



# The Grapevine



## *Fall Into Re-Commitment*

**Reverend Edward Dunn**

September is when things start to get “serious” again! Following a summer season filled with fewer activities and demands, the arrival of Autumn is an occasion to re-commit to the work that we are called to do. I invite you to note the following themes for September, October, and November and to join us in this “serious” season.

Our annual Ministry Fair event will be Sunday, September 13 following worship. This year’s event will be an opportunity to discover the variety of activities offered at United. It is also a time for fellowship and to join in the mission of our church. I hope you will join us for food, information about how you can contribute to our church, and fellowship with others.

The last Sunday in October is Reformation Sunday. Presbyterians are part of the family of Reformed Protestant Churches, which also includes Congregational and Reformed denominations. The name, Presbyterian, denotes the governance of congregations by Elders. Our worship service on October 24 will acknowledge the heritage of our tradition using ancient and modern sources derived from the Reformed motto of “a church reformed, always being reformed according to the Word of God.” Join us for bagpipes, kilts, and a delightful lunch following worship.

November will be our month of thankfulness. It begins with an opportunity to pack seeds on Saturday, November 7 with representatives from Hope Seeds. Join us at 10a.m. that morning to prepare packets of seeds that will provide food and a future to communities in great need. Around that same time in November, you are encouraged to offer your financial commitment to the church for the coming year. We give out of the acknowledgement of God’s abundant provision and in response to God’s grace. More information will be available during October however, it’s not too early to begin prayerful consideration of your pledge of support for the coming year.

This Autumn is a time of re-commitment to the mission God has given us as United Presbyterian Church. Our present and future depend on your generosity of time, talents, and treasure.

Blessings,  
Edward

## *2026 Mid-Year Finance Statement*

The Finance/Investment Committee provides the following financial information for the period, January 1 through June 30, 2026:

**Revenue: \$203,131\***

**Expenses: \$182,046**

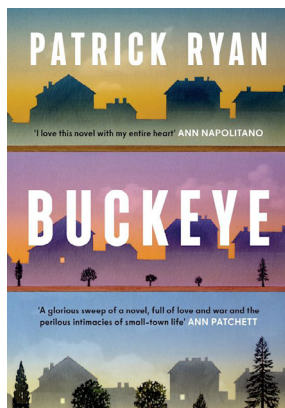
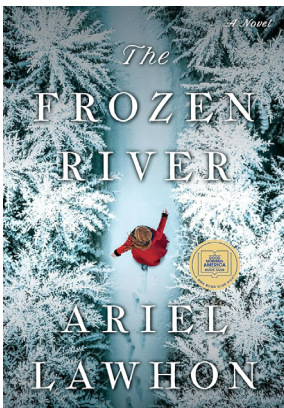
**Surplus: \$21,085**

\*Revenue includes a withdrawal of \$ 82,334 from Investments.

## Summer Session Highlights

- Endorsed plans for a Ministry Fair to be held on Sunday, September 13th with the focus on Connecting with Our Activities. Members will learn more about the many volunteer opportunities afforded by our church ministries and the needs for keeping operations humming.
- Renewed United's Sponsorship of Palma Sola Elementary for the new school year.
- Approved the Outreach offerings during September and October for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Approved an updated Financial Procedures and Practices document which simplifies wording, combines the Finance and Investment committees, documents the Policies for managing the church's investments and defines the responsibilities of the Bookkeeper.
- Approved combining the former WPC Endowment monies with the United Endowment Fund at New Covenant Trust.
- Received a Mid-Year Report on the performance of the church's invested assets.

### United Book Club



**SEPT 14 | 1 - 2:30PM OCT 12 | 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**

**SEPT 3** - Fellowship and breakfast | Poppi's Place restaurant

**SEPT 17** - Fellowship & a discussion about Christian Living | Fellowship Hall

Please contact Ron Dickerson  
[rondickersonupc@gmail.com](mailto:rondickersonupc@gmail.com)

# Summer Outreach Update

Summer certainly has gone by quickly. Kids are back in school and our snowbirds will be coming back to Florida. (including me) Our ministry fair is September 13th; time to see what you can be involved with and bring a new set of ideas to the possibilities for the future.

## Summer Outreach Highlights:

- Thanks for the many donations to the Food Bank both monetarily, \$806 for June and July (including donations from the ice cream social), and for your non-perishable food contributions.
- Rays Faith Day ball game on August 1st was attended by 16 members.
- Beach Picnic on July 29th was enjoyed by 27 people.
- Day4Hope event was held on July 25th at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church to prepare disadvantaged students for the start of school. There were seven trained volunteers from UPC and six students from Palma Sola Elementary School that we financially supported. In total there were 158 students supported at the Kirkwood location. Thank you for your donations and especially those who volunteered to make this a very successful event.
- The Dreyer Trust donations at the end of July totaled \$25,037.59.
- Members faithfully volunteered to serve at Our Daily Bread every Friday.
- Thank you for your contributions to 3 cents a meal on August 30th.

## September Outreach Opportunities:

- Our DOES IT (Done on Every Sunday) project for September is collecting back to school supplies for Palma Sola Elementary School. Drop donations in the bins in the Narthex or bring them to the church office by September 27th. Help us support our neighborhood school and make a GREAT start to the new school year.

### **Needed Items:**

*Highlighter markers*

*White board rasers*

*White cardstock*

*Colored pencils*

*Boxed Kleenex*

*Skinny & regular size Expo markers*

*Flip chart markers*

*Crayons*

*Disinfectant wipes*

*Chart paper*

# Fall Outreach Opportunities

- Our quarterly visit to the Palma Sola/Brookdale Senior Living facility will be September 8th from 2-3PM for Line Dancing led by Joan Carlson followed by a delicious treat.
- Manatee County Fall Prevention Coalition will have a presentation in fellowship hall on 10/24 from 10AM until 12 noon.

## 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!

## September & 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

# MINISTRY FAIR

For as in one body we have  
many members, and not all  
the members have the  
same function, so we, who  
are many, are one body in  
Christ, and individually we  
are members one of  
another.

Romans 12:4-5

Sunday  
September 13  
Fellowship Hall | 9A

# Summer Fun at United



# September Birthdays & Anniversaries

**SEPT 2** Sonia Wegner  
**SEPT 5** Tiffany Chinwuba  
**SEPT 6** Dennis & Vicki Schooley  
**SEPT 12** Mary Anne Paulsen  
**SEPT 14** Roger & Lynne Smith  
Michael Craig

**SEPT 16** Jason Onugha  
**SEPT 18** Mary Schumm  
**SEPT 24** Ron & Gail Dickerson  
**SEPT 26** Chris Wolf  
**SEPT 30** Tim Pedon



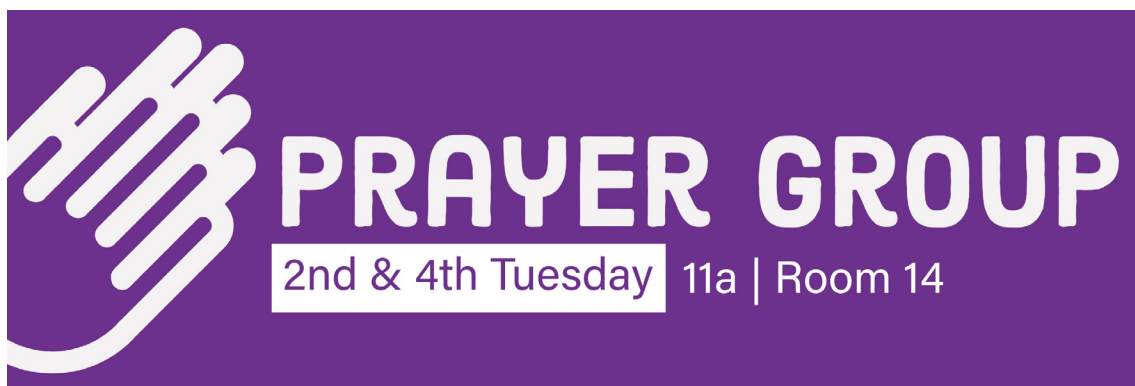
## "The Present Word" - BIBLE STUDY

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!

## Fellowship After Service



Fellowship will return on September 13th. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex to help with some food.  
Can't wait to see everyone!



- United Presbyterian Church | September 2026 Newsletter -

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

Church Website: [upchurchbradenton.org](http://upchurchbradenton.org)

# September

## 2026

| SUN                                                                                        | MON                         | TUE                                                                                                             | WED | THU                                         | FRI                                                                        | SAT |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|                                                                                            |                             | 1<br><i>Outreach / 3p</i><br><b>RENEWAL   6P</b>                                                                | 2   | 3<br><b>MEN'S GROUP<br/>8:30a   Poppi's</b> | 4<br>Our Daily Bread<br>9:30a                                              | 5   |
| 6<br>Present Word 8:45a<br>Worship Service<br>w/ Communion<br>10a                          | 7<br>LABOR DAY              | 8<br><b>PRAYER<br/>GROUP   11A</b><br>Line Dancing @<br>Brookdale Palma<br>Sola   2pm<br><b>Deacons   6:30p</b> | 9   | 10<br><b>FINANCE - 3:30P</b>                | 11<br>Our Daily Bread<br>9:30a                                             | 12  |
| 13<br><i>Grandparents Day</i><br>Ministry Fair   9a<br>Worship Service<br>10a   Fellowship | 14<br><i>Book Club / 1p</i> | 15<br><b>UPC SESSION<br/>  3:15p</b>                                                                            | 16  | 17<br><b>MEN'S GROUP<br/>8:30a</b>          | 18<br>Our Daily Bread<br>9:30a<br><br><b>GRAPEVINE INPUTS<br/>DEADLINE</b> | 19  |
| 20<br>Present Word 8:45a<br>Worship Service<br>10a   Fellowship                            | 21                          | 22<br><b>PRAYER<br/>GROUP   11A</b>                                                                             | 23  | 24                                          | 25<br>Our Daily Bread<br>9:30a                                             | 26  |
| 27<br>Present Word 8:45a<br>Worship Service<br>10a   Fellowship                            | 28                          | 29                                                                                                              | 30  |                                             |                                                                            |     |

### 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.