



The Grapevine



From Spring to Summer

Reverend Edward Dunn

I begin the last term in my first year of D.Min. studies at Duke University this month. The pictures above tell only a partial story of my experience. It has been an academically challenging and rewarding opportunity; brushing off certain dusty study habits, worshiping in an inspiring setting, and taking time to enjoy and be part of a community of friends. I'm eager to begin the summer term in late May, in person for a week and then online through the end of July.

I'm looking forward to this summer season at United as a time when we can worship and fellowship. We will spend several weeks in the stories of Old Testament persons – Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekkah, Esau and Jacob, and Joseph and his brothers – in worship and as part of a summer study, Between Sundays beginning in June.

Summer can also be a time for new things. As our leadership continues discerning our future through Project Regeneration, we will, from time to time, invite you to try something different.

We will be performing some long-deferred lighting maintenance and updates in the sanctuary, necessitating a few times when we worship in the Fellowship Hall. We are assessing other areas of the church building for improvements such as painting or upgrades, again making a shift in certain activities necessary.

Summer will be a time to celebrate the blessings that God has provided. I encourage you to join us for our church cookout in June, our ice cream social in July, and our beach picnic in August.

Each of these activities tell a partial story of our life together as United Presbyterian Church. The story becomes more and more complete as you join in the making of that story.

**Blessings,
Edward**



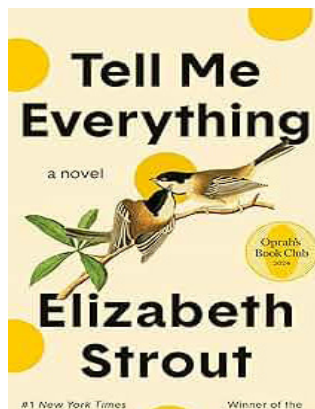
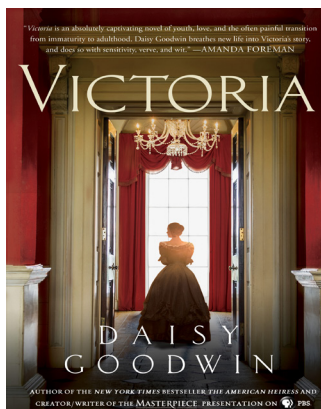
“The Present Word” - BIBLE STUDY

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!

April Session Highlights

- Approved the Outreach Offering for June, July and August going to The Food Bank of Manatee.
- Extended Rev. Dunn’s previously approved absence (May 14th-24th) through May 28th.
- Rescheduled the May Stated Session Meeting from May 19th to May 26th, to be held via Zoom.
- Appointed Elders Ron and Gail Dickerson to be Commissioners for the Stated Presbytery Meeting being held at First Presbyterian in Arcadia on May 14th.
- Set the baptism and reception of new members to occur at worship on May 31st.
- Received the Application and Score Card for recertification of the church as an Earth Care Congregation. Our successful recertification for a third year is anticipated.
- Approved having the Outreach Offerings for June, July and August go to the Food Bank of Manatee.
- Approved sending a budgeted contribution of \$3,000 to the Nortons, our missionaries in Guatemala.
- Approved consolidating or distributing several restricted fund assets formerly held at Westminster to accounts with similar restrictions at United.
- Approved going forward with the replacement of all fluorescent bulbs in the Sanctuary.

United Book Club



MAY 11 | 1 - 2:30PM JUN 8 | 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

MAY 7 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

MAY 21 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Ron Dickerson
rondickersonupc@gmail.com

Project Light Thanks United

Dear Members of the United Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the entire team at Project Light of Manatee, and on my own behalf, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of reading glasses.

Your thoughtful gift will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students. For many adult learners, the ability to see clearly is essential—not only for reading and writing, but for building confidence and fully engaging in the learning process. Your support will help our students see better, learn more effectively, and take important steps toward improving their lives.

Thanks to your generosity, we are better equipped to provide enhanced English language instruction during the 2025–2026 school year. Over the past three decades, Project Light has proudly served more than 5,000 students from over 25 countries. We are especially encouraged that more than 50% of our students return to continue their studies—a testament to the trust they place in our program and the welcoming, respectful environment we strive to create.

Your support is truly making an impact. It is because of partners like you that we can continue offering vital educational opportunities that empower individuals, strengthen families, and enrich our community.

Thank you once again for your kindness, generosity, and commitment to our mission. We are deeply grateful.

With sincere appreciation,

Sincerely,

Elena Farkas
Executive Director

Outreach Update & Opportunities

We have had a busy spring. Thank you for supporting so many outreach events and donations. YOU are a blessing to our community and beyond.

April Outreach Highlights:

- We donated 55 eyeglasses to Project Light, a non-profit program teaching English to adult speakers of other languages. They were very grateful and sent us a lovely calendar and thank you letter. They are struggling due to some of the new regulations.
- April D.O.E.S. IT was collecting baby wipes. We will purchase diapers from the Outreach budget to supplement the donation for the Food Pantry.
- Our Outreach Offering in March for Day4Hope, along with donations during the Giving Challenge, enabled us to support 9 students from Palma Sola Elementary School to participate in a Day4Hope in July.
- Thank you for the April donations for One Great Hour of Sharing to support three PC USA programs providing people with safety, sustenance, and hope.
- The Pen Pal Party was enjoyed by 20 church pen pals and 52 second grade students on April 9th.
- The Dreyer Trust distribution to date is \$10,704.
- We donated \$3000 from the Missionary Support Account to the Nortons in Guatemala.
- Three Cents a Meal collection on March 29th was \$327.75.
- FELT collections for the first quarter were \$227.00.
- The Blessing Box was replenished each Sunday and continues to be used by the community.
- Each Friday volunteers faithfully served at Our Daily Bread.
- 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are made each week after service for the clients of Our Daily Bread.

May & Ongoing Outreach Opportunities:

- The May DOES IT project will be collecting pet food for the clients of MOW with pets.
- 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!

May Outreach Offering - Meals on Wheels

Our Outreach Offering for May will go to Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee.

Meals on Wheels is so much more than meals! Meals on Wheels of Manatee was founded in 1972 with the purpose of providing nutritious meals to the elderly and disabled residents of Manatee County. The organization has grown over the years in response to community needs, with a “PLUS” eventually being added to the name as a way of representing the many other services offered. Programs are:

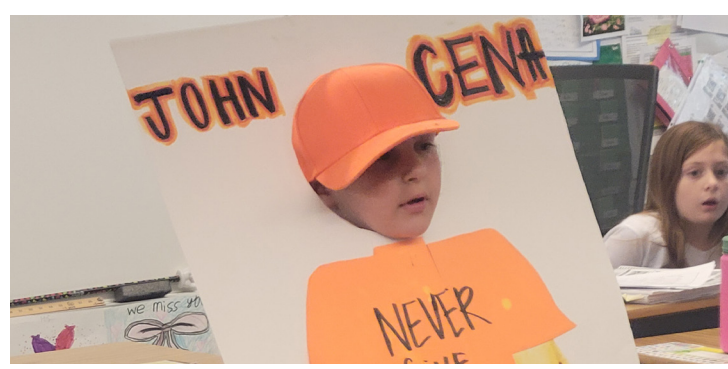
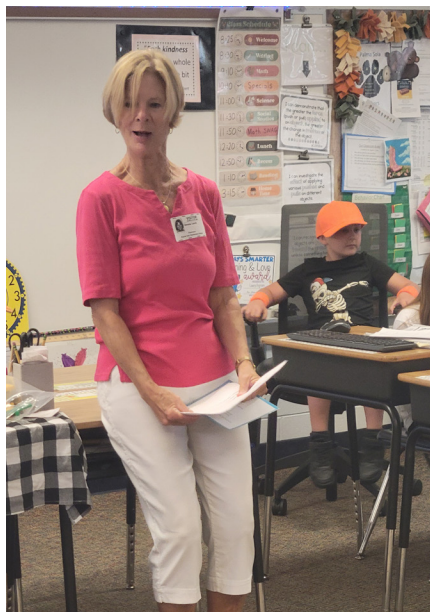
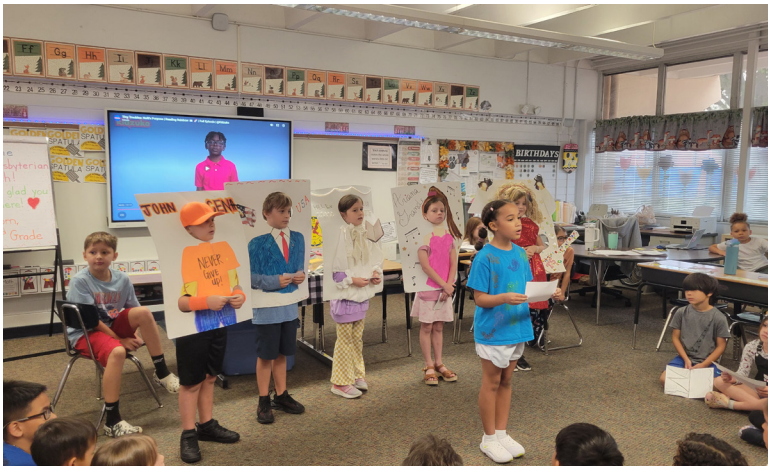
- **Home-delivered Meals** – includes weekday fresh and weekend frozen meals delivered by volunteers to over 1000 seniors per day, along with fresh fruits and vegetables once a month, and twice monthly cat and dog food deliveries to those in need.
- **The Food Bank of Manatee** – along with being the largest hunger relief agency in Manatee County, The Food Bank operates a mobile produce pantry, emergency family food programs, and a baby basket program for mothers and infants up to 2 years old in critical need.
- **Daybreak Adult Day Center** – provides a safe and secure environment with social, recreational, and therapeutic activities designed to meet the needs of older adults who live at home with a loved one but cannot be left alone while their caregiver works or attends to other responsibilities.
- **Friendship Dining Centers** – a program for people over 60 who would like to make new friends, participate in fun activities, hear from experts on a variety of topics as well as enjoy a nutritious meal.

In 2025, Meals on Wheels delivered over 162,000 meals to seniors in the community; distributed nearly 3.55 million pounds of food through The Food Bank; provided over 33,500 pounds of fresh, free produce; dispensed 237,000 meals to families in need and 6,250 pounds of pet food for clients furry friends, and offered nutrition and therapeutic activities to over 85 seniors in their social and congregate meal programs. Helping the most vulnerable in our community is certainly a “PLUS!” Please support Meals on Wheels PLUS through the May Outreach Offering and DOES It collection of pet food and be a partner in this important work.

You may donate to Meals on Wheels:

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

Pen Pal Party Photos



In March we began our fifth year as a certified Earth Care Congregation within PC(USA). Each year our annual report summarizes the activities we do that lead to certification. But what can we do as a congregation that would be even more impactful in setting a good example for others and helping to preserve Creation for future generations? Your thoughts are welcome. Here's something individuals can do right now, contributed by member Betty Bashaw...

An Earth Care Congregation Message

HONEYBEES NEED OUR HELP

**Acetamiprid...Clothianidin...Dinotefuran...
Imidacloprid...Thiamethoxam**

These chemicals are killing bees. If you see any of these ingredients listed on products in your home or your local garden center, do not use them.

In 2025, beekeepers lost upward of 60 percent of their hives due to the use of neurotoxic insecticides, called neonics, which are used on our crops, lawns, gardens and golf courses. This has begun to limit the size of crops we eat, for example apples, blueberries, cherries are now pollinator limited. According to the Natural Resources Defense Council, these chemicals are linked to harm not only to pollinators and insects but to the fish, birds and mammals that eat them, as well as widespread soil and water contamination. At the same time, research is finding links to harm in people as well. The EPA has not regulated the use of these chemicals nationwide, so some states are taking action to curb their use. Florida has not regulated these chemicals yet, but there is something WE can do to protect bees, the environment and humans. We can choose not to use these chemicals ourselves!

The chart below, provided by the nonprofit Friends of the Earth, lists the neonics by their chemical name and products that contain them.



May Birthdays & Anniversaries

MAY 2	Liz Brackmann & George Peredy	MAY 20	Jackie Hoyle
MAY 6	Ron Dickerson, Gilbert & Anita Smith	MAY 23	Joan Dowling
MAY 8	Roger Tyrrell	MAY 25	Louise Van Pelt, Elenita & Marty Musgrove
MAY 14	Diane Hayward	MAY 27	Donna Lesch, Nina Richardson
MAY 19	Phyllis Wachunis	MAY 30	Joyce Knouse

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, May 31st 2026

Last collection was Sunday, March 29, 2026. Next five Sunday month is August 2026.

63 days x 3 meals a day = 189 meals.

357 meals x .03 = \$5. 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

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 | May 2026 Newsletter -

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

Church Website: upchurchbradenton.org



May 2026



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	2
3 Present Word 8:45a Sunday Service Communion 10a Fellowship 11a	4	5 Cinco De Mayo	6 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	7 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Poppi's	8 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	9
10 Mother's Day Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	11 Book Club 1p	12 PRAYER GROUP 11A Deacons 6:30P	13 Outreach 3p Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	14 FINANCE - 3:30P	15 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	16
17 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	18	19	20 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	21 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a	22 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a GRAPEVINE INPUTS DEADLINE	23
24 PENTECOST Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	25 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	26 PRAYER GROUP 11A UPC SESSION 3:15p	27 Bell Choir 6p Chancel Choir 7p	28	29 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	30
31 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship 3 CENTS A MEAL	<p><u>UPC - Resource Links</u> 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>					