



The Grapevine



The Reform That God Brings

Reverend Edward Dunn

By October 31, 1517 Martin Luther, a German priest and scholar from the town of Wittenburg had had enough. He had been appointed to a chair of Biblical Studies at the university, which provided him with the time and access to scripture that would transform Luther and the world. On that day Martin Luther posted a document we refer to as Ninety-five Theses to the door of the church. The thesis were a series of statements that called for dialogue and change in certain practices within the Roman Catholic Church.

The response of the Catholic Church was not what Luther had longed for. In the end he was excommunicated and if apprehended would certainly face a heresy trial before the Catholic authorities.

The outcome was the establishment of a new church, one that arose out of protest (henceforth known as a Protestant Church) and the beginning of a movement toward reforms in other parts of Europe.

John Calvin was influenced in part by Luther's attempts and thus became a leader in the reform movement in Geneva. Those who would follow his reasoning and interpretation of scripture, including John Knox in Scotland, would be known as Reformers.

October 31 is identified as Reformation Sunday. It is the occasion the churches that grew out of Luther and Calvin's work to acknowledge our existence as a "church reformed, always being reformed according to the Word of God." It has been slightly more than 500 years since the launch of this reformation, and we are reminded even today of the reform that God is bringing about in the church.

On Sunday, October 25 United Presbyterian Church will commemorate Reformation Sunday during our worship service at 10am. We have extended an invitation to our neighbors at Redeemer Lutheran Church to join us that morning and look forward to their participation in worship and our luncheon afterward. I hope you will join us as we mark this special day in the life of the church.

Blessings,
Edward



Fellowship & Coffee Hour

Come share some fellowship time with each other!

What's Needed: Food donations or monetary donations to purchase food for Fellowship & Coffee Hour

Reformation Sunday Luncheon

OCT 25 | After Sunday Service

Join us for a delicious meal: Shepherd's pie, Salad, Rolls & Shortbread.

*** \$5 Donations are encouraged. Donations will purchase food for the Blessing Box!***

Sign up sheet will be in the Narthex or call the church office 941-792-3141

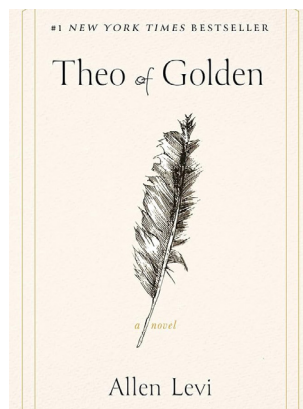
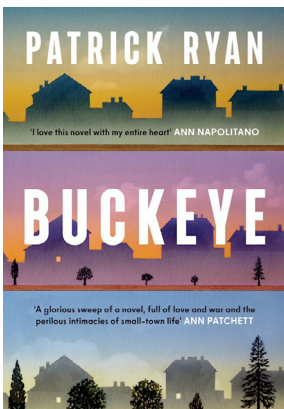
Looking Ahead

Between Sunday's Advent Bible Study... Starting in December

September Session Highlights

- Noted that the Church Nominating Committee will begin its work to prepare a slate of nominees for church office soon and encouraged solicitation of candidate names from the congregation to fill these important positions.
- Welcomed the return of the 'Between the Sundays' Bible Study beginning Wednesday, December 2nd
- Noted that the former Westminster Endowment Fund balance has been consolidated with the United Endowment Fund at New Covenant Trust and will be managed under the same investment Policy.
- Approved a church Workday being scheduled for Saturday, November 14th.
- Advised all church Team/committee leaders having budget responsibilities to begin development of their Preliminary 2027 Operating Budget. Worksheets were distributed to the appropriate individuals. The first pass income/expense budget will be assembled in late October.
- Endorsed continued membership of Rev. Dunn on the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry for his second two-year term.

United Book Club



OCT 12 | 1 - 2:30PM NOV 9 | 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

OCT 1 - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

OCT 15 - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Ron Dickerson
rondickersonupc@gmail.com

UPC Small Group Feedback

Questions, Concerns and Suggestions

While gathered in small groups at worship in Fellowship Hall on August 31st, the congregation was asked to consider three directions for the future of United Church, namely: 1) Remain as is, 2) Establish a Community Center and 3) Build Affordable Housing. Following a short time of table discussion, individuals recorded on Post-it Notes their personal questions, concerns and questions about any or all of these three directions. The individual Notes were then posted on a big board for all to see. Tabulated below is all of the input from the Post-it Notes.

As it goes forward in its study, the Project Regen Committee will use these questions, concerns and suggestions to ensure that a thorough analysis of each direction is made. Thank you for your individual input and your continued interest and involvement in this study. And, should other thoughts have come to mind, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Committee.

KEEP 'AS IS'- PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO

Questions:

- 1) How much money do we need to pay the air conditioning each month ?
- 2) Could we just use the Fellowship Hall for service for a while ?

Suggestions/Opportunities:

- 1) Hold a major membership drive.
- 2) Change is definitely needed.
- 3) Have a Financial Drive.
- 4) Merge with additional churches.
- 5) Try to stay together as a church so as not to lose our identity in the area.
- 6) Invite another church in trouble to join us, as Westminster did.
- 7) Be involved at UPC.
- 8) Do things to promote making disciples: Put out more 'Welcome' signs, Have 'Greeters' stand outside on Sundays.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Questions:

- 1) How would we make money with a Community Center ?
- 2) Who would fund the Community Center ?
- 3) What would a Community Center involve and how much would it cost ?
- 4) Would a Community Center bring members into the church ?
- 5) Who would pay for upkeep ?
- 6) Would worship be held in the Community Center ?
- 7) How much would it cost to bring our facility up to Code for a Community Center ?
- 8) What would our commitment be in dollars and personnel ?

COMMUNITY CENTER (Cont.)

Suggestions/Opportunities:

- 1) Provide students with learning assistance.
- 2) Find a Director who pays (us) to host a school here.
- 3) Pray diligently and verify.
- 4) Computer lab.
- 5) Sell our excess land and invest in a sprinkler system.
- 6) Open our Fellowship Hall plus operation by the County.
- 7) County fund classes on gardening, art, exercise, etc.
- 8) Classes on active fitness, wellness, community garden, nature focused.
- 9) Yoga classes.
- 10) Thrift Store.
- 11) Offer many different activities that would be good in this community that are needed, such as: after-school activities and food opportunities.
- 12) Bring our buildings up to fire Code with sprinkler system. Rent old pre-school out as offices.
- 13) Clothing, kids after school, handicapped help, learning new things.
- 14) All ages-50+. Dancing. Classes for adults-Spanish, French, etc.
- 15) Use the church for a Community Center. Advertise all over. Hire a Manager and whatever else needs to be hired.

Concern/Challenges:

- 1) You will need advertising
- 2) Money for a computer lab

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Questions:

- 1) Why are we not reaching out to other churches that have done this ?
- 2) Would we sell our vacant land for the low-cost housing ?
- 3) Would low-income apartments draw membership to our church ?
- 4) Can we remodel this building for individual apartments ?
- 5) What would happen if someone could not pay rent ?
- 6) How could we ensure affordable housing would add to our membership ?

Suggestions/Opportunities:

- 1) Provide housing for younger handicapped people.

Concerns/Challenges:

- 1) It would be lots of work overseeing housing.
- 2) This concept doesn't sound like it would bring in more people. Only a money-maker.
- 3) Bulldozing the church down could have a negative effect on our spiritual and mental health.

Fall Outreach Updates

The fall season has begun at United, ushered in by our Ministry Fair last Sunday. You had an opportunity to see how much has been accomplished, how many options there are to continue and to give your input as to what you would like to see added and sign up for things to participate in. Let's open our minds and our hearts!

September Outreach Highlights:

- 3 Barrels of non-perishable food items were collected for the Food Bank in June, July and August.
 - The Blessing Box is refreshed with items weekly with funds from the Food Security budget. Items are also donated by the congregation.
 - Many school supply items were collected for Palma Sola Elementary School. We purchased a 10 pack of chart paper with funds from the education and literacy budget to add to the collection.
 - It was decided to continue our sponsorship with Palma Sola Elementary School for \$500 enabling us to retain our banner of the fence, be acknowledged in social media, have a booth at school events, have our name on the school marquee and logo on their website.
 - \$240 from the education and literacy budget was used to purchase "Help Kids Now-Drug Safety Books" designed for kids ages 10 and up, sponsored by Community Safety Net.
 - We have collected \$194 for FELT this quarter.
- 3 Cents A Meal for the quarter was \$419 which will be disbursed to Our Daily Bread, Mision Peniel and Beth El equally.
- The Dreyer Trust disbursements for the year as of September 1st are \$28,784.59.
 - The Outreach Offering for September has been for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

October Outreach Opportunities:

- Falls Prevention class is Saturday October 24th from 10-noon in fellowship hall.
 - Pen Pal letters from the second graders at Palma Sola will be arriving soon.
- Hope Seeds packing event will be November 7th from 10AM until noon.

Fall Outreach Opportunities

- Our UPC DOES IT (Done on Every Sunday) project for October is collecting items to restock our campus Blessing Box by the east parking lot. The Blessing Box serves as a mini food pantry for our local neighborhood and is open to anyone in need. Popular items include canned vegetables, fruits, meats, and soups as well as boxes and bags of pasta, rice, cereal, and jars of peanut butter. Single serve packages of crackers, cereal bars, fruit, and other snacks in addition to dental and hygiene items are also appreciated. Drop your items in the Narthex or bring them to the church office all month long.

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.
- 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 Sept. & Oct. will go to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

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

Fall Work Day!

Our Fall Work Day will take place on **Saturday, November 14th starting at 8:00 AM and ending 11:00 AM**. Volunteers are needed: even working part time would be appreciated. This is one of the two volunteer days each year to work on the front garden areas pulling weeds, pruning plants and mulching the gardens. It is an event that makes those working together feel much like a family.

Ministry Fair 2026 Photos



PRAYER GROUP

2nd & 4th Tuesday 11a | Room 14



MANATEE COUNTY Falls Prevention COALITION

Working together to prevent falls
and keep our community safe and strong!

STAY STEADY STAY INDEPENDENT

Falls are not a normal part of aging and are often preventable.
Join us for a Falls Prevention Presentation & Screening Event!

COMPLIMENTARY SCREENINGS

Know Your Risks & Take Action



BALANCE

Quick balance checks to
assess falls risk.



MOBILITY

Simple mobility screening
to assess potential needs.



HEARING

Hearing screening to support
communication & safety needs.



BLOOD PRESSURE

Blood pressure checks to support
heart health & overall wellness.

JOIN US!



Saturday, October 24th



10:00am-12:00pm



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

**Sign up to attend this
free educational event!**

**Meet local resources and learn simple steps you
can take to prevent falls and stay independent.**



Event brought to you by the **Manatee County Falls Prevention Coalition**.
A community partnership working together for safer, stronger lives.



941-567-2851



<http://themanateecountyfallspreventioncoalition.org>

October Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

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



**HOLY STROLLERS
WALKING GROUP**

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

EVERY FRIDAY AT 9AM

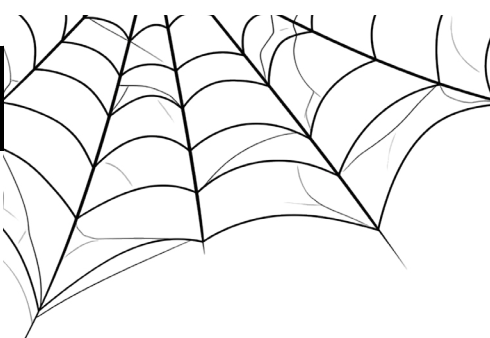
**ROBINSON PRESERVE
(NORTH ENTRANCE)**

The poster features a bright orange background. At the top, a white-bordered yellow rectangle contains the group's name in bold white text, accompanied by a white silhouette of a person walking. Below this, a black banner with white text invites participation in a weekly stroll. Underneath, the frequency and time are listed in bold white text. A white-bordered box specifies the location. At the bottom, three stylized figures are shown: two women on the left in mid-stride, and one man on the right walking.

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

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

Church Website: upchurchbradenton.org



October

2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a Poppi's	2 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	3
4 <i>World Communion</i> Present Word 8:45a Worship Service w/ Communion 10a Fellowship	5	6 <i>Outreach / 3p</i> RENEWAL 6P	7	8	9 Our Daily Bread 9:30a	10 Project Regeneration Mtg 9:30a
11 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	12 <i>Book Club / 1p</i>	13 PRAYER GROUP 11A	14 Chancel Choir 7p	15 MEN'S GROUP 8:30a FINANCE - 3:30P	16 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	17 <i>Presbytery Mtg Naples 9a</i>
18 Present Word 8:45a Worship Service 10a Fellowship	19	20 UPC SESSION 3:15p	21 Chancel Choir 7p	22	23 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a GRAPEVINE INPUTS DEADLINE	24 Fall Prevention Class 10a
25 Present Word 8:45a Reformation Sunday Worship Service w/ Redeemer Lutheran 10a Luncheon	26	27 PRAYER GROUP 11A	28 Chancel Choir 7p	29	30 HOLY STROLLERS 9a Our Daily Bread 9:30a	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.