



The Grapevine



Where is God leading us?

Reverend Edward Dunn

When we met for our Ministry Fair event on September 14, I was uncertain what to expect. I was anxious about what I might hear from those who would attend. Our topic for this annual event is a difficult one – the future of the church. The discussion we were planning to have focused on this overarching question:

If we were to rebuild this church, what would you envision it looking like?

In answer to this question, two perspectives come to mind; a physical rebuilding and a spiritual rebuilding. We must consider them together, not separately. One calls for more “technical” responses – quick and easy answers; the other calls for “adaptive” responses – longer term, big picture answers. There are few easy answers and many hard answers about our future.

At our meeting that September morning, we heard from leaders who have been engaged in discussions about re-generation. We learned that portions of our building have been shared with groups and businesses in our community including the fire department, Creative Arts Academy, and several smaller businesses. We heard about meetings that have taken place with community leaders asking, “What are the needs of our community?” In reply we have learned that affordable housing is a primary concern and food insecurity and social isolation are secondary issues. Several of you gave voice to ideas about our location and our building in light of the data provided.

The phrase, “To everything there is a season...there is a time to...” is found in Ecclesiastes 3. The result of our prayerful discernment, which includes discussions like the ones we have been and will be engaged in acknowledge a season and a time that is dawning for us.

What is your vision of the church as it goes forward? Where is God leading us? I am encouraged by the openness I have heard from all who have joined in this conversation. I am eager and anxious to hear how God will direct our future and excited that you are joining this journey.

Blessings,
Edward

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.

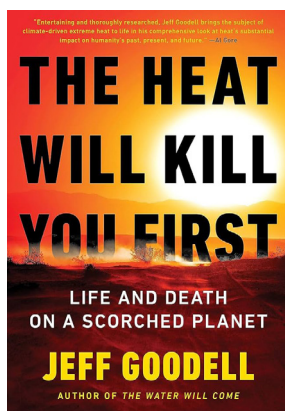
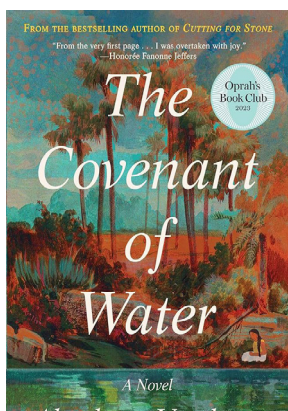
Do you know of anyone who might be interested in such a position, three days a week for three hours a day? Perhaps yourself?

If so, please call Roy Williams - Personnel.

October Session Highlights

- Approved a \$500 donation to Agape Flights for Thanksgiving dinners.
- Third Quarter Contribution Statements will be distributed beginning October 5th.
- Approved repairs to the two main Sanctuary AC Units totaling \$14,854.
- The courtyard has been cleared of trees, stumps and shrubs as a first step toward improving its appearance.
- A new efficient ice-making machine has been installed to replace the old unit that had stopped functioning.
- The Church Nominating Committee will begin its work soon to propose a slate of nominees for Elders and Deacons whose terms expire at the end of the year.
- Expressed appreciation for those who attended the Ministry Fair and Breakfast and who remained to hear about the work of the Project Regeneration committee and participate in the discussion of ideas for the use of our vacant building space and land.

United Book Club



OCT 13 | 1 - 2:30PM NOV 10 | 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



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

OCT 2 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

OCT 16 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Ron Dickerson
rondickersonupc@gmail.com

October Outreach Update & Opportunities

Welcome back snowbirds, including me. It's nice to get back to the schedule of activities in the church. A "Season of Building and Change", but some things stay the same, like many things in outreach. Check it out! Thank you for all you. The more you give, the more you receive.

September Outreach Activities:



- The Dreyer Trust Disbursements totaled \$27,633.65 to help those in need through the Christian Care Alliance.
- Two barrels of donations of non-perishable food was collected for the Food Bank over the summer.
- Palma Sola Elementary School was delighted with the many donations for their health clinic. See picture.
- Our Outreach Donations for the Food Bank totaled \$780.
- The "3 Cents A Meal" collection for June and August were \$605. (\$201.66 to Beth-El, \$201.67 to Mision Peniel, and \$201.67 to Our Daily Bread).
- F.E.L.T. (Feeding Empty Little Tummies) collection from April to the end of August was \$533.
- A lovely "Thank you" video was received from Mision Peniel for the backpacks purchased for their students.
- Outreach Offering for September has been for Bible Mission USA.
- "Stock Up September" DOES IT project was collecting jelly and zip lock sandwich bags for our PB&J sandwich ministry for Our Daily Bread.
- We have continued to make 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches each week. Yay team!!!
- Volunteers have served at Our Daily bread each Friday.

October Outreach Opportunities:

- Our DOES It (Done On Every Sunday) project for October will be collecting toothpaste and toothbrushes for farmworkers and their families served by Mision Peniel in Immokalee. Mision Peniel provides a place to find spiritual renewal, food, clothing, and other personal supplies for the migrant community. Drop your items in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by October 26th.
- There will be a Fire Safety Presentation given by Manatee Fire Department on Saturday October 4th in fellowship hall from 10-12'.
- Rise Against Hunger Food Packing event will be held on Saturday October 11th from 10:30-12:30 in fellowship hall. This is a fun and rewarding event to help fight world hunger. 90 volunteers are needed to fully staff the event, so bring your family, neighbors and friends.

October Outreach Opportunities & Offering

- Pen Pal Letters from PSES will be received in the first week of October. Please consider being a pen pal to one or more of the second graders and enjoy months of connecting with the younger generation. They love it and you will too!
- Holy Strollers will start again on Friday October 10th at the north entrance to Robinson's Preserve at 9:00.

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!

October Outreach Offering

Our Outreach Offering for October 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



Life Safety Tips for Seniors

WEST MANATEE FIRE TO HOST FIRE SAFETY AT UNITED PRESBYTERIAN

Learn & Play: Trivia, Fall Prevention, Fire
Extinguisher Training and More



Saturday

October 4th
2025



10:00am – 12pm

Come join us for a Fun Filled Life safety training seminar specifically designed to increase all of our awareness and always creating a safe and healthy environment.

Contact Us:



941-761-1555



Bureau@wmfr.org



701 63rd Street West,
Bradenton, FL 34209



Rise

AGAINST HUNGER

EXPERIENCE

Rise Against Hunger works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity.

Join the movement!

Will you join us for an exciting, hands-on volunteer opportunity to package meals for global hunger relief? Check out our Rise Against Hunger Experience meal packaging event details below. We hope to see you there!



October 11, 2025

Goal = 12,096 Meals

Set-up 9:30a Pack 10:30a-12:30p

Volunteers Needed!

United Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall
6510 3rd Ave. West
Bradenton, FL 34209

Contact 941.792.3141 for more information

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

OCT 1 Myrna Felix, Shirley Christian
OCT 4 Debbie Grubb, James Wolf
OCT 14 Betty MacClinchy
OCT 17 Vicki Sokolich
OCT 20 Betty Bashaw

OCT 23 Amy Pedon
OCT 24 Sue Wedel
OCT 25 Lorraine Stork
OCT 28 David Battle
OCT 29 Sally Nannery



**HOLY STROLLERS
WALKING GROUP**

**JOIN US ON A WEEKLY STROLL
TO GET SOME FRESH AIR
EVERY FRIDAY AT 9AM**

**ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)**

The banner features a black background with white spider webs. In the top right, there is a white silhouette of a person walking. At the bottom, there are three colorful illustrations of people walking: two women on the left and one man on the right.



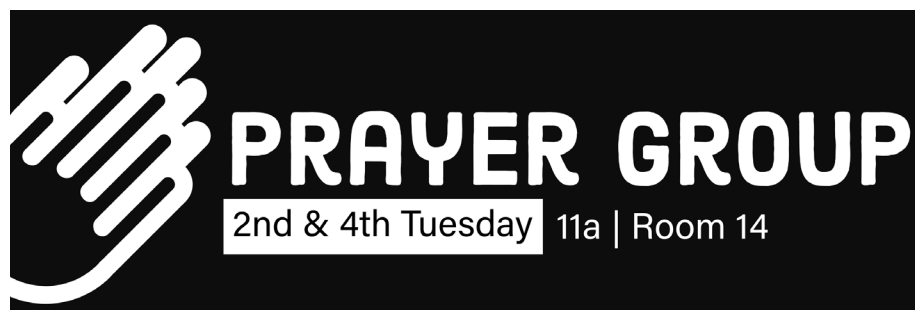
**CHANCEL CHOIR
REHEARSALS**

WEDNESDAYS AT 7P IN THE SANCTUARY

BELL CHOIR REHEARSALS

WEDNESDAYS AT 6P IN THE SANCTUARY

The banner has a light gray background with a pattern of diagonal lines. On the right side, there are several orange musical notes of different sizes.



PRAYER GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday 11a | Room 14

The banner is black with a white graphic on the left that resembles a stylized hand or a series of parallel lines. The text is in white.

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

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

Church Website: upchurchbradenton.org

October

2025

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

			1 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	2 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Poppi's <i>Renewal - 6p</i>	3 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	4 LIFE SAFETY TRAINING 10a
5 World Communion Sunday Present Word 8:45a Worship Service w/ Communion 10a Fellowship PEN PAL LETTERS	6	7	8 <i>Outreach / 3p</i> Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	9	10 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	11 RISE AGAINST HUNGER MEAL PACKING 10:30a EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR 5P
12 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	13 Columbus Indigenous People's Day <i>Book Club / 1p</i>	14 PRAYER GROUP 11a	15 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	16 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a FINANCE - 3:30P	17 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	18
19 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	20	21 UPC SESSION 1p	22 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	23	24 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a GRAPEVINE INPUTS DEADLINE	25
26 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	27	28 PRAYER GROUP 11a	29 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	30	31	

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](#).