



# The Grapevine



## Boating Season

**Reverend Edward Dunn**

I grew up in a coastal community much like Bradenton and Cortez. Life on the water, recreationally and commercially, was important to the economy of the towns where I lived. My first jobs were in a marina. The house where I grew up was one house removed from the shore. My great-aunt and uncle's home, on Bogue Sound (the intra-coastal waterway) was where we'd go to swim as children while the adults visited at water's edge.

I remember boating along the Sound, an occasional trip to Cape Lookout – the local lighthouse and National Seashore – and ferry rides from the mainland to Ocracoke Island. I spent a lot of years away from the coast in places like Michigan and Idaho. But there's something special and different when you live along a salt-water versus a fresh-water community.

I'm grateful to be "home" again; to have my lungs filled with salt air, to taste the salinity of the water; and to see boats everywhere.

One of the interesting things I've noted about our Session's conversations related to Project Regeneration is the reminder that the church can be compared to a boat. The leading resource we have used is a book titled, *Sailboat Church* by Joan Gray. She begins the book with a vivid description of a rowboat and a sailboat and she rightfully declares that most of our churches exist as rowboat churches, not sailboat churches.

She says that rowboat churches do what they can with the resources they have. She also says what we too readily know; that we are discovering that rowing is not getting us where we want to go. Sailboat churches tend to focus on discerning God's unfolding will, not on their own situation or resources, or even limitations.

A few weeks ago, I asked those attending worship to consider the question, "What would this community miss if we did not exist?" What difference are we making in our location and at this time in the lives of our neighbors or the wider community? I'm preparing to spend this summer exploring the stories of boats in scripture and invite you to join me in that adventure. There are a number of stories throughout the Bible that feature boats or provide lessons for us using boats as a prompt.

We'll begin our sailing adventure on Sunday June 15th. There will be additional opportunities for excursions midweek as we read and discuss *Sailboat Church*. Further details about our midweek gatherings will be forthcoming in our Cluster email and on our Sunday At A Glance.

I hope you will join me in this important time for us and this great adventure we may find ourselves just beginning.

Blessings,  
Edward

### *May Session Highlights*

- Approved budgeted donations to Cedarkirk Camp, Beth-El and Misión Peniel totaling \$5,500.
- Welcomed Nina and Jay Richardson into the membership of United.

## United Book Club



**JUNE 9 | 1 - 2:30PM JULY 14 | 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**

**JUNE 5** - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

**JUNE 19** - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

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

## 3 Cents A Meal Offering

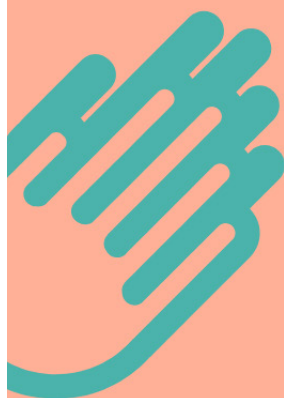
With five Sundays, June is another month of opportunity to donate to the 3 Cents-A-Meal program!

### **Next Collection: Sunday, June 29th 2025**

Last collection was Easter Sunday, March 31, 2025. Next five Sunday month is June 2025. 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.



## PRAYER GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday 11a | Room 14



# June Outreach Update

Spring has sprung and summer is upon us. Time to grow and be open to new challenges and opportunities. Let us open our minds to new ideas, even as our church calendar slows down for the summer. Thank you for your gifts of donations and time.

## **May Outreach Highlights:**

- Thank you for continuing to bring items for the Blessing Box.
- Outreach Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing was \$738.00.
- Donations for Meals on Wheels were collected as part of the May Outreach Offering. Pet food was collected for the clients of Meals On Wheels with pets for the month of May.
- The Dreyer Trust expended \$14,693 through the month of April.
- The Brookdale Palma Sola Cinco de Mayo party was enjoyed by 12 residents and 5 church members. We learned about the history of Cinco de Mayo, played trivia, sang songs, danced and served mock Marguerita, chips and salsa and churros.
- Donations were made from our Presbytery Missions account of \$1600 to Cedarkirk, \$1800 to Beth El and \$2100 to Mission Peniel.

## **June Outreach Opportunities:**

- The DOES IT collection for June, July and August will be for the Food Bank. Bring non-perishable food items and place them in the barrels in the Narthex.

## **Ongoing Opportunities:**

- Each Friday, United Presbyterian serves at Our Daily Bread. You are welcome to join as a server on a Friday or act as a substitute for when someone is unavailable (especially during summer months when some folks are away). Let Dorothy Simes know if you are interested and/or sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.
- 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 will not be walking in June, July and August.



As summer approaches, many children in our community are looking forward to sunshine, fun, and time with friends. But for far too many, summer brings something else – hunger.

When school cafeterias close for the summer, thousands of local children lose access to the nutritious meals they depend on. Families already struggling to make ends meet are faced with even more pressure. The emotional toll is real. No parent should have to worry if they can feed their child, and no child should go to bed with an empty stomach.

The Food Bank of Manatee steps up to meet the need. They partner with over 100 local food pantries across Manatee County to reach the families in need – but they can't do it alone.

Our Outreach Offering for June/July/August will go to The Food Bank of Manatee. Additionally, Our UPC DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for the summer is filling the yellow barrels in the Narthex with non-perishable food for The Food Bank. With your support, we can ensure no child goes hungry during the summer months.

This summer, The Food Bank of Manatee's goal is to provide: 22,500 meals each week across the 9-week summer break. That's more than 200,000 meals for children and families—and every dollar makes a difference.

Just \$15 provides 10 meals; \$30 provides 20 meals; a gift of \$150 will provide 100 meals!

**You may donate to The Food Bank of Manatee:**

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

Together, we can bring relief, peace of mind, and full bellies to those who need it most.



# Cinco de Mayo Brookdale Pictures



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, Marilyn Gillette, or Jan Jarrell.**

## *June Birthdays & Anniversaries*

**JUN 3** Eric Arvidson

**JUN 8** Richard Pratt

**JUN 15** Gregg and Lorrie Pead

**JUN 16** Judy Giles, Michael "Mike" Stone

**JUN 19** Norman "Norm" Lee

**JUN 20** Chibuzor "Chib" Onugha

**JUN 23** Harris Onugha

**JUN 24** Patricia "Pat" Byrnes

**JUN 27** Anita Smith, Laura Rieley

*Remembering the lives of*

Nancy Shimandle & Richard Bergman

- United Presbyterian Church | June 2025 Newsletter -

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

[www.upchurchbradenton.org](http://www.upchurchbradenton.org)

# June

## 2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

|   |                                   |  |    |   |   |    |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|----|---|---|----|
| 1<br>Present Word 8:45a<br>Worship Service<br>w/ Communion<br>10a<br>Church Picnic<br>11:30 | 2                                 | 3  | 4  | 5<br>MEN'S GROUP<br>8:30a   Poppi's<br>Renewal - 6p | 6<br>Our Daily Bread<br>9:30a                               | 7  |
| 8<br>Pentecost<br>Present Word 8:45a<br>Worship Service<br>w/ Communion<br>10a   Fellowship | 9<br>Palma Sola<br>Book Club / 1p | 10<br>PRAYER<br>GROUP   11a<br>Outreach / 3p | 11 | 12<br>Finance   3:30P                               | 13<br>Our Daily Bread<br>9:30a                              | 14 |
| 15 FATHER'S DAY<br>Present Word 8:45a<br>Worship Service<br>10a   Fellowship                | 16<br>UPC SESSION<br>  1p         | 17   | 18 | 19<br>Juneteenth<br>MEN'S GROUP<br>8:30a            | 20<br>Our Daily Bread<br>9:30a                              | 21 |
| 22<br>Present Word 8:45a<br>Worship Service<br>10a   Fellowship                             | 23                                | 24<br>PRAYER<br>GROUP   11a                  | 25 | 26  | 27<br>Our Daily Bread<br>9:30a<br>GRAPEVINE INPUTS DEADLINE | 28 |
| 29<br>Present Word 8:45a<br>Worship Service<br>10a   Fellowship<br>3 Cents A Meal           | 30                                |  |    |   |   |    |

### Church Summer Office Hours Monday - Thursday | 9am - 12pm

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](#).