



The Grapevine



Company's Coming

Reverend Edward Dunn

We have the honor to host the meeting of Peace River Presbytery on Saturday, October 19. United Presbyterian Church is one of 36 churches between Palmetto and Naple. Our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is organized for governance and mission in four levels – the local congregation, presbytery, synod, and General Assembly.

When a presbytery meets, each member church of that presbytery elects Ruling Elder Commissioners to represent it along with every Minister member of the presbytery. When a synod and the General Assembly meet, Elders and Ministers are chosen by each presbytery as their representatives.

We are hosting our presbytery which is both an honor and a reminder that our church is connected to other churches – that we can rely on the presbytery and the presbytery is reliant upon us.

Planning for this day began some time ago and was more clearly understood when we met with the Stated Clerk of Peace River Presbytery. This will be an event in which many hands are needed and where many hands will make for light work. Some assistance will be needed with hospitality and with worship. Some assistance with details such as registration and direction to parts of our building will be needed.

Our church leaders have been working to coordinate some of these details and to “spruce up” our church home because company’s coming. We have completed painting projects in the Fellowship Hall and Men’s Restroom. A new ceiling has been installed in our kitchen. Work on the exterior is taking place as well including new garden beds alongside the Fellowship Hall’s south facing wall.

A number of projects are being completed, not merely because we have guests arriving. They are being completed after years of being deferred, or recognizing the need to clean and refresh and maintain our facility. What we are doing is no different than what we do with our own homes – refreshing and showing pride in the place where we gather for worship and learn and serve.

I am grateful to all who have been working toward this end. I look forward to working alongside the many volunteers who will be present that Saturday to make our friends and siblings in Christ feel welcome.

Thank you for your contributions and your prayers as we prepare for this event.

Blessings
Edward

Upcoming Events

Pen Pal Letters Due Back:

Sunday, October 6th

Hope Seeds Packing

Saturday, October 12th
10am-noon in Fellowship Hall

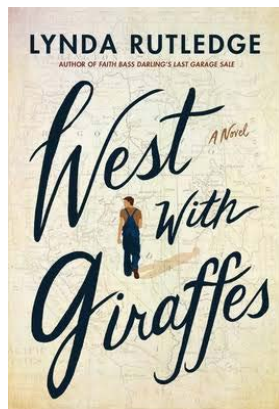
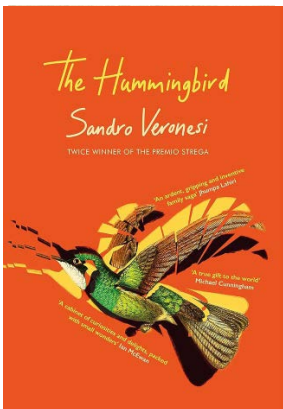
How to Use Your Smartphone Class

Tuesday, October 29th
10am-noon in Fellowship Hall

September Session Highlights

- Approved hosting an Hope Seeds Packaging Event on Saturday, October 12th from 10 am until Noon.
- Approved scheduling a “How to Use Your Smartphone” program for Tuesday, October 29th from 10 am until Noon in Fellowship Hall.
- Results from the ‘Season of Possibilities’ Ministry Fair table discussions were discussed with many exciting new possibilities recorded for consideration. The Session will be reviewing this material at future meetings and expects to feedback responses to all as soon as possible.
- Approved an updated Sexual Misconduct and Minor/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy for United Church. This Policy will be included with the recently approved new Employee Handbook, and all church employees will be asked to acknowledge receipt and understanding of each document.
- Reviewed notes and a checklist of responsibilities in preparation for hosting the meeting of Peace River Presbytery on October 19th.
- Scheduled a Session Workshop for January 18th to begin work on developing a Long-Range Plan and operating model for United Church over the next 3-5 years. Data on income and expense projections through this period are being assembled for review at that Workshop.

Palma Sola Book Club



OCT 14 | 1 - 2:30PM NOV 11 | 1 - 2:30PM

Join in any second Monday at 12pm in the Media Center & Zoom for fun conversation.

2024-2025 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

OCT 3 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

OCT 17 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

October Outreach Update

As we enter the fall season, there are many ways we are putting our thoughts and ideas into action to benefit our community and world.

Recap of September events and programs:

- You generously gave monetary contributions to Bible Mission USA to provide free religious materials to all in need. \$500 from budgeted funds were included with your donations.
- Folks volunteered every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- 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 50 second graders at Palma Sola Elementary School again this year.
- You supported two important ongoing ministries through the donation of many books for our library at Turning Points and over 5000 bags for our PBJ Sandwich Ministry – enough for a whole year!
- You participated in a Ministry Fair, sharing your memories, hopes, and ideas to help us move into the future in this Season of Possibilities for United Presbyterian Church.
- You contributed to our 3 Cents a Meal Offering which will provide food as needed to keep our Blessing Box near the east parking lot full for those in need.
- You made an additional 500 PB&J sandwiches that helped feed hungry clients of Our Daily Bread in Bradenton.

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 27th 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 12th 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

October Outreach Update Continued

- Want to learn how to take and share photos on your phone? Ever wonder what a QR Code is and what you can do with it? Need to know how to store and update important contact information on your phone? Then please join us for a How to Use Your Smartphone class on Tuesday, October 29th from 10am-noon in Fellowship Hall. Experts in basic smartphone technology for both iPhone and Android users will be available to answer these and other questions about your smartphone device. The class is free and open to the community. Sign-up in the Narthex or call the church office to reserve your spot.

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.
- 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
- through online giving

Ministry Fair Photos



Stewardship Season 2025: Possibilities in Action

Our program year, A Season of Possibilities, began on September 15, with the Ministry Fair gathering. Your participation was important and provided great input as church leaders begin planning for United's future. Thank you for sharing your comments and ideas with us.

We have begun our Stewardship campaign for 2025 building on the larger theme of a Season of Possibilities, by titling Stewardship as "Possibilities in Action." We can accomplish the possibilities only through your generous financial support and your willing hands and feet. Over the next few weeks you will receive additional information about pledging and ways to give financially to the church. Please take time to review and prayerfully consider your gifts to the church for 2025.

Mark your calendars to join us on November 10 for a time to respond to God's blessings by dedicating our pledges. Your response will turn possibilities into realities, both in our church facility and in our outreach to the community. Please add a commitment to your calendar to join us for a celebration of Possibilities in Action.

Thank you for your continued support of our work together.



Fellowship Hour Is Back!

We need volunteers to make our Fellowship Hour a success. Your help is crucial!
Sign-up sheets will be on the coffee table in the Narthex.

Let's get together to spread God's word. We invite you to join the Fellowship & Worship Committee and participate in decision-making. Reach out to Jan Jarrell for more information at 941-705-6235 or email at saturngirl2019@gmail.com



INTERIOR CLEAN UP DAY

FRI OCT 11TH

10AM-12PM

Mission Spotlight: Habitat for Humanity

In honor of its' founding on August 1, 1994, Manatee County Habitat for Humanity is celebrating their 30 th anniversary year. During that time, our church family has been blessed to support the construction of four Habitat Faith Build homes – three of which have been built in the past 5 years.


UPC is proud of our involvement with Habitat, donating over \$10,000 from our budget for the cost of these homes and volunteering time at work days during the building process. We were thrilled to be included in the dedication of the most recent Faith Build home for Viviana and her son Daniel on September 12th.



Originally from Columbia and speaking no English, Viviana moved to the U.S. at 21 years old. As a young single mother of two, she worked as a teacher assistant in a daycare for 15 years while pursuing an associate degree in early childhood education. Landing her dream job in 2020 at Step Up Suncoast, she now serves others as a parent educator, helping Spanish-speaking families with child development and other resources. Recently, Viviana was accepted into Manatee Habitat and her efforts – sweat equity plus classes on financial literacy and basic home repair, have led to the opportunity to provide a forever home for her family. As Viviana accepted the keys to her new home, it was heartwarming to see the impact our involvement in this program has had in the lives of others. We look forward to continuing our support of Manatee County Habitat for Humanity in the years to come.

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCT 1	Myrna Felix, Shirley Christian	OCT 20	Betty Bashaw
OCT 4	Debbie Grubb, James Wolf	OCT 23	Amy Pedon
OCT 6	Marcia Campbell	OCT 24	Deanna Gordon, Sue Wedel
OCT 16	Betty MacClinchy	OCT 25	Lorraine Stork
OCT 17	Vicki Sokolich	OCT 29	Sally Nannerly



PRAYER GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday 11a | Room 14

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 STARTING SEPT 27 | 9AM

ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)



- United Presbyterian Church | October 2024 Newsletter -

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

pspchurch.org

October

2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Poppi's <i>Renewal 6p</i>	4 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	5 EXTERIOR CHURCH CLEAN UP 8a
6 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Communion	7	8 PRAYER GROUP 11a	9 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	10 <i>Outreach</i> / 3p	11 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a INTERIOR CHURCH CLEAN UP 10a	12 Hope Seeds 10a
13 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	14 <i>Palma Sola Book Club</i> / 1p	15	16 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	17 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Finance - 3:30P	18 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	19 <i>UPC Hosts the Presbytery Meeting</i> 8:30a
20 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a	21 UPC SESSION 1p	22 PRAYER GROUP 11a	23 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	24	25 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a Nov Grapevine Deadline	26
27 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	28	29	30 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	31 HALLOWEEN		

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.