



The Grapevine



Praying Our Way Through Lent

Reverend Edward Dunn

In their book on the Lord's Prayer, William Willimon and Stanley Hauerwas invite readers to "Think of Christianity, not primarily as a set of doctrines, a volunteer organization, or a list of appropriate behaviors. Think of Christianity as naming a journey of a people." The liturgical season of Lent will often use the imagery of a journey. Each year I am reminded and I invite those who worship or participate in our religious activities that we are on a journey with Jesus that will include a cross and death. However, the journey will not end there, for a new season, Eastertide awaits us.

Our preparation for this journey starts with Ash Wednesday and the invitation to join others in a time of examination and repentance. The very first thing we hear in Lent is that we are creatures; we are mortal and finite. There are few more words with more power that I say to worshipers than these, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."

The journey begins in solemnity – acknowledging the ways we fall short of God’s intention for us. The path along which we trod will seem to be a downward one into darkness and despair.

We need a reminder, along this journey, of the promises God has made to us. We need the reassurance that God is with us even in the dark valleys of our journey. We need a companion to walk with us. I hope we will find those things in our study time together as we read and explore and discuss the Lord’s Prayer during Wednesdays in Lent.

The usual place to recite its words is in the sanctuary on a Sunday morning, accompanied by the voices of other worshipers. As we join with others in this prayer, we are reminded that being a Christian is too tough to go alone and is not God’s intention for us. The petitions of this prayer are too heavy for us to speak alone, and so the prayer begins, “Our Father” not “My Father.” They plead for “our”, not my, daily bread; and forgiveness for “our” debts and for our forgiveness of the debts of others.

I invite you to join in our Between Sundays series for Lent based on the Lord’s Prayer. We will begin our time together on Wednesday March 12 at 10:30a.m. in the Parlor and meet each Wednesday through April 16. There will be an opportunity to fellowship with one another after our class as we share a Simple Lunch in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30a.m.

Welcome to our journey this year!

Blessings,
Edward

February Session Highlights

At it’s February meeting, the Session took the following actions:

- Approved recommendations to combine relevant portions of endowment funds remaining from Palma Sola and Westminster
- Acting as the Trustees of the Corporation, nominated Donna Lesch as President and Jan Jarrell as Vice President.
- Met with Dana Waters from the Presbyterian Foundation to hear about Project Regeneration. The Session will use resources from this program to aid in its discussion about the future of United.
- Approved a request from an outside group to host a Women’s Conference in our facility on March 22.

Lenten Soup Lunch and Fellowship



Every Wednesday From March 5th - 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!

- **Ash Wednesday**

March 5th @ 12:45PM | Informational from 5:45-7PM in the Parlor

- **Between Sundays | Lenten Bible Study**

Explore the significance of "The Lord's Prayer"

Every Wednesday @ 10:30AM March 12th - April 9th | Parlor

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

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

Dinner @ 6PM, Service to follow

Easter Sunday | April 20th

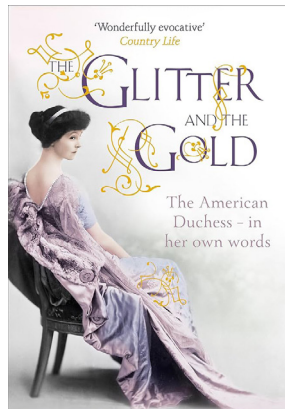
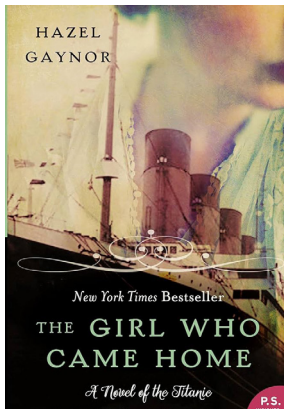
Sunrise Service | 7am @ Palma Sola Botanical Gardens

Easter Sunday Service | 10am @ Sanctuary

February Photo Gallery



Palma Sola Book Club



MAR 10 | 1 - 2:30PM APR 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

MAR 6 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

MAR 20 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Rich Wachunis
rwachunis@tampabay.rr.com

February Photo Gallery Cont.





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.

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: March 30, 2025

Last collected on December 29, 2024. 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 to \$10!

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

Volunteer Weeders Needed



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.**



YOU ARE INVITED

CUB SCOUT PACK 22

RANK AWARDS AND ARROW OF LIGHT CROSSOVER

We welcome all Scout Families and Friends to see the

Cub Scouts of Pack 22

**receive their rank awards. Arrow of Light Scouts will also officially
crossover to their Troop.**

Saturday March 8th @ 5pm.

Under the Oak trees and Night Sky in the back courtyard.

We will start serving Burgers and Hotdogs between 5pm—6pm.

Ceremony will start at 6:00pm.

**Please bring your own camp/beach chair
and a refillable water bottle.**

Volunteers are needed for set up & clean up.

United Presbyterian Church— 6510 3rd Ave W, Bradenton, FL 34209

March Outreach Update

You really showed your love in February with many gifts and volunteer efforts for your community and beyond. There will be more opportunities to “reach out” ahead.

February Outreach Highlights:

- We raised \$270 for our Blessing Box from the donations at our Scottish Sunday luncheon
- You donated \$600 towards Our Daily Bread in January (February totals are not in for this writing) and collections will continue through March.
- Many cans/boxes of soup were donated for Our Daily Bread food pantry for our D.O.E.S. IT project.
- Dreyer Trust distributions YTD are \$3,505 assisting families with healthcare, utilities and rental costs.
- FELT collections YTD are \$97.
- Volunteers faithfully served at Our Daily Bread every Friday.
- We purchased, from our budget, additional plastic cups to be used for ODB drink service.
- We wrote our 3rd letter to our pen pals at Palma Sola Elementary School enclosing valentines made by the residents at Brookdale Retirement Center on Tuesday February 11th.
- Items were purchased for the Blessing Box with money from 3 Cents A Meal collection on 9/30.
- 100 peanut and butter and jelly sandwiches were made each Sunday for Our Daily Bread.

March Outreach Opportunities:

- Our D.O.E.S. (done on every Sunday) project for March will be collecting NEW underwear for the clients of Turning Points.
- A private wagon train tour is planned for Thursday March 6th at 9:00 AM at Duette Preserve at a cost of \$10 per person. Carpools will be leaving from the church at 7:30 AM.
- The next 3 Cents a Meal collection will be Sunday, March 30th. It will have been 91 days since our last collection, December 29th . The amount to be collected is \$8.19. Please consider rounding up to \$10.00.

March 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.

March Outreach Offering

Our **Outreach Offering for March** 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
- Palma Sola members may also contribute through [online giving](#)

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy 4th Anniversary Grapevine!

MAR 3 Peter & Vicki Sokolich

MAR 7 Susan Corbett


MAR 8 Dorothy Simes

MAR 13 Fran Hensley

MAR 19 Patty Dawson

MAR 23 Wilma Hamilton

MAR 25 Rich & Phyllis Wachunis



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 AT 9AM



ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)



- United Presbyterian Church | March 2025 Newsletter -

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

www.upchurchbradenton.org

March

2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

						1
2 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service w/ Communion 10a Fellowship	3	4 <i>Outreach / 3p</i>	5 LENTEN LUNCH 11:30A Ash Wednesday Service 12:45p Ashes 5:45p Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	6 Trip to Duette Preserve 7:30a MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Poppi's <i>Renewal 6p</i>	7 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	8 PACK 22 CROSSOVER CEREMONY 5P
9 Daylight Savings Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	10 <i>Palma Sola Book Club / 1p</i>	11 PRAYER GROUP 11A DEACONS MTG 6:30P	12 Between Sundays 10:30a LENTEN LUNCH 11:30A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	13 Finance - 3:30P	14 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	15
16 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY UPC SESSION 1p	18	19 Between Sundays 10:30a LENTEN LUNCH 11:30A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	20 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	21 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	22 <i>Women's Conference</i> Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary All Day
23 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	24	25 PRAYER GROUP 11A	26 Between Sundays 10:30a LENTEN LUNCH 11:30A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	27	28 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	29
30 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship 3 Cents A Meal	31	<p>Church Office Hours Monday - Thursday 9am - 4pm</p> <p>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.</p>				