



The Grapevine



Current Thinking & New Ventures

Reverend Edward Dunn

One of the many wonderful things about continuing education is the exposure to current thinking. The last six months have been a great time to be exposed to the writings of current theologians and biblical scholars, and to hear fresh interpretations of older texts and works. My coursework has included conversations with professors from New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States. My bookshelves now include current scholarship on topics such as leadership, theology, and scriptural interpretation. What has been old is taking on a new life and filling me with fresh energy and ways to share our mission together.

One of the new ventures our Outreach team is exploring is a Day 4 Hope, a program that provides school children with the essentials they will need at the start of the new school year. Children who participate in this program receive medical and dental care; backpacks filled with school supplies, gift cards to purchase clothing, and groceries for their family. In the coming weeks you will hear more about this opportunity to join with other congregations to help children whose families have very limited financial resources.

The implied goal of Day 4 Hope is to open the eyes and minds of tomorrow's scholars in order to make our world a better and safer place for all. I hope you will consider supporting this new venture as we begin our work.

I also remind you that as March comes to an end, we will reach the holiest time of the church year. On Sunday March 29th our worship will be the commemoration of Palm/Passion Sunday followed by an evening meal and Tenebrae service on Thursday, April 2. Easter will be observed on April 5 and we will hold our Sunrise service at the Palma Sola Botanical Park at 7a.m. and our traditional service at 10a.m. in our sanctuary. I encourage you to join us for this special time in our church year.

Blessings,
Edward



SPRING POTLUCK LUNCHEON

March 15th After Service

Please bring a dish that represents your favorite meal from your hometown to share with others.

Join Us this Lenten Season!

Come walk with us through Lent, Holy Week, and Easter — all are welcome to worship, learn, and celebrate together.



Service on March 29th @ 10a

Lenten Lunches

Wednesdays, March 4 – March 25 | 11:30 a.m.

Soup • Salad • Bread • Dessert

Bible Between Sunday Study: “Why Easter Matters”

Wednesdays, March 4 – March 25 | 10:30 a.m. in the parlor

HOLY WEEK EVENTS:

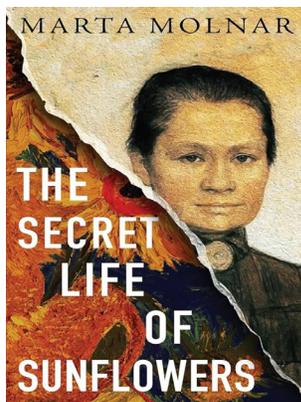
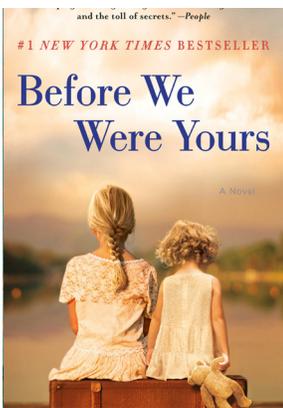
- Palm Sunday Service – March 29
- Maundy Thursday Dinner & Service – April 2 | 6:00 p.m.
- Easter Sunrise Service – April 5 | 7:00 a.m. (Botanical Garden)
- Easter Sunday Service – April 5 | 10:00 a.m.

More information is coming next month.

February Session Highlights

- Reviewed last minute details for the Presbytery Meeting being held at United on February 19th.
- Approved revisions to the Manual of Administrative Operations to bring this document into alignment with Bylaw changes made by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. These changes set the minimum number of Elders on Session at five, remove reference to how the group would be organized and permits an Elder on the Church Nominating Committee to be nominated for further active service on Session.
- Approved hiring Vicki Sokolich as our new Administrative Assistant to staff the Office for three hours a day (9am – 12 N), three days a week (Tues – Thurs).
- Welcomed the news that all vacant office space on the Second Floor is now fully leased.

United Book Club



MAR 9 | 1 - 2:30PM APR 13 | 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



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 5 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

MAR 19 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Ron Dickerson
rondickersonupc@gmail.com

Outreach Update & Opportunities

During the Lenten let us not only think of what we can sacrifice, but how we can demonstrate God's love through you and what you can do for those less fortunate.

February Outreach Highlights:

- Outreach offering contributions for Our Daily Bread as of 2/3/26 is \$320.
- FELT (Feeding Empty Little Tummies) contributions were \$147.
- \$317 was collected for the Souper Sunday Event, which was donated to the Food Bank.
- A successful Hope Seeds Packing Event was held on February 26, 2026.
- The Dreyer Trust distributions through January were \$3966.
- We received our third round of Pen Pal Letters from the 2nd graders at Palma Sola Elementary School. Responses are due back on March 8th.
- The Blessing Box is restocked every Sunday and community neighbors are "blessed" with those non-perishable food items.
- Thank you for your donations of ready-to-use soup for our February DOES IT project for the Food Bank.
- We continue to make 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every Sunday for Our Daily Bread.
- Loyal volunteers serve lunch every Friday at Our Daily Bread.

March Outreach Opportunities:

- The Outreach DOES IT project for March will be collecting eyeglasses for Project Light, a program teaching English to adult speakers of other languages.

St. Patrick's Day @ Brookdale Assisted Living

A St. Patrick's Day event at Brookdale/ Palma Sola is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17th from 2-3 PM. We would love to have you join members of the Outreach Team for trivia, craft, and snacks with the residents

United Takes MOTE MARINE

A visit to the new Mote Marine is planned on March 12th. The cost is \$32/person. Folks will carpool from the church. Sign-up in the Narthex. A 10% discount will be applied if we have 10 or more people.

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, March 29th 2026

Last collection was Sunday, November 30, 2025. Next five Sunday month is March 2026.

119 days x 3 meals a day = 357 meals.

357 meals x .03 = \$10.71. Please feel free to round up!

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

Outreach Opportunities & Offering

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!

"DAY 4 HOPE"

Day4Hope is based on God's vision laid on Pam Hawn's heart to serve the children in our school system who are homeless or in great need with the basics to begin the first day of school on an even playing field. Her dream was to give each child a sense of pride and self-esteem. Kirkwood Presbyterian Church will host one of the "**Days 4 Hope**" on **July 25, 2026, from 9-1** and we would like to support them by raising funds to sponsor some students at a cost of \$110 each and help with packing of supplies and shadowing the volunteers during the event. Churches are encouraged to work with the local school. (Palma Sola Elementary school). The guidance counselor identifies the families in need. The various stations include: a prayer station, community resources, Lion's club vision and hearing screening, photo station, books and toys, backpack with school supplies, hygiene supplies, 25 pounds of groceries from Detweillers and All Faith Food Bank, and a \$75 gift card for clothes and shoes. **The Giving Challenge Day is April 15-16 | Noon to Noon**, when the funds can be matched. Let's raise funds to support this amazing program!

March Outreach Offering

Our **Outreach Offering for March** will go to "**DAY 4 HOPE**". We are looking to participate with a donation to support student(s) (cost of \$110 per student) who would be participating at Kirkwood Presbyterian on July 25, 2026. We also will volunteer to learn more about this special program.

You may donate to "**DAY 4 HOPE**":

- *during the worship service, in your offering envelope,*
- *by mailing a check to the church office with "DAY 4 HOPE" in the memo line, or*
- *or contribute through online giving*

Habitat Work Day Photos



**MARCH 12,
2026 | 10A**

Departure: Carpool from United Church

Tour Length: 1.5 – 3 Hours

Come discover marine life from around the world – right in our own backyard! The Outreach Team has organized an outing to visit the new Mote SEA (Science Education Aquarium) near University Town Center Mall.

Learn about local and worldwide marine life, visit manatees, and touch stingrays, sharks, and other sea creatures in Mote's new state of the art facility.

MOTE MARINE SEA FIELD TRIP

We will carpool from the church and tickets are \$32 per person with a 10% discount for 10 or more. Sign up in the Narthex to arrange for your space. See Andrea Harmon with any questions

<https://mote.org/about/>



March Birthdays & Anniversaries

MAR 3 Peter & Vicki Sokolich

MAR 7 Susan Corbett

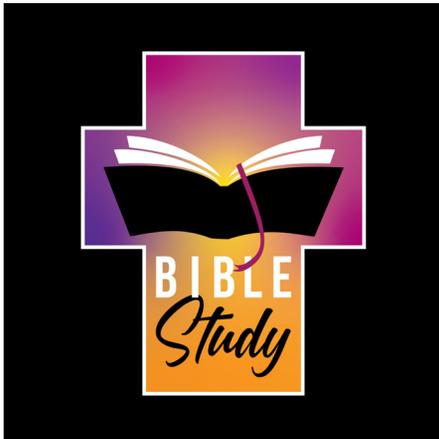
MAR 8 Dorothy Simes

MAR 13 Fran Hensley

MAR 19 Patty Dawson

MAR 23 Wilma Hamilton

MAR 25 Rich & Phyllis Wachunis



“The Present Word” - BIBLE STUDY

We gather each Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. for Bible Study using The Present Word curriculum from the Presbyterian Church (USA). New materials are provided each quarter, making it easy to join at any time — everyone is welcome!

**HOLY STROLLERS
WALKING GROUP** 

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

EVERY FRIDAY AT 9AM

**ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)**

An illustration of three people walking. On the left, a woman in a purple top and grey skirt is walking. In the middle, a woman in a red top and grey skirt is walking. On the right, a man in a green shirt and blue pants is walking.

PRAYER GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday 11a | Room 14

- **United Presbyterian Church | March 2026 Newsletter** -

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

Church Website: upchurchbradenton.org

March

2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service w/ Communion 10a Fellowship	2	3 <i>Outreach / 3p</i>	4 <i>Between Sundays</i> 10:30am LENTEN SOUP 11:30A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	5 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Poppi's <i>Renewal - 6p</i>	6 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	7
8 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY	9 <i>Book Club / 1p</i>	10 PRAYER GROUP 11A DEACONS 6:30P	11 <i>Between Sundays</i> 10:30am LENTEN SOUP 11:30A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	12 MOTE MARINE FINANCE - 3:30P	13 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	14
15 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a POT LUCK LUNCH 11A	16	17 ST. PATRICK'S DAY Brookdale Assist. Living - St Patrick's Day 2p UPC SESSION 3:15p	18 <i>Between Sundays</i> 10:30am LENTEN SOUP 11:30A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	19 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	20 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	21
22 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	23	24 PRAYER GROUP 11A	25 <i>Between Sundays</i> 10:30am LENTEN SOUP 11:30A Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	26	27 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a GRAPEVINE INPUTS DEADLINE	28
29 PALM SUNDAY Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship 3 CENTS A MEAL	30	31				

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](#).