



# The Grapevine



## *Another Year Gone, Another Year Come*

### **Reverend Edward Dunn**

This edition of the Grapevine is the final one for 2025 and the first one in 2026. There's lots to read about, especially in the month of December, and anticipate in the new year. I encourage you to attend the activities planned, support the outreach opportunities offered, and gather with our community for worship and occasions to study and fellowship.

### **December Activities Include:**

- Sock wrapping for friends at Our Daily Bread on **Saturday, December 6**
- Our Christmas lunch following worship on **Sunday, December 7**
- Caroling at Brookdale Assisted Living on **Tuesday, December 9**
- A community food collection drive on **Saturday, December 13**
- Creative Arts' Christmas program, A Savior is Born, on **Saturday, December 13**
- Our Cookie Walk on **Sunday, December 14**
- The Bell and Chancel Choir musical program on **Sunday, December 21**
- The Longest Night Service at the Palma Sola Botanical Park on **Sunday, December 21**
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on **Wednesday, December 24**

In addition to these activities, you are invited to join me for our next series of Between Sundays titled, Who Needs Christmas. This video and discussion class takes a deep look at the Christmas story. I believe it will be informative and shed new light on what seems to be a familiar story. **Join me Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17 at 10a.m. in the Parlor.** A light lunch will be offered to those who attend. Please let me know if you would like to join us (I need to order food!)

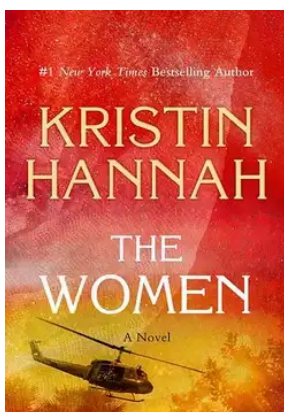
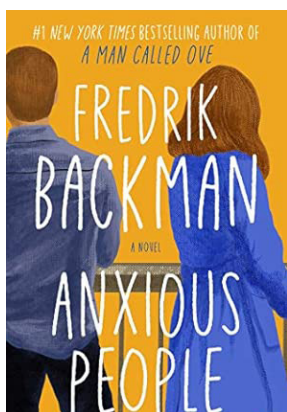
### January Activities Include:

- Melana Scruggs, General Presbytery preaching on **Sunday, January 4** (while I'm at Duke for my next Immersion Week classes)
- The All Church Birthday celebration on **Sunday, January 18**
- Workday at Habitat for Humanity on **Saturday, January 31**

May you have a blessed Christmas season and a healthy start to the New Year. I look forward to new adventures and continued, rich traditions as we start 2026.

**Blessings,  
Edward**

## United Book Club



**DEC 8 | 1 - 2:30PM JAN 12 | 1 - 2:30PM**

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

### **2026 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**

**DEC 4** - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

**DEC 18 | JAN 15** Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Ron Dickerson  
[rondickersonupc@gmail.com](mailto:rondickersonupc@gmail.com)

## November Session Highlights

- Approved holding a Drive-By Community Food Drive in the East parking lot on Saturday, December 13th to benefit the Food Bank of Manatee County.
- Endorsed scheduling the 'Between the Sundays' Advent Bible Study and luncheon on Wednesdays during Advent so that members might also attend the Advent Services at neighboring Redeemer Lutheran. Redemer has been invited to attend our Bible Study and luncheon, as well.
- Reviewed the many events and services planned for the Holiday Season which will be publicized widely throughout the congregation.
- Reviewed the Preliminary 2026 Operating Budget, which will be finalized in December when results of the Stewardship Campaign are obtained.
- Set February 15th as the date for the Annual Meeting of the congregation.
- Approved hiring a professional appraiser to make an estimate of the value of our church property and buildings.
- Outlined the need for Session to consider reorganizing its structure to permit accomplishing its work with fewer Elders in the future.

## Stewardship Thanks You!

As the Stewardship Campaign comes to a close, I would like to thank the congregation for their "radical generosity". I know this year's campaign was a little different, and I appreciate your support of new ideas. Again, thank you for sending me to the Stewardship Kaleidoscope. I was honored to represent United Presbyterian Church of Bradenton and came home with lots of memories.

Please remember Stewardship runs all year long, so look out for more ideas for "Radical Generosity – Supporting Regeneration".

Thank you all,  
Sherri Kramer

# Dec/Jan Outreach Update

The advent season and a new year is upon us. Let us know peace and hope as we give through reaching out to our community and beyond.

Thank you for all you do.

## Let's Recap Some Our Recent Activities:

- We donated \$2400, approximately \$20/member, for food security out of our budget. \$1200 to Our Daily Bread, \$1200 to the food bank.
- We donated \$500, from our budget, to F.E.L.T.
- You donated money through our outreach offering to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- You filled Christmas shoeboxes for Meals On Wheels as our D.O.E.S. IT project for November.
- The Dreyer Trust has distributed \$36,466.61 as of October 31st.
- Our first round of Pen Pal letters has been written to the second graders at Palma Sola Elementary School.
- An Angel Tree collection was held for the Salvation Army Christmas Project in November.
- Volunteers faithfully served at Our Daily Bread every Friday.
- Holy Strollers walk every Friday morning at 9 AM from the north entrance to Robinson's Preserve.
- PB&J sandwiches were made for ODB each Sunday after worship.
- The 3 cents a meal collection was held November 30th.

## December Does It:

- Our **DOES It (Done On Every Sunday)** project for December is making **12 Days of Christmas food gifts bags to donate to those in need.** Pick up a large fabric reusable grocery bag and place the following items in it, item by item each day as you give thanks to God for your own blessings:

Day 1 – Jar of peanut butter	Day 7 – Box of mac 'n' cheese
Day 2 – Jar of jelly	Day 8 – Box of cereal
Day 3 – Box of pasta	Day 9 – 2 lb. bag of rice
Day 4 – Jar of spaghetti sauce	Day 10 – Can of soup
Day 5 – Can of corn	Day 11 – Can of chicken or tuna
Day 6 – Can of green beans	Day 12 – Roll of toilet tissue & a bar of soap

Return your bags to the Narthex or church office by **December 29th**. Filled bags will be taken to Our Daily Bread for distribution through the Loaves and Fishes food pantry.

## January Does It:

- Our **DOES It (Done On Every Sunday)** project for January is collecting gently used books to maintain a free library at Turning Points in Bradenton. We need books of all kinds – fiction, non-fiction, spiritual, how-to's etc. for both adults and children. The new year is a great time to clean out your closets and book shelves and help us support literacy in our local community. Drop your books in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office through January.

# *Dec/Jan Outreach Opportunities*

## **December & January Opportunities Continued:**

- The scouts will hold a poinsettia sale on December 7th in the glass hallway and outside following the service. Cost will be \$8.00 each.
- Sock wrapping for Our Daily Bread will be held on Saturday December 6th at 10 AM. You are invited to a Christmas wrapping party on Saturday, December 6th from 10 am – noon in Fellowship Hall to prepare socks and cards for clients of Our Daily Bread. For many years member Amy Pedon has been giving out socks and other goodies there on Christmas Eve morning, and the Outreach Team has been blessed to partner with her by purchasing some of the supplies needed. Join us for a time of fellowship and fun as we wrap, write, and enjoy some beverages and light snacks. Friends and family are welcome.
- Making of PB&J sandwiches will follow the sock wrapping.
- Please join members of the Outreach Team for Cookies, Cocoa, and Caroling at Brookdale Palma Sola on Tuesday, December 9th from 2-3 pm. As part of our Older Adult Ministry, we will visit and share Christmas cheer with the residents there, and it would be great to have extra voices and helping hands. Hope to see you there!
- A Drive-by Donation for the Food Bank will be held in the east parking lot on Saturday, December 13th from 9 AM- 12. Please bring non-perishable food items to donate
- A cookie walk will be held on December 14th after service. Cost will be \$5.00/ box.
- D.O.E.S. IT for December will be the 12 days of Christmas collection of non-perishable food goods for Loaves and Fishes food pantry.
- D.O.E.S. IT for January will be collecting books, especially children's books, for Turning Points'
- Outreach Offering for December will be for Christmas Joy.
- Outreach Offering for January, February and March will be for Our Daily Bread.
- Habitat for Humanity Faith house will be the first built. We have scheduled a workday Saturday January 31st at 7:45 to noon. Address to be determined.

## **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.
- 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

# Winter Outreach Offerings

## December Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for December Our Outreach Offering for December will go to the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Christmas Joy Offering, supporting leaders of the Church – past, present, and future. Your gifts will make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. They will also provide assistance to current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

You may donate to Christmas Joy:

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

## January Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for January will go to Our Daily Bread of Bradenton to support free meals and a food pantry for those in need. Our Daily Bread staff and regular volunteers (that's us on Fridays!) serve hearty meals seven days a week from 10-11:30 am. At Our Daily Bread's self-serve food pantry, clients can shop free once a month for fresh produce and other food items of their choice.

You may donate to Our Daily Bread of Bradenton:

- 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](#)

# Community Food Drive

United Presbyterian Church (east parking lot)

6510 3rd Ave West, Bradenton.

Saturday, December 13 from 9am to noon

Drive thru and drop off non-perishable food items to benefit The Food Bank of Manatee

\* Canned ~ vegetables/ fruits/ meats/ soups

\* Peanut butter and jelly

\* Diapers and wipes

\* Boxed or bagged ~ pasta/ rice/ cereal

\* Toilet paper

Let's join together to help our neighbors in need!



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# Reigniting Faith - 2026 Faith Build

Our church is honored to support another Habitat for Humanity Faith Build home – our fourth in 5 years! Construction on the latest Faith Build home, and the first home in the new King's Cross Place, will begin in December. We have provided funds toward building costs, and a UPC workday is planned for Saturday, January 31st from 7:45a-noon at the job site. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and get in on the fun!

Karlee, the 2026 Faith Build homeowner, has walked a powerful road of recovery and redemption; from addition and hardship to hope and healing. Today, she is a devoted mom to her daughter, Kaylea, a mentor to other women in recovery, and a future law student. Karlee is determined to give her daughter the stable home they both deserve.



Introducing our **2026**  
**Faith Build Homeowner**  
**GIVINGTUESDAY**

Habitat for Humanity partners with people in their own community to help build or improve a place for someone to call home. Habitat homeowners help build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. Habitat for Humanity just celebrated its 30th year in Manatee County and has completed 176 homes. They build multiple houses a year at an average cost of \$175,000 not including land, infrastructure, etc. Funding comes from a variety of city and county sources as well as corporate sponsors and community groups. Current building practices incorporate as many green/cost efficient initiatives as possible to help keep the homeowner's expenses down and increase their quality of life.

Potential homeowners go through a rigorous screening process. Their "down payment" includes 500 hours of sweat equity (job site building hours) and classes on home maintenance and finance. Upon completion of the home, the homeowner assumes an interest free 30-year mortgage which averages \$800-\$1000 per month including insurance and property taxes.

UPC is blessed to help provide a forever home for Karlee and Kaylea. For Karlee, home ownership through Manatee County Habitat for Humanity's Faith Build means more than just a roof over their heads. It represents redemption, stability, and the fulfillment of God's promise – a safe place where she and Kaylea can grow, learn, and thrive. Stay tuned for more updates and opportunities to be a part of Kaylea's journey in the new year.

You're invited to a live children's theatrical production



# *A Savior is Born*

## **The Christmas Story**

Come and support young people and enjoy their talents of acting, dancing, singing, and playing instruments.

### **Performances**

Dec. 9, 6PM Manatee United Methodist Church

315 15th St. E. Bradenton, FL. 34208

Dec. 13, 2PM United Presbyterian Church

6510 3rd Ave. W. Bradenton, FL. 34209

Dec. 16, 6PM First United Methodist Church of Palmetto

330 11th Ave. W. Palmetto FL. 34221

Dec. 19, 6PM Mount Raymond Full Gospel Baptist Church

2410 4th Ave E. Palmetto, FL. 34221



**CREATIVE ARTS  
ACADEMY**

For more information:  
Contact Lane J. Ruise  
(941) 348-5662

## *December Birthdays & Anniversaries*

**DEC 2** Jean Scott  
**DEC 7** Eugene Adams  
**DEC 8** Betty Butler  
**DEC 11** Zan Mustaine  
**DEC 16** Beverly Zimmer  
**DEC 21** Lynne Smith  
Robert & Myrna Felix

**DEC 22** Peter White  
**DEC 23** Jim Wedel  
**DEC 24** Sherri Kramer  
**DEC 30** Chris Felix  
**DEC 31** Jack & Nancy Slocum

## *January Birthdays & Anniversaries*

**JAN 1** Sherril Scannell  
Roy Williams, Frank Jenkins  
**JAN 3** George Clark  
**JAN 4** Diane Clark  
**JAN 6** Andrea Harmon  
**JAN 11** Emmett Scott  
**JAN 14** Woody Johnson

**JAN 19** Elenita Musgrove  
**JAN 21** Mary Morse  
**JAN 22** Mary Jane Shiplett  
**JAN 27** Vicki Elzer  
**JAN 28** Chuck Elzer  
Dennis Schooley



# PRAYER GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday 11a | Room 14

- United Presbyterian Church | Dec 25 & Jan 26 Newsletter -

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

Church Website: [upchurchbradenton.org](http://upchurchbradenton.org)

# December

## 2025

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

	1	2 STEWARDSHIP 1P	3 BETWEEN SUNDAYS 10A <i>Outreach / 3p</i> Bell Choir   6p Chancel Choir   7p	4 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a   Poppi's PROJECT REGENERATION 11A <i>Renewal 6p</i>	5 HOLY STROLLERS   9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	6 Sock Wrapping For ODB   10a <b>PB&amp;J SANDWICHES FOR ODB   11:30A</b>
7 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Present Word 8:45a Worship Service w/ Communion 10a   <b>Christmas Luncheon</b> Scouts Sell Poinsettias   11a	8 <i>Book Club / 1p</i>	9 PRAYER GROUP   11A Carols, Cocoa & Cookies @ Brookdale   2p	10 BETWEEN SUNDAYS 10A Bell Choir   6p Chancel Choir   7p	11 Finance - 3:30P	12 HOLY STROLLERS   9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a CAA - Rehearsal   6p	13 <b>DRIVE THRU COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVE   9A-12P</b> CAA - A Savior Is Born   2p
14 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a <b>Cookie Walk 11a</b>	15	16 UPC SESSION   1p	17 BETWEEN SUNDAYS 10A Bell Choir   6p Chancel Choir   7p	18 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	19 HOLY STROLLERS   9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	20
21 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Present Word 8:45a Christmas Musical Program Service   10a Fellowship   11a <b>Longest Night Service   4p</b>	22 CAA - Christmas Party   6p	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service   7p</b>	25 <b>CHRISTMAS DAY OFFICE CLOSED</b>	26 HOLY STROLLERS   9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	27
28 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a   Fellowship	29	30	31 New Years Eve <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>			

### UPC - Resource Links

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](#).

# January 2026

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

				1 NEW YEARS DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 HOLY STROLLERS   9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	3
4 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service w/ Communion 10a   Fellowship	5	6 Epiphany Outreach / 3p	7 Bell Choir   6p Chancel Choir   7p	8 Renewal 6p	9 HOLY STROLLERS   9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	10
11 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a   Fellowship	12 Book Club / 1p	13 PRAYER GROUP   11a Deacons Meeting 6:30pm	14 Investment   3p Finance - 3:30P Bell Choir   6p Chancel Choir   7p	15 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	16 HOLY STROLLERS   9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	17
18 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a   Fellowship	19 Martin Luther King Day	20 UPC SESSION   1p	21 Bell Choir   6p Chancel Choir   7p	22	23 HOLY STROLLERS   9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a Feb Grapevine Deadline	24
25 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a   Fellowship	26	27 PRAYER GROUP   11a	28 Bell Choir   6p Chancel Choir   7p	29	30 HOLY STROLLERS   9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a CUB SCOUT DERBY	31 CUB SCOUT DERBY Habitat For Humanity 'Faith Build 8:30a

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