



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

MAR 7 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

MAR 21 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com



Earth Care: United Presbyterian Is Having a Positive Impact

In February, we applied for PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation recertification with >3 times the number of scorecard points required.

After installing 2 new high-efficiency HVAC systems last September, our electricity use declined 22.5% in the first 4 months compared with those same months a year earlier.

We can save even more electricity when we turn out lights in empty rooms that have the reminder signs shown in the photo. Keep a lookout!

Our earth-care Community Engagement Advisory Team focuses on ways our church can participate in local earth care. Here's an opportunity for each of us:



Emerson Point Expansion Purchase. The Manatee County Environmental Land Acquisition Committee (ELMAC) is trying to move along the purchase of 97 acres to expand Emerson Point Preserve, in the wings for nearly 30 years. It is going to the Board of County Commissioners for approval in March, but it appears there are efforts to jeopardize the deal.

Once purchased, the State of Florida will purchase the extension from Manatee County at the appraised value. Any difference will be paid by the Save Water and Land Referendum Funds that 70% of voters passed in 2020.

You can support the purchase by emailing your county commissioner. Simply say "I support the proposed purchase of 97 acres to extend Emerson Point Preserve," or use your own words. [Click here for a map of Manatee County Districts and your county commissioner's email.](#)

Current members of the Community Engagement Advisory Team are Anita Smith, Vicki Schooley, Amy Pedon, Janice Fritzmeier, Liz Brackmann, and Betty Bashaw.

Another team is being formed to conceptualize and plan enhancements to our church grounds that are Earth and community friendly. If interested in participating,

Lenten Soup Lunch and Fellowship



**Every Wednesday Until March 20th
11:45am to 12:45pm**

Enjoy soup, salad, bread with cookies and fellowship.
Please call the office at 941-792-3141 or sign up at the Narthex.



Get Ready for Holy Week!

- **Bible Study**

*Present Word of God on Sunday mornings at 8:45 am in Parlor.
Everyone is welcome.*

- **Palm Sunday is March 24th**

- **Maundy Thursday March 28th | 6PM**

*Serve a meal of spaghetti, meat sauce, salad, cookie, and
communion service in Fellowship Hall.
Sign up sheet in Narthex.*

- **Easter Sunday March 31st**

Sunrise service 7am | Church Service 10am

Light breakfast after 10am service in Fellowship Hall.

March Outreach Update

The month of love brought many opportunities for you to share the love of Jesus with people in our local community and the world.

February Outreach Highlights:

- You made February a SOUPER month by donating many, many cans and boxes of ready to heat soups for the Loaves and Fishes food pantry.
- As part of our PB & J Sandwich Ministry you have made an additional 400 sandwiches for hungry clients at Our Daily Bread.
- You encouraged reading and writing skills by exchanging pen pal letters with 2nd graders at Palma Sola Elementary School.
- You generously donated to Our Daily Bread through our January and February Outreach Offering. These funds will provide support for food and other expenses for this vital community program.
- You assembled 10,000 meals as part of our Rise Against Hunger meal packing event. 80 volunteers packed meals, danced, laughed, and shared the love of Jesus to help fight hunger all over the world.
- Folks volunteered every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- You shared a lovely time of fellowship and fun with our sponsored scout troops during Scout Sunday.

March Outreach Opportunities:

- Our DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for March is collecting gently used mens's pants and shorts for the clothes closet at Turning Points. All styles and colors of pants and shorts in men's sizes 30-36 are needed, so clean out your closets (or buy new!) and drop your donations in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by Sunday, March 31st
- Please join members of the Outreach Team for a spring celebration at Brookdale Palma Sola on Tuesday, March 19th at 2 pm. As part of our Older Adult Ministry we will visit and share fellowship and a snack with the residents there. The residents always look forward to our visits and we have a great time. Hope to see you there!
- Contribute to our 3 Cents a Meal Offering on March 31st. This month's total comes to \$8.19, but feel free to round up!

March Outreach Update Continued

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.



March Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for March 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.

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 "ODB" in the memo line, or
- through [online giving](#)

75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

REPAIRING THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58

PROVIDING RELIEF
FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY,
AND SUPPORT FOR THE
POOR AND OPPRESSED.



3 Cents A Meal Offering

With five Sundays, March is another month of opportunity to donate to the 3 Cents-A-Meal program!

Next Collection: Easter Sunday, March 31st 2024

Last collection was Sunday, December 31, 2023. Next five Sunday month is March 2024. 91 days x 3 meals a day = 273 meals.

273 meals x .03 = \$8.19. Please feel free to round up!

Offerings go to Beth-el, Mision Peniel and Our Daily Bread after each collection.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy 3rd Anniversary Grapevine!

MAR 3 Peter & Vicki Sokolich
MAR 7 Susan Corbett
MAR 8 Dorothy Simes
MAR 12 Libby Saile
MAR 13 Fran Hensley

MAR 19 Patty Dawson
MAR 23 Wilma Hamilton
MAR 25 Rich & Phyllis Wachunis
MAR 30 Mary Ann Jones

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P IN THE SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 6P IN THE SANCTUARY



HOLY STROLLERS WALKING GROUP



JOIN US ON A WEEKLY STROLL
TO GET SOME FRESH AIR

EVERY FRIDAY | 9AM

ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)



- United Presbyterian Church | March 2024 Newsletter -

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

March

2024

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
Scout Breakfast
@ 11

4

5

Outreach / 3p

6

LENTEN LUNCH
@ 11:45A

Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel Choir | 7p

7

MEN'S GROUP
8:30a
Renewal 6:30p

8

HOLY STROLLERS | 9a
Our Daily Bread
9:30a

9

10

Daylight Savings
Present Word 8:45a
Worship Service
10a | Fellowship

11

*Palma Sola
Book Club / 1p*

12

PRAYER GROUP | 11A

Deacons
6:30p

13

LENTEN LUNCH
@ 11:45A

Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel Choir | 7p

14

Finance - 3:30P

15

HOLY STROLLERS | 9a
Our Daily Bread
9:30a

16

17

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Present Word 8:45a
Worship Service
10a | Fellowship

18

UPC SESSION 1p

19

*First Day of Spring
@ Brookdale
Palma Sola / 2p*

20

LENTEN LUNCH
@ 11:45A

Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel Choir | 7p

21

MEN'S GROUP
8:30a

22

HOLY STROLLERS | 9a
Our Daily Bread
9:30a
**April Grapevine
Deadline**

23

24

Palm Sunday

Present Word 8:45a
Worship Service
10a | Fellowship

25

26

PRAYER GROUP | 11A

27

Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel Choir | 7p

28

**Maundy
Thursday**

**MEAL WITH
COMMUNION
SERVICE | 6P**

29

HOLY STROLLERS | 9a
Our Daily Bread
9:30a

30

31

Easter Sunday

7a Sunrise Service
Worship Service
10a | Fellowship
3 Cents A Meal

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.