



The Grapevine



Another Great Adventure!

Reverend Edward Dunn

Building on last September's Ministry Fair event, A Season of Possibilities, the Session has been in conversation about the comments and observations shared by our congregation. I am grateful to those who shared insights with us about the life, ministry, and image of United Presbyterian Church.

A new and great adventure for us is beginning as we learn what it means to be a "Sailboat" church. The idea of being a sailboat church contrasts with the practice in many congregations of being a "Rowboat." We are using the resources of the Presbyterian Foundation's Project Regeneration and the book *Sailboat Church* by Joan Gray, to help us realize that God's intention for us is to be led by the winds of the spirit, rather than being propelled and driven by our own efforts at rowing.

Like most adventures there are new things to learn and at time, things to unlearn. We, like most churches, have existed as if the work of God's kingdom and mission depended entirely and exclusively on how hard we rowed and how many people were pulling the oars.

In a new era we recognize that those who have been rowing for a long time are weary or don't have the ability to row as hard as they once did. This makes us prone to despair and want to give up altogether.

Our recent meetings with Dana Waters, our regional representative from the Presbyterian Foundation, now include a forty day period of prayer and discernment. We have multiple options available and choices to make; more on these later! I ask that you include in your own prayers, the movement of the winds of the spirit in our leaders and Elders during this time of prayer.

How will this effort play out? None of us knows but in this season and in the month in which we celebrate new life and Jesus' victory over the power of death, I hope we will allow hope and resurrection overshadow fear and skepticism.

You will also play a part in Project Regeneration. Initial plans include opportunities to read Sailboat Church or to participate in a read-along. An opportunity for members and friends to join in season of prayer and discernment will follow; and in due time, a town hall gathering will be a time to share what you have learned and felt the Spirit blowing in our church.

I encourage you to participate fully or as you are able in our Easter services: our Palm/Passion Sunday in which we hear the story of Jesus' passion; join in our Maundy Thursday dinner and service on April 17; and attend our Easter services at Palma Sola Botanical Park at 7a.m. and/or our sanctuary service at 10a.m. on April 20.

I am excited to lead and join with you in this new adventure in the Spirit.

Blessings,
Edward

Happy 40th Issue Grapevine!

It's Faraja Keyes popping in for a special 40th Grapevine appreciation message! It has been quite some time since I have seen many of your faces in person but I am always pleasantly delighted to see you all thriving when I design the Grapevine every month. It is so humbling to see the growth of UPC from the pandemic when I edited weekly services for Youtube, with Pastor Ted Land to meeting Pastor Edward. From nesting to the rebrand. I am so incredibly proud to see the resilience of this church. I cannot express how thankful & humbled I am to have been apart of it all. Wishing the Grapevine a Happy Anniversary from my new home in Ocala! Happy Easter, I miss you all and hope to visit soon!

Lenten Soup Lunch and Fellowship



Every Wednesday From April 2 & April 9th | 11:30am

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!

- **Between Sundays | Lenten Bible Study**

Explore the significance of "The Lord's Prayer"

Every Wednesday @ 10:30AM - April 2nd & April 9th | Parlor

- **Palm Sunday - April 13th | 10AM**

- **Maundy Thursday April 17th | 6PM**

Dinner @ 6PM, Service to follow

Easter Sunday | April 20th

Sunrise Service | 7am @ Palma Sola Botanical Gardens

Easter Sunday Service | 10am @ Sanctuary

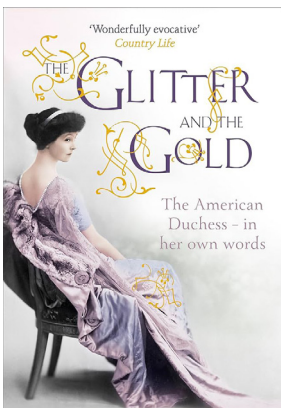
March Photo Gallery



April Session Highlights

- Session was advised that the new website address for United Presbyterian Church is now operational. While some fine tuning may be needed, all are invited to check it out at: upchurchbradenton.org.
- A new Mini-MAC computer and monitor have been installed to improve our streaming programming capability.
- Endorsed plans for a spaghetti dinner to be held on Maundy Thursday, April 17th ahead of worship.
- Approved the April Outreach Offering going to One Great Hour of Sharing, the annual Presbyterian collection to end hunger, aid after disasters and promote the self-development of all people.
- Applauded completion of the installation of glass panes in the front doors of the church as a welcome addition to the appearance and security of the Narthex.
- Applauded the planting of new xeriscape shrubs along the South side of Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all who helped install these plants, which will require considerably less water to flourish.

Palma Sola Book Club



APR 14 | 1 - 2:30PM MAY 12 | 1 - 2:30PM

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

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

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

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

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

April Outreach Update

Your contributions, through your pledges, outreach offering and donating underwear for the clients of Our Daily Bread reflect your outreach to your community and beyond this past month. Thank you for your gifts.

February Outreach Highlights:

- Plastic cups were purchased with budgeted funds for Our Daily Bread.
- Desperately needed styrofoam coffee cups (approximately 400) no longer used at the church, plus coffee and creamer purchased from the budget account Community Outreach were donated to Turning Points.
- Items for the Blessing Box are being purchased monthly with funds collected from the 3 Cents A Meal and Scottish Sunday donations.
- You've donated underwear for the clients of Turning Points.
- Our Outreach offering for Our Daily Bread was \$915 at the end of February.
- March total is not yet available. Thank you for your generosity.
- Another 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were made and donated to Our Daily Bread.
- Volunteers faithfully served every Friday at Our Daily Bread.
- A chilly wagon train tour of Duette Preserve was enjoyed by 20 of our members on March 6th.
- A few folks showed up to plant new plants and landscape around fellowship hall on Saturday, March 8th. Thanks, it looks great!
- All the egg cartons you donated in February, along with leftover flatware and Dorcus fabric will be delivered to Mision Peniel in early April.
- The Dreyer Trust disbursements at the end of February are \$4005.
- We have been re-certified as an Earth Care Congregation.
- A few of us attended the S.T.R.E.A.M. rally day on March 3rd and learned of the recent progress and planned requests for our community leaders in the areas of Affordable housing, and youth mental health. Many are expected to attend the Nehemiah action event on March 31st to support the requests and hear the response of our community leaders.

April Outreach Opportunities:

- Our DOES IT (done on every Sunday) project will be collecting baby wipes for the clients of Meals On Wheels in need. Diapers will be purchased from the Marshall fund, which is designated for community outreach.
- The Pen Pal party is scheduled on Wednesday April 23rd at 9:45 at Palma Sola Elementary School. Plan to meet at the church to carpool or walk at 9:30, as parking is limited at the school due to construction. collected is \$8.19. Please consider rounding up to \$10.00.

April 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.

April Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for April 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. Currently, emergency relief funds from PDA are being sent to Turkey and Syria to aid in earthquake recovery.

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 "OGHS" in the memo line,
- or
- Palma Sola members may also contribute through [online giving](#)

SPRING WORK DAY!



We usually have a fall and spring Member's Work Day where we pull weeds, prune and put down mulch in the front garden area.

We are asking for volunteers to help now to pull the worst of the weeds we have. Come when you can and do as much as you care to do. The trash can outside the maintenance room will be there for your use and Scott has brooms and garden tools available.

**Our Spring Member's Work Day:
Saturday, April 5th | 8:00 AM.**



The Renewal Team is currently looking for volunteers to support the preparation and enhancement of our worship services and Bible classes. Additionally, assistance is needed for fellowship activities within our congregation. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact one of the following team members:

**Gail Dickerson, Nancy Shimandle,
Marilyn Gillette, or Jan Jarrell.**

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P IN THE SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

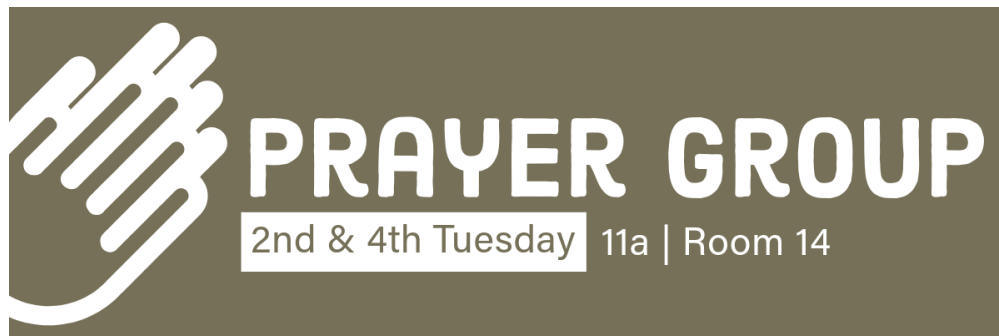
WEDNESDAYS AT 6P IN THE SANCTUARY



April Birthdays & Anniversaries

APR 1 Andrea & Lee Harmon
APR 4 Janice Jarrell
APR 5 Mark Wolf
APR 7 Carol MacFarlane
APR 10 Myrna Adams
Peter Sokolich
APR 12 Marilyn George
APR 15 Edith Onugha
APR 18 Janet DeGroff

APR 19 Kay Lee
APR 20 Bev Banks
APR 21 Toby Chinwuba
Alease Hamilton
APR 26 Tim & Amy Pedon
APR 27 Joan Carlson
Chris James
APR 28 Robert Felix



- **United Presbyterian Church | April 2025 Newsletter** -

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

www.upchurchbradenton.org

April

2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

		1 <i>Outreach / 3p</i>	2 Between Sundays 10:30a LENTEN LUNCH 11:30A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	3 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Poppi's	4 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	5
6 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service w/ Communion 10a Fellowship	7	8 PRAYER GROUP 11a	9 Between Sundays 10:30a LENTEN LUNCH 11:30A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	10 <i>Renewal - 6p</i>	11 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	12 PINEWOOD DERBY
13 Present Word 8:45a Palm Sunday Service - 10a Fellowship	14 <i>Palma Sola Book Club / 1p</i>	15	16 Between Sundays 10:30a Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	17 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Finance - 3:30P Maundy Thursday Service 6p	18 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	19
20 Sunrise Service Palma Sola Botanical Park 7a Easter Service 10a Fellowship	21 UPC SESSION 1p	22 EARTH DAY PRAYER GROUP 11a	23 Pen Pal Party 9:30a Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	24	25 ARBOR DAY HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a GRAPEVINE INPUTS DEADLINE	26
27 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	28	29	30 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p			

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](#).