



The Grapevine



Radical Generosity Supporting Regeneration

Reverend Edward Dunn

Matthew 25:14-30 is Jesus' Parable of the Talents. A man is going on a journey but before he leaves, he entrusts his property to his slaves. He recognizes that each slave is different; one receives an amount equal to five years wages, the second receives two year's wages; and the third receives the equivalent of one year's wage.

It is apparent from the beginning that these slaves were to be stewards of something that belongs to another. And that the one entrusting their property to them, is aware of their strengths and limitations.

Each slave then works with that which was entrusted to them. Two of the "stewards" tend the property while one chooses to ignore what has been given to him. Those called or given the responsibility to be stewards are not free to ignore or as this slave says, bury the property.

Some might ask, what if any of the slaves had suffered a loss – what if upon the return of the master, one of the slaves gave back less than they had received? The point of the parable isn't about prudent investing, but about acting faithfully and responsibly knowing that the master would be returning and would expect an accounting for how each used what had been given.

Two slaves recognized the opportunity before them, one cowered in fear at the risk ahead.

Our stewardship campaign this year is an invitation to you to be radically generous in your giving; acknowledging that everything we have has been entrusted to us by God. How will you respond to this call to be radically generous?

If you've never made a pledge, would you be radically generous and make one this year?

If you pledge, will you be radically generous and increase your giving this year?

By 3, or 5%?

If you have an ability, or a talent you'd offer the church, will you let us know?

If you want to serve, to sing, to make sandwiches, or to care for others, will you volunteer?

Your Radical Generosity is needed as we go further into our discussions about the future of the church. The second part of our theme is Supporting Regeneration. The parable concludes with two slaves being given additional responsibility and one who was lazy being punished. If we act irresponsibly as the third slave did, our future is bleak. Without your financial and your physical support, the church has a limited and dark future. The master did not desire such an outcome for his slaves but in the end, the slave's predicament was a result of his fearfulness.

Please prayerfully consider your financial gift to the church for 2026. Also consider the ways you can contribute to our ongoing (and new) mission and outreach opportunities. Join us, or return your Pledge Commitment card by November 9th when we will celebrate our Stewardship Commitment.

Blessings,
Edward



Salvation Army Angel Tree Collection

Every child deserves to experience joy on Christmas morning. The Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of children around the county each year. Our church will once again be supporting the Salvation Army Angel Tree. During the month of November, we will be accepting monetary donations so that the Salvation Army can provide gifts to those Manatee County "angels" whose tags don't get chosen from a tree. To donate, use the envelopes in the pews or mail a check to the church office with "Angel Tree" in the memo line.

October Session Highlights

- Approved the Angel Tree Collection to occur during the month of November.
- Approved the Scout's request to sell poinsettias after worship on December 7th.
- Was advised that the Session Minutes and Church Rolls were reviewed and approved by Presbytery without exception.
- Approved holding a Congregational Meeting after worship on November 23rd for the purpose of electing Officers and At-Large members of the Church Nominating Committee.
- Endorsed promoting the Christmas Market at Kirkwood Presbyterian being held on November 15th to benefit 17 non-profit exhibitors.

Administrative Assistant Needed



As some of you know, your church has been without an Administrative Assistant since early Summer. After a hard look at the position, it was concluded that we could possibly operate through the Summer by staffing the position for three hours a day for three days a week. Therefore, the Summer Office Hours were adjusted to 9:00 am to Noon on Tuesday through Thursday and volunteers have learned how to get what needs to be done completed each week ... in less than three days.

In looking to the Office Staffing Company that has supplied us with part-time candidates in the past, they advised that it would likely be impossible to hire a professional to work for only nine hours a week.

So, for the time being, we press on while praying for someone who can help on a regular basis.

Ideally, we would welcome an individual who doesn't want to volunteer or work full-time.

- Able to work comfortably and reliably in a church office environment, interacting with people effectively and graciously.
- Answer the phone and take messages. (The phone hardly ever rings.)
- Proficient in computer word processing, formatting documents and reports.
- Understands or is willing to learn the operation and capability of the copier machine.
- Able to analyze a problem situation and offer suggestions on improvements.

Do you know of anyone who might be interested in such a position, three days a week for three hours a day?

Perhaps yourself?

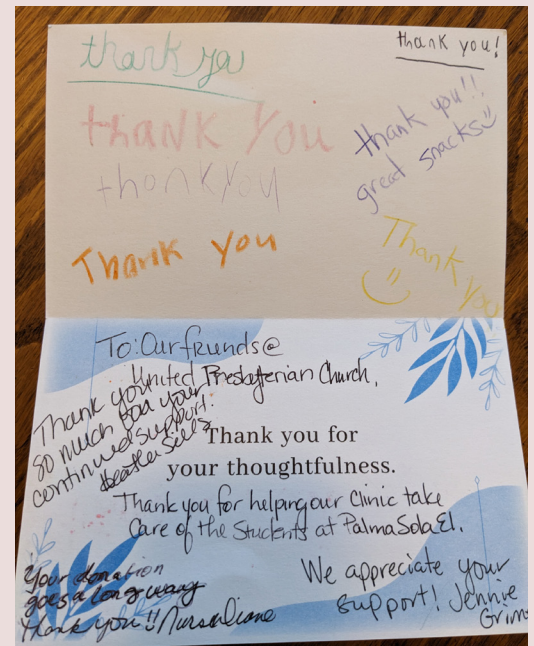
If so, please call Roy Williams - Personnel.

November Outreach Update & Opportunities

What a great month of involvement we had in October. Thank you all for the fabulous Rise Against Hunger Event!!! We had volunteers from church, Palma Sola Elementary, scouts, Manatee High School, King Middle School, Kirkwood, Chamber of Commerce and the Bridge and more. Now we approach a season of thanksgiving, and we have so much to be thankful for.

October Outreach Activities:

- Rise Against Hunger- we packed over 12,000 meals for the food insecure worldwide. Congratualtions!
- The Fire Department presented an informative fire safety program for 18 attendees on October 4th.
- We collected toothpaste and toothbrushes for Mision Peniel.
- Our Offering for October was for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program.
- Our Pen Pal program with Palma Sola Elementary is underway.
- We have renewed our business partnership with Palma Sola Elementary, which allows us to promote activities and continue our support of the school with donations and volunteering.
- We purchased copy paper for Project Light, an adult educational program for speakers of other languages.
- Our Outreach Offering to Bible Mission USA collected \$240, which was supplemented by \$500.
- \$500 was donated to both Mision Peniel and Beth El for their Christmas Toy Drive.
- \$500 was donated to Immokalee Fair Housing Alliance to purchase home furnishings.
- Holy Strollers have resumed and will walk each Friday at 9AM from the north entrance to Robinsons Preserve.
- Volunteers faithfully serve at Our Daily Bread each Friday.
- Our peanut butter & jelly sandwich making after the Sunday service continues without interruption!



November Outreach Opportunities:

- Our **DOES It (Done On Every Sunday)** project for November is collecting stuffed shoe boxes to give to clients served by **Meals on Wheels PLUS** this Christmas. Pick up a Christmas wrapped shoe box and wish list in the Narthex, fill it up and return it to the church. Items can include lotion, lip balm, books, slipper socks, holiday themed items and more. Full instructions are included in each box. Filled boxes will be delivered to seniors throughout the holidays and are sometimes the only gift a senior will receive.

Drop your filled boxes in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by Sunday, December 7th.

November Outreach Opportunities & Offering

- We will be collecting for **The Angel Tree**, supporting the Salvation Army Christmas Project.

- Three Cents A Meal will be collected on November 28 for \$8.19.

Please feel free to round up to \$10.

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!

November Outreach Offering

Our **Outreach Offering for November** 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.

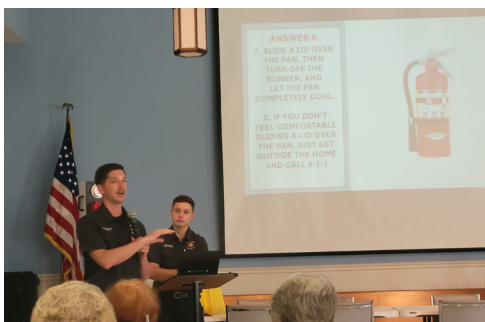
You may donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance:

- during the worship service, in your offering envelope,
- by mailing a check to the church office with "PDA" in the memo line, or
- or contribute through online giving

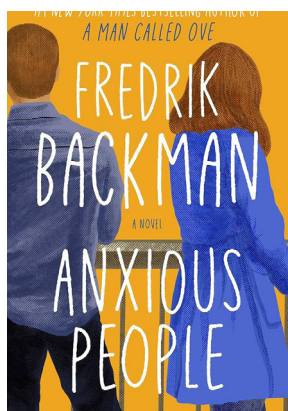
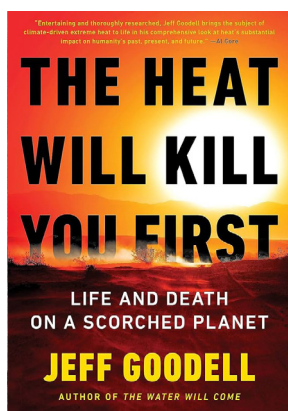
Rise Against Hunger Photos



Fire Safety & Eagle Scout Photos



United Book Club



NOV 10 | 1 - 2:30PM DEC 8 | 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

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

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

Please contact Ron Dickerson
rondickersonupc@gmail.com

November Birthdays & Anniversaries

NOV 3 Susan Lance
NOV 6 Jay Richardson
NOV 7 Kathleen Craig
Chris Lance
NOV 8 Alan Jenkins
NOV 13 Jack Slocum
Mark & Chris Wolf

NOV 16 Janice Fritzmeier
NOV 17 Georgina Townsend
NOV 21 Roberta Maloney
Patrick Nannery
NOV 22 Mary Jane Handlin
NOV 30 Faraja Keyes

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, November 30th 2025

Last collection was Sunday, August 31, 2025. Next five Sunday month is November 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.

**HOLY STROLLERS
WALKING GROUP**



**JOIN US ON A WEEKLY STROLL
TO GET SOME FRESH AIR**

EVERY FRIDAY AT 9AM



**ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)**



PRAYER GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday 11a | Room 14

- United Presbyterian Church | NOVEMBER 2025 Newsletter -

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

Church Website: upchurchbradenton.org

November

2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

Daylight Savings Ends

Present Word 8:45a

Worship Service
w/ Communion
10a | Fellowship

3

4

5

Outreach / 3p

Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel Choir | 7p

6

MEN'S GROUP
8:30a | Poppi's

7

HOLY STROLLERS | 9a

Our Daily Bread
9:30a

8

9

Commitment Sunday

Present Word 8:45a

Worship Service
10a | Fellowship

10

Book Club / 1p

11

VETERANS DAY
PRAYER GROUP | 11a
Deacons Meeting
6:30pm

12

Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel Choir | 7p

13

FINANCE - 3:30P
Renewal - 6p

14

HOLY STROLLERS | 9a

Our Daily Bread
9:30a

15

16

Present Word 8:45a

Worship Service
10a | Fellowship

17

18

UPC SESSION
| 1p

19

Bell Choir | 6p
Chancel Choir | 7p

20

MEN'S GROUP
8:30a

21

HOLY STROLLERS | 9a

Our Daily Bread
9:30a

GRAPEVINE INPUTS DEADLINE

22

23

Present Word 8:45a

Worship Service
10a | Fellowship
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING | 11a

24

25

26

OFFICE CLOSED

27

THANKSGIVING
OFFICE CLOSED

28

OFFICE CLOSED
HOLY STROLLERS | 9a

Our Daily Bread
9:30a

29

30

Present Word 8:45a

Worship Service
10a | Fellowship

3 CENTS A MEAL

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](#).